Welcome to Okayama University!

Okayama University, one of Japan’s preeminent universities, has 11 faculties and 7 graduate schools on some of the nation’s most expansive campuses. The faculties provide basic education across a wide range of disciplines, and the graduate schools nurture human resources with more advanced technical knowledge. International students, who come to Okayama University from all over the world, learn together with many friends at leafy campuses in a way which transcends culture and academic fields.

Introduction to Okayama

[Profile]
Okayama City is the prefectural capital of Okayama Prefecture. The city has a population of about 700,000. It is a region blessed with a rich natural environment, including mountainous districts and open plains, the two major Asahi and Yoshii rivers, as well as the Seto Inland Sea. It is also a key focal city of the Chugoku/Shikoku region, located at the cross point of rapid transport networks.

[Special products]
Known as the “fruit kingdom,” Okayama City is a treasure house of delicious fruit, including white peaches and Muscat grapes. There is also an abundant store of fresh, marine products from the Seto Inland Sea.

[Culture]
Okayama City attracts people as a center of distribution, economy and culture. Not far from Okayama Station, the “Culture Zone” is where art galleries, museums and other cultural facilities are centered. Korakuen (one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan) is also located close to the Culture Zone.

[History]
Okayama City was formed just over 400 years ago, as a castle town for Okayama Castle, which had been built by Ukita Hideie, a daimyo in the Warring States period of Japan. In ancient times, the suburban area in the west was called “Kibi no Kuni,” and boasted a considerable influence at the time.
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EPOK

Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK) is a program organized by Okayama University that offers students an opportunity to study in Japan. Through this program, EPOK encourages students to learn and understand Japanese culture, customs and social backgrounds. Classes are offered in English and Japanese. Okayama University and EPOK provide students the ideal setting for studying abroad; one that nurtures education and learning while at the same time offers students an environment for freedom, growth and experience.

By enrolling in the program, students are not only given the opportunity to study at one of the largest universities in Japan, but they are also given the opportunity for personal experience and self-growth. Students will live and interact amongst the Japanese people, and they will experience first-hand what life and living in Japan is like.

All EPOK students are accommodated at the Okayama University Kuwanoki Dormitory. This dorm is conveniently located on the Tsushima Campus (main campus). School library, computer laboratories, shops, restaurants and various forms of entertainments are all easily accessible.

The Center for Global Partnerships and Education offers consultation and guidance to all EPOK students. In case that any EPOK student should have any questions or concerns, the Center for Global Partnerships & Education will always be available.

For more than ten years, EPOK and Okayama University have strived to encourage the understanding of various cultures around the world. EPOK exists today so that students can have an ideal opportunities not only to pursue academics around the world, but also to promote goodwill amongst all peoples.
Okayama University is proud to maintain strong relationships for student exchange programs with universities across the globe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Universities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(as of 01 March, 2015)
Curriculum

EPOK offers an extensive curriculum to its students. Many of the offered courses are to encourage an understanding of Japanese culture, customs, and social backgrounds. Classes are mostly offered in English except the Japanese Language Courses, and many classes integrate the exchange students with the rest of the local student population at Okayama University.

Students can also take courses specific to their major. One such course is Independent Study. Independent Study involves conducting/participating in a research project on a specific theme or studying a specific subject/topic related to a student’s major field of study. In either case, students pursue this course individually under the supervision of a particular professor of Okayama University. EPOK students who have completed one semester at Okayama University and have adequate knowledge on the specific theme/subject that they wish to study, are able to take Independent Study during their second semester of residence. Students should also note that there is a case that an applicant is not able to pursue the particular theme due to the limited human resources of the university. In such cases, those students may need to change their theme or decide not to take Independent Study.

EPOK students are required to have at least 10 hour coursework per week to maintain a "College Student Visa".

