Recommended Study Abroad Programs in Japan, AY2026-2027

Important Notes:

1. NORTHWESTERN Foreign Language Policy: Students are required to take at least one quarter of instruction in an official language of the host country either before departure or while studying abroad. Alternatively, they may meet this requirement with an assessment of proficiency equivalent to a quarter of language study by a Northwestern language department. The only exceptions to this policy are:
   • When the student is studying in a country in which English is an official language; or
   • When the study abroad program or host university do not stipulate a language requirement.
   In all cases, students are strongly encouraged to study the target language before or during study abroad in order to maximize the benefit of the experience.
   Some programs in Japan have their own language requirements above and beyond the Northwestern requirement. Check the list below for the requirement for each program.
2. NORTHWESTERN students must complete two applications: Northwestern University Application for Permission to Study Abroad and Application of a specific program. The students must abide by both NORTHWESTERN deadlines and the specific program's deadlines listed in the chart.

Northwestern Global Learning Office website: https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/

Northwestern Partner Programs: https://global-northwestern.via-trm.com/authV2/welcome

4 Programs – Review each program page on the Global Leaning Office's website as well as the host program's website.

Program	***NU Terms, Deadlines*** & Program Dates	***Program Deadlines***	City	Setting	Requirements Language & GPA	Language Class	Highlights/Notes
CIEE Arts and Sciences at Sophia University, Tokyo	***Full Year, Fall-Winter:*** **February 1** mid-Sept – late Jan ——— ***Spring:*** **June 1** late March – early Aug	***Full Year, F-W:*** **March 1** ***Spring:*** **Oct 1**	Tokyo	Faculty of Liberal Arts (FLA), Sophia Univ	No specific language prerequisites* & 2.75 cumulative GPA	Intensive: 8 credits (270 contact hours) 2-4 credits (54-108 contact hours)	• 150 -200 international students on the campus of 13,000 students. Out of 800 students at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, 20% are foreign students (from China, Korea, USA, and Europe). • Students with near-native fluency can enroll in any courses outside of the Faculty of Liberal Arts. + Many levels of Japanese language courses including courses for near-native fluency. + Wide range of area studies courses taught in English + Field trips + CIEE Scholarships & Grants available - No academic internships - Sophia is known to be very international where most students speak English fluently. • Homestay or residence hall * Spring Semester begins in late March, so students enroll for Winter Quarter at Northwestern and finish final exams before departure. If students do not take Winter Quarter classes, they must enroll in at least 15 semester credits while abroad.

Japan Study at Waseda University	***Full Year, Fall-Winter:*** **December 1** mid-Sept – early Feb _____ ***Spring:*** **December 1** mid-March – late July	***All terms:*** **January 2**	Tokyo	School of International Liberal Studies (SILS), Waseda Univ	1 quarter of Japanese language & 3.0 cumulative GPA	6 credits required	• 52,000 Waseda students; within the School of International Liberal Studies, 85% of the students are Japanese, 15% international. • Wide range of area studies courses taught in English • International and Japanese professors + Area studies courses (Open Courses) taught in Japanese available for fluent Japanese speakers + One-month Cultural Internship (Feb-Mar) available for Full Year program participants + Homestay + Program-subsidized field trips + Extensive orientation + Strong Alumni network + Small number of need-based scholarships available - Instructional qualities vary in language and area studies courses
IES Abroad Nagoya Direct Enrollment at Nanzan University	***Full Year, Fall:*** **February 1** early Sept – late Dec _____ ***Winter-Spring:*** **June 1** early Jan – late May	***Full Year, Fall:*** ***Early-Mar*** ***W-S:*** ***Late Aug.***	Nagoya	Center for Japanese Studies (CJS), Nanzan Univ	1 term* (or equivalent) of college-level Japanese language & 3.0 cumulative GPA	8 credits for Intensive Japanese Track 4 credits for Modern Japanese Track	* Enrolled in a Japanese language course or confirmed independent study within the academic year prior to the program start date. • 9,000 Nanzan students and 100 international students in the CJS + Most of the international students are not from USA + Solid intensive language program + Japanese-taught Studio Arts Courses + Area studies courses offered in Japanese for students with advanced proficiency + IES services, including cultural field trips - Area studies courses are lecture-oriented, not as rigorous as Northwestern's. • Homestay or residence hall
Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies at Doshisha University	***Full Year, Fall:*** **February 1** late Aug – mid-Dec _____ ***Winter-Spring:*** **June 1** early Jan – late April	***Full Year, Fall:*** **Mid-March** ***W-S:*** **Mid-Sept.**	Kyoto	KCJS Center & Doshisha Univ	2 semesters [FY & F] 3 semesters [W-S] & 3.0 cumulative GPA & 3.0 average language GPA	8 credits required (10 hrs/wk)	• 26,000 Doshisha students. • Courses integrate the historical and cultural resources of Kyoto. + Faculty with teaching experiences in USA + Rigorous academic program + Community Involvement Project (CIP) to support Japanese language learning through integration with the local community + Can cross-register for Associate Kyoto Program elective courses + Strong alumni network + Excursions, Field trips & weekend Homestay + Cross-register for AKP (Associated Kyoto Program) elective courses (limited variety of area studies courses offered at KCJS) + Lunch subsidy - Limited variety of area studies course - Area studies courses are lecture-oriented • Homestay or residence hall (most expensive) or apartment

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Northwestern Exchange Program: https://global-northwestern.via-trm.com/authV2/welcome

Review the program page on the Global Leaning Office's website as well as the host program's website.

