



# **School of Global Studies and Collaboration Aoyama Gakuin University Information on the Exchange Student Program**



Academic Affairs Division, Sagami-hara Campus  
School of Global Studies and Collaboration  
Aoyama Gakuin University

**Last updated : January 2025**

**NOTE: This is information for exchange students. Please confirm with your home university whether your university/school have partnership with School of Global Studies and Collaboration (GSC) or Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU). Visiting students and non-degree students at partner universities are not eligible. To find out more about studying for a full degree at Aoyama Gakuin University, please visit the following website: <https://www.aoyama.ac.jp/en/>**

## **Introduction**

Aoyama Gakuin University is a nationally renowned leader in Japanese higher education. Established in 1949 as the flagship institution of the larger Aoyama Gakuin school system, the university boasts generations of graduates that have become leaders in fields ranging from arts and athletics to business and national politics. Aoyama Gakuin, a comprehensive educational institute encompassing all levels from kindergarten to university, was founded in 1874 by American missionaries based on Christian faith. It continues to carry that legacy today with its distinctive emphasis on instilling a commitment to service and an international outlook into its students. In addition to providing high level instruction in specialized fields across 26 departments, the university strives to cultivate “servant leaders” that possess both the knowledge and character to effectively serve their communities locally and globally.

The School of Global Studies and Collaboration (GSC) was established in 2015 with the goal of cultivating graduates prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing globalized world. Students in the department take courses from four clusters: collaboration, sociology, business • economy, and media and spatial information. This interdisciplinary curriculum ensures that students receive broad-based social science instruction that can be utilized in a wide variety of fields. GSC faculty members include a number of instructors with long records of practical experience in their respective fields and industries, and strive to provide students with the tools to connect classroom theory with real-world applications.

### **About GSC : Asia’s Growing Significance: Challenges and Opportunities**

The economic, political, and cultural impact of the emergence of Southeast Asia is transforming the shape of globalization. While the growing markets of Thailand, Malaysia, and other surrounding nations offer opportunity, their rapid modernization and internationalization also present serious challenges both locally and globally. GSC aims to cultivate individuals who can contribute to solving these problems by synthesizing theory-based social science with project-based fieldwork.

#### **◆ Location**

Sagamihara Campus

Address: 5-10-1 Fuchinobe, Chuo-ku, Sagamihara-shi, Kanagawa 252-5258, Japan

\*7-minute walk from Fuchinobe Station on the JR Yokohama Line

\*A short train ride from the center of Tokyo

\*1 hour away from the Aoyama Campus

◆ **Facts**

- \* Student intake capacity (GSC): 858 (full-time students)
- \* Faculty size (GSC): 25 full-time members
- \* Student enrollment (AGU): 20,925 (19,677 undergraduates and 1,248 graduates)
- \* No. of university’s overseas partner universities: over 180
- \* Overseas offices in L.A.(U.S.A.)

(as of May 2024)

**Program Details**

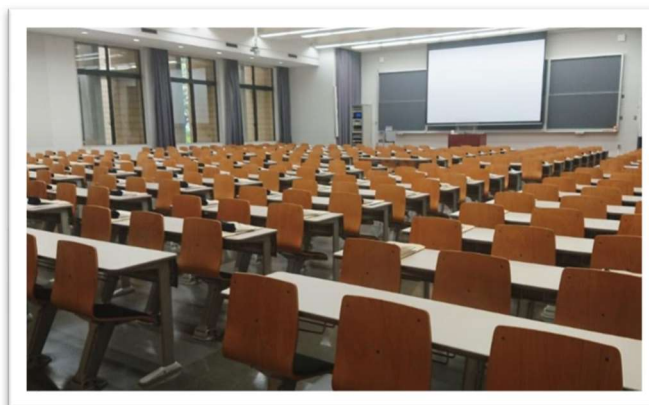
◆ **Language of Instruction**

Japanese and/or English

◆ **Academic Calendar**

Spring semester: April to end of July

Fall semester: Mid-September to end of January



◆ **Courses**

University-level exchange students may take any courses at any of the colleges they wish. Departmental exchange students may take any course offered at GSC. Japanese Language Courses are elective courses, but recommended for all international exchange students.

◆ **Academic Units and Grading**

Most AGU courses count for either one or two units of credit. A two-unit course meets for one 90-minute session per week.

