KU Global Connections: JAPAN

The University of Kansas has maintained academic partnerships in Japan since the 1960s. The following profile highlights KU research and teaching associated with Japan.

STUDENTS & VISITING SCHOLARS
KU enrolled 38 students from Japan in Spring 2015. Four visiting scholars from Japan conducted research at KU in 2014 - 2015.

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT IN JAPAN
KU faculty teach and/or conduct research on Japan and collaborate with Japanese researchers on a wide range of areas, some of whom are highlighted below.

Michael Baskett, Film & Media Studies
Edward Canda, Social Welfare
Margaret Childs, Premodern Japanese Literature
Kris Ercums, Curator of Asian Art
Sherry Fowler, Art History
Alison Gabriele, Second Language Acquisition
Elaine Gerbert, Modern Japanese Literature & Culture
Donna Ginther, Economics
Michiko Ito, Japanese Studies Librarian
Maki Kaneko, Art History
William Lindsey, Religious Studies
Sanako Mitsugi, Second Language Acquisition & Japanese Linguistics
Ayako Mizumura, Contemporary East Asia
Yoonmi Nam, Visual Art
Joe Potts, International Programs
Eric Rath, History
Maya Stiller, Art History
Akiko Takeyama, Women’s Studies & Sociocultural Anthropology
Benjamin Uchiyama, History
Joy Ward, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Jiso Yoon, Political Science
Jane Zhao, Business

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS
KU students engage in language training and comparative academic studies, receive practical training, and visit sites of academic and cultural relevance in Japan. More than 90 KU students have participated in study abroad programs in Japan during the past five years. In addition to the below programs, Study Abroad offers various educational and internship opportunities in Japan.

Architecture in Asia (Faculty-led Winter Break)
Japan Then and Now (Faculty-led Summer Break)
Visual Art in Japan (Faculty-led Summer Break)
Okayama University (Semester or Year)
Sophia University (Semester or Year)
During the Japan Then and Now study abroad program, students explore the past eras of Japan’s history and culture and how these experiences have shaped and influenced present-day Japan. The KU faculty-led program is open to all majors.

The three-week summer program is based at Kanagawa University. KU students stay with a Japanese family for part of their visit, take part in student activities at Kanagawa, and participate in traditional activities, such as rice planting and calligraphy. In addition to experiential learning opportunities, students visit several cities during this three-credit hour course.

“Going on the Japan: Then and Now study abroad program allowed me to improve my language skills, gain a better understanding of both modern and historical Japanese culture, and make friendships I hope to keep for the rest of my life,” said Sanjay Parashar, a cellular biology major from Overland Park. “One of my favorite experiences was staying with a host family because it gave me a better understanding of daily life in Japan as well as a chance to improve my Japanese by constantly talking with my host family.”

February 2016

KU students in the Japan: Then and Now program met firemen from Hiratsuka during their 2015 visit to the city. The summer program includes visits to various cities and historical sites along with a homestay and experiential learning activities.

Photo courtesy of Sanjay Parashar