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**EPOK Campus Calendar**

**Spring Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Arrival  
• Opening Ceremony  
• Course Orientation  
• Course Registration  
• Welcome party  
✓ Apr. 15\(^{th}\)  
Application deadline for Fall Semester | | | • Final Exam  
Summer Festival 「まつり」  
• Classes end  
• Spring Semester Closing Ceremony & EPOK Student Forum  
• Farewell Party | | | Summer Holiday |

**Fall Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Arrival  
• EPOK Opening Ceremony  
• Course Orientation  
• Course Registration  
• Welcome party  
✓ Dec. 15\(^{th}\)  
Application deadline for Spring Semester | Campus Festival | | Winter Break | | | Spring Break |
Credits

The university will provide students with an official report of their academic records, listing course titles, grades, and credits earned. Please note that the recognition of credits earned at Okayama University is the responsibility of the students' home universities.

Certificate of Completion

“Exchange Program of Okayama (EPOK)” ~ Contemporary Japanese Studies Program ~ Those who have enrolled the EPOK Short-term Exchange Program for more than one semester, have completed required credits, a final essay and presentation, will be issued a Certificate of EPOK Short-term Exchange Program

Program Duration & Application Deadline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td>April 1 – August 31</td>
<td>December 15 of the previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>October 1 – February 29</td>
<td>April 15 of the year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details;  
http://ouic.okayama-u.ac.jp/epok/timeseriestable_epok.html
Offered Courses 2015-2016

These courses are subject to change. For up-to-date information, see at http://ouic.okayama-u.ac.jp/epok/curriculum.html

Spring Semester (April - August)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Japanese Language Courses</strong></td>
<td>Japanese 1&lt;br&gt;Japanese 2&lt;br&gt;Japanese3&lt;br&gt;Japanese4&lt;br&gt;Japanese5&lt;br&gt;Japanese 6&lt;br&gt;Japanese 7 (Writing A)&lt;br&gt;Japanese 7 (Reading A)&lt;br&gt;Japanese 7 (Listening A)&lt;br&gt;Japanese 7 (Speaking A)&lt;br&gt;Reading and Writing 1&lt;br&gt;Reading and Writing 2&lt;br&gt;Japanese through Films 1&lt;br&gt;Japanese through Films 2&lt;br&gt;Extensive Reading&lt;br&gt;Japanese Culture and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Courses Offered in English</strong></td>
<td>Teaching English in Japan (Introduction to TEFL)&lt;br&gt;Intercultural Communication 1&lt;br&gt;Anthropology of Japan&lt;br&gt;Introduction to Sociolinguistics: Language and Society in Japan&lt;br&gt;A Guide to Modern Biology&lt;br&gt;Study of Japan&lt;br&gt;Study of Japan 2&lt;br&gt;Introduction to Life Science&lt;br&gt;Seminar: Japanese Mind, Culture and Identity&lt;br&gt;Japanese Culture through Anime&lt;br&gt;Political Economy of Modern Japan&lt;br&gt;Tourism and Culture in Japan&lt;br&gt;Expanding cross-cultural language and communicative skills 1&lt;br&gt;Seminar on Globalization and “Japanese” Culture&lt;br&gt;English Language Assistant and Cultural Informant&lt;br&gt;Frontiers of Natural Science&lt;br&gt;Japan’s Modernization and Wars &amp; Peace (Summer Course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Others</strong></td>
<td>Sports Practice (Badminton)&lt;br&gt;English Language Assistant and Cultural Informant&lt;br&gt;Independent Study*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fall Semester (October - February)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Japanese Language Courses** | Japanese 1  
Japanese 2  
Japanese 3  
Japanese 4  
Japanese 5  
Japanese 6  
Japanese 7 (Writing B)  
Japanese 7 (Reading B)  
Japanese 7 (Listening B)  
Japanese 7 (Speaking B)  
Intermediate Grammar 1  
Intermediate Grammar 2  
Intermediate Kanji and Vocabulary  
Reading and Writing1  
Reading and Writing2  
Extensive Reading  
Japanese through News and Magazine Articles  
Media Literacy  
Study of Okayama |
| **Courses Offered in English** | Seminar on Cool Japan Plus  
Intercultural Communication 2  
Family and Gender in Contemporary Japan  
Japanese Pop Culture  
Seminar on Intercultural Communication  
The Cutting Edge of Agricultural Sciences  
Chado: Mind and Practices  
Study of Japan  
Study of Japan 2  
Materialism in Japan and the West  
Transnational mobility and Multiculturalism in Japan  
Expanding cross-cultural language and communicative skills II  
Japanese Studies (Offered in Japanese)  
English Language Assistant and Cultural Informant  
Japan’s Modernization and War & Peace (Spring Course) |
| **Others** | Sports Practice (Badminton)  
English Language Assistant and Cultural Informant  
Independent Study* |