Transcript Mark	Score	Evaluation
AA	100-90	Pass
A	89-80	
B	79-70	
C	69-60	
XX	Under 59	Fail
X	Unevaluable because of absence, etc.	

◆ **Japanese Language and other courses (General Education)**

AGU offers below courses that are offered especially for Exchange Students.

- **Japanese (A), (B), (C), (D) (日本語)** : 4 classes per week (1 credit each)

Japanese Language Courses are taken according to levels (CEFR-A2~CEFR-C1). The levels are decided based on the Placement Test result and application documents. These courses are offered under undergraduate courses. Please note that AGU does not have a separate Language Center.

(A): Aim to improve listening skills    (B): Aim to improve speaking skills

(C): Aim to improve reading skills    (D): Aim to improve writing skills

- Exchange students who have never studied Japanese before and/or those who fall under JLPT 4 level (CEFR-A2) as a result of the Japanese Placement Test, can take **Japanese language class in English (英語による日本語 ‘Eigo ni yoru Nihongo’)**. This is non-credit beginner class, offered only at Aoyama Campus (10 classes in 1 semester, free of charge).

- **Society and Culture of Japan A~H (日本の社会と文化)** : 1 class per week (2 credits)

The course will be designed to help exchange students understand Japan, regardless of their level of Japanese. A few of the classes will be in English, and a few will be in Japanese.

- **Japanology (A), (B) (日本学)**: 1 class per week (2 credits)

Japanology (A) introduces students to Japanese cultural and social history, examining how lifestyles and cultural activities have evolved from ancient times to the present.

In Japanology (B), you can deepen your knowledge of Japanese cultures by learning Japanese Anime and Nihon Buyo (Japanese traditional dance) as well as Japanese manners.

## ◆ Courses offered by the School of Global Studies and Collaboration

### Japan Studies Courses

Students can choose from 16 selection of courses taught in English, covering business, economics, culture, history, and geography. They will learn from a collection of renowned researchers, artists, and policy analysts about issues in each field. Some of the courses provide opportunities for hands-on experiences of traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, from Noh and Kabuki to pop culture and robotics, inside and outside of the classroom. These events give students the chance to become familiar with numerous aspects of Japan's vibrant cultural heritage while building lasting connections with their Japanese peers.

### Other GSC Courses

GSC takes an interdisciplinary curricular approach based on the broad field of the social sciences. This interdisciplinary curriculum ensures that students receive broad-based social science instruction that can be utilized in a wide variety of fields. Experienced practitioners teach students so they can integrate theories into professional practice for solving today's social problems and improve the global community through project-based learning activities. There are some courses offered in English as well.

\*GSC Course Descriptions offered in English:

[https://www.aoyama.ac.jp/en/academic/undergraduate/gsc\\_exchange\\_program\\_detail/](https://www.aoyama.ac.jp/en/academic/undergraduate/gsc_exchange_program_detail/)

## Applications

Exchange student candidates should submit their applications through the International Office of their home universities.

### ◆ Eligibility

The applicant should be a student enrolled at one of Aoyama Gakuin University GSC's partner institutions with Student Exchange Agreement and have a 2.5 GPA or above (4.0 scale). The applicant must also agree to the pledge stated in the "Aoyama Gakuin University, School of Global Studies and Collaboration Departmental Exchange Program Pledge".

### ◆ Required Language Ability

GSC requires exchange students to have language ability equivalent to either of the below:

1. At least one year of formal study of Japanese Language and/or Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N5 or equivalent
2. IELTS 5.5 or TOEFL iBT 68 or above

### ◆ Application Materials

When you apply to the GSC Departmental Exchange Student Program, you must submit all of the following materials through designated online form. Please refer to the latest "Application Instructions for Exchange Students" for details:

- Application for GSC Exchange Student Program (online form, informed after nomination)
- Evaluation of Japanese Language Proficiency\* (if applicable)
- Copy of score report of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (if applicable)
- Copy of score report of IELTS or TOEFL (for those who do not have JLPT score report)
- Official Academic transcripts of home university (in English)
- 1 Letter of recommendation (in English or Japanese)
- Statement of Academic Objectives(1 page, A4 size)
- Health Certificate\* (health check must be within 3 months before the deadline of application and must be filled out by the medical institution including chest x-ray and the date of the examination)
- Medical Certificate of Chronic Illness or documentation for reasonable accommodation (if applicable)
- Information for Tutor\*
- Application for Certificate of Eligibility\* (Use designated Excel file and upload it. Refer to Sample sheet of Excel file for details.)
- Copy of valid passport (page with photo)
- Official Bank Statement and/or Certificate of Scholarship (In English or Japanese, with amount in Japanese Yen converted. Requires more than 1,200,000JPY to stay 1 year, 600,000JPY to stay 6 months.)
- ID photo data in jpg file (used for Student ID Card, and for submission to Immigration Bureau in size

