

# NKU Academic Exchange in Nagoya, Japan



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Spend a semester or academic year studying at  
**Nanzan University!**

A brief introduction...



Office of Education Abroad  
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## **NKU Academic Exchanges**

The Office of Education Abroad offers academic exchanges as a study abroad option for independent and mature NKU students interested in a semester or year-long immersion experience in another country. The information in this packet is meant to provide an overview of the experience available through an academic exchange in Nagoya, Japan. However, please keep in mind that this information, especially that regarding visa requirements, is subject to change. It is the responsibility of each NKU student participating in an exchange to take the initiative in the pre-departure process with regards to visa application, application to the exchange university, air travel arrangements, housing arrangements, and pre-approval of courses. Before and after departure for an academic exchange, the Office of Education Abroad will remain a resource and guide for participating exchange students.

## **Japan**

Japan is home to almost 128 million people spread out on over 3,000 islands. The four main islands, Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku, account for 97% of Japan's total land area. Over 70% of the country is forested, mountainous, and unsuitable for agricultural or residential use. The beauty of nature, undisturbed by humans, will surround and astound you. Legend attributes the creation of Japan to the sun goddess, from whom the emperors were thought to be descended. In acknowledgement of this, the characters that make up Japan's name translate to "sun-origin" and give Japan its nickname of the "Land of the Rising Sun." Japan's culture has evolved greatly over the years from its traditional ways to its current culture, which includes influences from Europe, North American, and the rest of Asia. About 99% of the population speaks Japanese as their first language and most private and public schools require students to take courses in both Japanese and English. The parts of its culture that Japan exports to the world are only a fraction of what is available to those who can speak and read the language. A major economic power, Japan has the world's second largest economy and is a major leader in the development and implementation of technology. Japan's ancient traditions and advanced technologies blend to create an exciting environment.

## **Nagoya**

Located on central Honshu, Nagoya is one of Japan's major ports and also the center of Japan's third largest metropolitan area. The city began thriving when a shrine in the area was used to accommodate weary travelers journeying between Kyoto and Tokyo and has since evolved into a town worth visiting on its own. Nagoya's most famous sights are the ancient shrine that started it all, Atsuta Shrine, and Nagoya castle, built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Both are important to the heritage of the city and the shrine alone hosts over 70 festivals a year and houses thousands of national treasures that represent its 2,000-year history. Nagoya is also a city that is keeping up with the times. Greater Nagoya is responsible for 70% of Japan's trade surplus and headquarters many prominent Japanese automotive companies. The climate is typical of most of Japan - hot and humid in summer and dry and cold in winter. Changes in climate throughout the year mean that you can enjoy Japan's distinct four seasons.

## **Nanzan University**

Exchange students will attend the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) at Nanzan University to study the language, culture, and society of Japan. Intensive language instruction is central to CJS and stresses listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Courses are offered at all levels from beginning to

advanced. A wide selection of lecture courses covering topics such as the history, religion, economy, politics, literature, and traditional arts of Japan are also taught in English for students whose Japanese language ability does not allow them to take courses taught in Japanese. Nanzan University operates on a semester system similar to U.S. higher education and an orientation week precedes the beginning of classes of each semester. The fall semester runs from early September through mid-December while the spring semester runs from January through May. Throughout their time at Nanzan University, exchange students are encouraged to immerse themselves in the Japanese society and lifestyle and are offered a variety of ways to do so on campus. CJS students are invited to participate in Nanzan University sports activities, social events, clubs, festivals, and performances. To further make the most of your time abroad, Nanzan has a travel agent on campus who can help students find great travel packages.

## Housing

Students have the option of participating in a homestay program, living in dormitories, or in off-campus international residence halls. In the homestay program, students have the opportunity to learn about Japanese customs and culture firsthand by living with a carefully selected host family within the Nagoya metropolitan area. This option costs around 60,000 Yen (approximately \$575) per month and includes two meals a day. Another possibility for exchange students is to live in a privately managed dormitory in the local area. Some dormitories are specially designed for students and others are run by local companies for their employees, but also allow students to rent rooms. The monthly fee for living in a dormitory varies based on facilities provided, cost of utilities, and the number of meals provided. Yet another option is to live in off-campus international residence halls run by the university and located just a short walk away from CJS. Students have their own fully furnished rooms and share a bathroom and fully equipped kitchen with other students on the floor. This option includes no meals and costs 25,000-30,000 Yen (approximately \$240-295) per month.

## Transportation

Japan has an efficient public transportation network, especially within metropolitan areas and between the large cities. Japanese public transportation is characterized by its punctuality, its superb service, and the large crowds of people using it. One effective way to explore Nagoya and the region is through the city's extensive train system; the city's main train station is the world's largest in terms of floor area. To get around the city effectively, take advantage of the bus and subway systems. Color coded and thoroughly bilingual, they are easy to navigate and provide opportune access to most of central Nagoya's attractions.

## Visa and Health Insurance

Foreigners who wish to study in Japan **will** need a student visa from a Japanese embassy or consulate outside of Japan. This is required to enter the country on a status of residence that permits long-term studies (between three months and one year). A valid passport, a letter of acceptance from Nanzan University, and evidence of financial support are required to qualify for a student visa.

It is the responsibility of each individual to enroll in "National Health Insurance" once in Japan. After registering as an alien, enroll in National Health Insurance at your local municipal office or ward office. The insurance premiums vary depending upon your previous year's income and the insurance covers 70% of your medical expenses.

## Useful Links

## **General Living Expenses Nanzan University, Japan Semester Estimated Budget**

Please use the following budget only as a general guide for expenses for one semester. Also note that expenses are estimated and subject to fluctuate according to currency rates\* and general economic inflation.

Tuition	\$3,564	(undergraduate, in-state tuition for 12-16 hours)
Passport and visa	\$160	
Round-trip airfare	\$1,600	
Room and board	\$2,900	*(Prior to leaving, students must make an advanced payment of 300,000 Yen, approximately \$2,900. This will be dispersed back to you to cover room and board fees each month.)
Internet connection	\$200	
Books and supplies	\$150	
Health insurance	\$200	*(Between \$15 and \$70 a month, depending on your previous year's income)
Local transportation	\$600	
Personal spending	<u>\$2,000</u>	(shopping, entertainment, travel, etc)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,374</b>	

\*July 2010 currency rate: **1 U.S. dollar = 88.5 Japanese yen**