**NB** Independent Study is to conduct/participate in a research project on a specific theme or to study a specific subject/topic, related to a student’s major field of study. Students individually pursue this course under the supervision of a particular professor of Okayama University in both cases. Please note, however, that there is a chance that an applicant is not able to pursue the particular theme due to the limited human resources of the university. In such cases, those students may need to either change their theme or decide not to take Independent Study. Applicants are also not able to take Independent Study when the students do not have adequate knowledge on the theme that they wish to study.
Admission Requirements

Students who wish to apply to EPOK must qualify under the program’s admission requirements listed below:

- Candidates must be of student status with a university which has a mutual exchange agreement with Okayama University.
- Candidates must be enrolled as full-time students at the home institution at the time of application and throughout the exchange.
- Candidates should be of good academic standing at their home university. To prove this, Okayama University expects the candidates to have successfully completed their first year at their home university.
- Candidates from non-English speaking countries must be able to provide decent evidence that their command of the English language is adequate. EPOK accepts internationally acknowledged qualifications such as TOEFL (500 PBT score/61 iBT score), IELTS 5.5 or TOEIC with a test score of 580. Please note that EPOK does not accept any national qualifications.
- Passport

Required Documents

Application forms required for entry into EPOK should be completed and submitted to the International Exchange Office of the student’s home university. Further information regarding EPOK and Okayama University is also available at the student’s home university. The following list outlines the documentation requirements for the EPOK application:

1) A completed EPOK application form
2) Two recommendation letters written by faculty members/staff of the home institution. The letters should be written in either Japanese or English using the designated form.
3) A transcript of the applicant’s academic record from their home university
4) A completed Certificate of Health
5) 2 passport size (4 cm x 3 cm) photos taken within 3 months including the ones attached to your application [Write your name on the back of each photo]
6) A copy of the page with your name, date of birth etc. written in your valid passport
7) A TOEFL, IELTS or TOEIC score record [For applicants from non-English speaking countries]

Where to Apply

Applications should be sent by the student’s home university to the following address:

Student Exchange Program Section,
Administrative Office of the Center for Global Partnerships & Education,
Okayama University
2-1-1 Tsushima-naka, Kita-ku, Okayama
700-8530, Japan

Email: epok-inbound1@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp
Student Life

Student life at Okayama University offers authentic experiences in Japanese education as well as in Japanese culture and lifestyle. Students will be offered a wide range of academic, athletic and cultural activities that will make them get a taste of what it is like to study and live in Japan amongst its people.

Upon arrival to Okayama University, Kuwanoki Dormitory, EPOK students will be met and welcomed by their student tutor(s). We recruit student tutors from Okayama University students to aid EPOK students in adjusting to their new life in Okayama. They help new coming EPOK students in various aspects from course registration, understanding class schedules, assistance in learning and practicing the Japanese language to shopping and organizing things in daily life.

University Library

The University Libraries consist of the Central Library at Tsushima Campus, the Shikata Library and the Institute of Planet Science and Resources Branch Library. They provide more than 2,110,000 books and boast of the largest collection of books in Okayama Prefecture.

Student Unions

There are three student unions at Tsushima campus, the main campus of Okayama University. Peach Union, Muscat Union and Pione Union offer comfortable and relaxed settings for students to socialize. All the unions have dining facilities and union shops. Students can enjoy traditional and modern Japanese cuisine at affordable prices at the union dining halls. The student union shops sell a wide range of goods. Stationary, books, computer-related accessories, cosmetics, beverages, foods and university related products.
Medical Care

Okayama University Health and Medical Center (Tsushima Campus) offers the following medical care services to students and staff of the university:

- Periodical medical examinations (April: for all students, October: for students commencing study in the Fall semester)
- Medical examinations for particular exercise courses of extracurricular activities
- Consultations to examine physical and mental health
- Health education & First Aid Service
- General medical care for students and staff

The Health Service Center is closed on weekends and holidays, but other medical facilities are available near the university campus.

