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
- 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)

5 levels of Japanese language instruction at KU
245 KU students in Japanese language courses
18 KU students studied abroad in Japan
81,000+ books and materials in KU Japanese library collection

Above data from 2014-2015
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Agreements

J.F. Oberlin University • Kanagawa University • Kansai University • Kyoritsu College of Pharmacy • Meiji University • Nihon University • Okayama University • Sophia University • Tokyo Medical University • Tsuda College

Resources

Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures

East Asian Library Collection

Center for East Asian Studies

School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Center for Global and International Studies • International Programs

Office of Study Abroad • Global Awareness Program (GAP)

Global Scholars • Int'l Recruitment and Undergraduate Admissions

Japan World Factbook

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.”

Students from Kanagawa University pose for a picture at their KU orientation. They will take English classes, participate in conversation groups, and learn about American culture during their month-long program at the Applied English Center. Highlights include a KU basketball game, ice skating in Kansas City, and a homestay. Japanese students have been participating in this unique program for more than 25 years.

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

Photo courtesy of Sanjay Parashar