4cm X 3cm, taken in the last 3 months, plain background, color photocopies are not acceptable)

School of Global Studies and Collaboration Departmental Exchange Program Pledge \*

\*AGU forms and further details are available at the International office of your home university.

#### ◆ Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)

Exchange students are required to have an official visa (student visa) for entry into Japan. AGU will, on behalf of the exchange students, apply to the Tokyo Immigration Bureau for the Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). As soon as the CoE is issued, it will be sent to you by email. You will need to bring the CoE to your local Japanese embassy or consulate and obtain a student visa.

#### ◆ Applying for the dormitory

GSC recommends exchange students to live in a dormitory located in Sagami-hara City. Please refer to the latest "Housing Information for Exchange Students" for details. (Monthly rent for the accommodation will be waived depending on the agreements between universities. Please consult your home university.) The deadline for the dormitory application is the same date as the exchange student application deadline. For details about accommodation, please refer to the Housing Information website.

<https://dormy-ac.com/page/aoyama-hashimoto>

#### ◆ Schedule for Admission

Application for Spring Semester (Apr)	Application for Fall Semester (Sept)	
Early September -Late October	Early February -Late March	Deadline for nomination by exchange program coordinator (online form)
Mid-November	Mid-April	Deadline for exchange program application and dormitory application
Late December	Early June	Notification of admission to all accepted exchange students (by e-mail)
Late January	Early August	Welcome Package, including the Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)*, is sent to you (by email). *You will need to bring the CoE and other necessary documents to your local Japanese embassy or consulate and obtain a student visa, before entering Japan.
Late March	Early September	Orientations for exchange students
Early April	Mid-September	Classes begin
Late July	Late January -Early February	Classes end
Last week of July	Last week of January- First week of February	Final Exam Period

## Other Information

### ◆ Living Expenses

The following shows estimated living costs of attending AGU as an exchange student for one semester (five months). Actual expenses vary depending on the type of housing and the student's lifestyle.

Room & board (if not waived)	¥ 600,000 - ¥ 750,000
Food (lunch, etc.)	¥ 100,000 - ¥ 200,000
Books and materials	¥ 30,000 - ¥ 40,000
Transportation	¥ 10,000 - ¥ 20,000
Extracurricular activities	¥ 50,000 - ¥ 100,000
National Health Insurance	¥ 10,000 - ¥ 12,000
Miscellaneous	¥ 70,000 - ¥ 100,000

### ◆ Orientation (Schedule details are announced after admission is granted. Orientation is held before classes start. )

- For Spring semester: end of March
- For Fall semester: early-September

### ◆ Student Support

#### **Buddy System**

Exchange students will be assigned Japanese students as tutors. The tutors assist the students in dealing with both academic and personal matters, such as coping with any language or cultural problems that may arise.

#### **Chat Room**

The Chat room was established to provide students of Aoyama Gakuin with the opportunity to have cultural exchange, by communicating in foreign languages (English, Korean, Chinese, etc.) with international students enrolled at Aoyama Gakuin, called Chat Leaders. Japanese Chat sessions for international students are also provided.

#### **Social Events**

The International Center holds various events and get-togethers throughout the year.

### ◆ Extracurricular activities

#### **Field Trips/Japanese Culture Experience**

In addition to trips coordinated by the International Center, GSC provides exchange students with unique field trips to popular destinations such as Yokohama, Kamakura, Kawagoe, where students have the opportunity to experience both traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. These events give students the chance to become familiar with Japan's vibrant cultural heritage while building lasting connection with peers. Our program also includes company visits, giving students the rare chance to go behind the scenes at innovative businesses.



Indigo Dyeing "Aizome" experience in Kawagoe



Visiting Tsuruoka Hachimangu (Shirine) and making pottery in Kamakura



Furin (wind chime) Workshop in Edogawa