Accommodation

All EPOK students will be assigned at Kuwanoki Dormitory on Tsushima Campus. It is located within a convenient distance from shopping facilities. Residents of Kuwanoki can enjoy the amenities of the common facilities, including a conversation hall, library, and a Japanese-style room. It accommodates 150 residents in total.

All rooms are equipped with a private kitchen, a toilet and a bathtub, a bed, a desk, a chair, a refrigerator, air conditioner/heater and free internet service.

Monthly rent for the South and North Wings are ¥12,000〜15,000. (You have to pay for utilities for your usages of electricity, water and gas. For average use, it may cost ¥10,000/month.)

Estimated monthly living expenses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount (yen)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Okayama University offers a host of diverse student clubs, societies and activities. These clubs create great opportunities for exchange students to interact with Japanese and other international students. Some of the clubs offered include American Football, Tea Ceremony, Japanese Traditional Music, Kendo, Judo, bowling, swimming, horseback riding. All clubs meet on a regular basis, and offer activities and events for students to participate in. International students are welcomed and are encouraged to join a club or society to meet local students, as well as to improve their command of Japanese language. Clubs can prove to be beneficial to students’ education, health and social skills, as well as in adjusting to life at the University and Japan.

Additionally, there are volunteer groups who provide assistance to international students in their lives in Japan. Organizations such as the Advisor's Room of the center for Global Partnerships & Education and WAWA (translated from Japanese as peace circle) host occasional sport activities and parties to give opportunities for EPOK students to meet new people.

Okayama University Language Education Center offers unique opportunities for international students to exchange with Japanese students at "L-café such as English and Japanese café, SACRA". These places offer students chances to learn both Japanese and English through conversations and cultural activities to build understandings among students from various backgrounds and countries.
Entering & Living in Japan

Entering Japan

To enter Japan and to study as an exchange student longer than 90 days, you have to obtain College Student Visa.

Certificate of Eligibility

A document issued by the Ministry of Justice in Japan which certifies that the holder has met the criteria established for a certain status of residence in Japan. A Certificate of Eligibility is obtained from an immigration office by Okayama University and will be sent to you or your home institution.

College Student Visa

Upon receiving the Certificate of Eligibility, the student is required to obtain a College Student Visa from a Japanese Embassy/Consulate. Upon entry into Japan, the student will be required to show their valid passport, Certificate of Eligibility and Student Visa.

Living in Japan

Resident Registration

At Narita, Haneda, Chubu and Kansai Airports, besides having a seal of landing verification stamped in their passports, mid to long term residents will be issued a resident card. And they must register at the municipal office of the city (town, village) where they live within 14 days of finding a place to settle down. One of our staff will complete this registration for you after your arrival at the dormitory.

Things necessary for this registration are:

1. Your valid passport and Your Resident Card issued at the port of entry
2. 2 passport size photos (4.5cmx3.5cm, taken within six months)

National Health Insurance

This is a nationwide mutual aid program funded by policyholders’ premiums with the aim of alleviating the burden of medical expenses. Local government offices are in charge of its administration. EPOK students will purchase this insurance at Okayama City Hall upon arrival. By paying a premium (approximately ¥2,000/month for students without income) and presenting their insurance card, policyholders will only have to bear 30 percent of the expenses required for medical treatment or hospitalization.

Students are also strongly encouraged to purchase Personal Liability Insurance and Student Mutual Benefit at OU Student Union which cost approximately ¥14,000 for one year. (including ¥4000 co-op membership.)
Access to OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

From Tokyo
by airplane from Haneda Airport  ... 1h20min
by Nozomi Shinkansen ... 3h20min

From Osaka
by Nozomi Shinkansen ... 45min

Tsushima Campus
25min, by bus from Okayama Airport
7min, by bus from Okayama Station

Shikata Campus
5min, by bus from Okayama Station
Student Exchange Program Section
Center for Global Partnerships & Education, Okayama University
Email: epok-inbound1@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp
URL: http://ic.int.okayama-u.ac.jp/epok/index.html
2-1-1 Tsushima Naka, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-8530, Japan
phone: +81 (0)86-251-7037 • fax: +81 (0)86-252-5022