University of Tokyo Exchange	***Full Year, Fall-Winter:*** **December 1** late Sept – March _____ ***Spring:*** **June 1** early April – early Aug	***Full Year, F-W: Feb 28/29*** ***Spring: Sept 30***	Tokyo	Hongo & Komaba Campuses	none & no minimum GPA		• USTEP (University-wide Student Exchange Program) • Take courses in English or Japanese depending on proficiency • A variety of courses to choose from. • Residence hall

Recommended Independent Summer Programs: https://alc.northwestern.edu/areas-of-study/japanese/study-abroad.html

Important Note:
The programs listed here are NOT Northwestern Partner Programs. If you would like to earn credits for your study in a summer program, you MUST apply to Northwestern for permission to study abroad by the appropriate Northwestern application deadline* and PRIOR to the commencement of the program (NORTHWESTERN Study Abroad Administrative Fee will apply). Retroactive applications for study abroad credit of any kind will NOT be accepted.
https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/programs/summer-programs/independent-summer-programs/
*Northwestern Deadline: **January 15** for Independent Programs eligible for credit transfer (no deadline extensions)

* Programs are listed in order of the number of Northwestern student participants. Review each program's website.

Program	Program Dates	Program Deadline	City	Sponsoring Institution	Setting	Language Prerequisite	Levels Offered	Housing Type	Highlights/Notes
HIF Hokkaido International Foundation Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Program	8 weeks **TBA** 6/11-8/9, 2026	February - Check website for deadline Application opens December	Hakodate, Hokkaido	Hokkaido International Foundation	Center	2 years	4 levels Intermediate -Mid to Advanced-Low	Homestay	+Intensive language instruction (Covers one-year of materials) + Field trips + Optional culture classes • Special lectures • Speech Contest - no scholarships/financial aids available * HIF is not affiliated with a university; students will not earn any Northwestern University credits.
	Program website: https://www.hif.or.jp/en/summer/ [Updated Program Information available in November]								
The Yamasa Institute Short Intensive Language Acquisition Course	4-12 weeks	Check website for deadlines	Okazaki, Aichi	Yamasa Institute	Language School	none	1st – 3rd year levels	Residence Hall Apartment Homestay	+ Flexible start date and flexible length of program + Students are from various countries (i.e., common lang. is Japanese) * Yamasa is a private language school not affiliated with a university; students will not earn any Northwestern University credits.
	Program website: https://www.yamasa.org/en/index.html								
CET Japan	8 weeks 6/8-8/9, 2027	Priority: February1 Final: March 1	Osaka	Host: Osaka Gakuin University	University	2 semesters	Intermediate to Advanced	Sharehouse Apartment	+Intensive language instruction (Covers one-year of materials) + Full-time language pledge + Live with local students as housemates. + A variety of co-curricular activities
	Program website: https://cetacademicprograms.com/college-study-abroad/programs/summer/osaka-japan/								

KCP International	Summer Short-Term: 8 weeks		Tokyo	KCP International	Language School		6 levels	Dormitory or homestay	• 160 class hours • 10 semester language credits + Take class in the direct method—entirely in Japanese.
	Program website: https://www.kcpinternational.com/summer/								

*The following three programs' starting dates will likely conflict with Northwestern Spring Quarter schedule, but worth checking for their updated schedules.

Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies Summer Program	8 weeks **TBA** 5/27-7/25, 2026	Check website for deadline	Kyoto	Columbia University	Center/ University (Doshisha Univ)	1 year – 3 years	2nd – 4th year levels	Homestay, Family-owned guest house, Studio apartment	+ Intensive language instruction + Located on Doshisha University campus + Various cultural field trips and lectures - No scholarships/financial aids available
	Program website: http://www.kcjs.jp/summer_programs/index.html Columbia University: https://global.undergrad.columbia.edu/program/kyoto-consortium-summer-modern-japanese-kcjs								
IES Nagoya Summer – Language & Culture	8 weeks **5/30-8/1, 2026**	Check website for deadline	Nagoya	IES	University (Center for Japanese Studies, Nanzan Univ)	1 semester & 3.0 cumulative GPA & 3.0 language GPA	pre-intermediate to pre-advanced level	Apartment Residence Hall	*Eligibility requirement: Enrolled in a Japanese course within the academic year prior to the program start date + Students also take a 1.5-credit course in Japanese Studies, which consists of two components: Contemporary Japanese Politics & Economy, and Japanese Culture. A 1-credit course in the Japanese Arts is also offered.
	Program website: https://www.iesabroad.org/programs/nagoya-summer-language-culture								
Princeton in Ishikawa	8 weeks **TBA** 5/31-7/26, 2025	Check website for deadline	Kanazawa, Ishikawa	Ishikawa Prefectural Government & Princeton University	Center	1 year	2nd – 3rd year levels	Homestay	+ High-quality intensive lang. program, covering one-year of materials + Various cultural courses + Possible internship opportunity (4-5 students) in the Ishikawa region for former PII students - no scholarships/financial aids available
	Program website: https://pii.princeton.edu/								

Information on Scholarships:

Japanese Language and Culture Study Abroad, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures: https://alc.northwestern.edu/areas-of-study/japanese/study-abroad.html
Scholarships and Funding, Global Learning Office: https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/money-matters/scholarships-funding/

External Scholarships:

*The following is by no means an exhaustive list.

- Bridging Scholarship: American Association of Teachers of Japanese
- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
- Benjamin A. Gilman Critical Need Language Award
- Blakemore Freeman Fellowships for Advanced Asian Language Study
- Boren Awards
- Critical Language Scholarship
- Freeman Awards for Study in Asia
- Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships
- Toshizo Watanabe Scholarship Program, U.S.-Japan Council

Japanese Language and Culture
Northwestern | Asian Languages and Cultures

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