

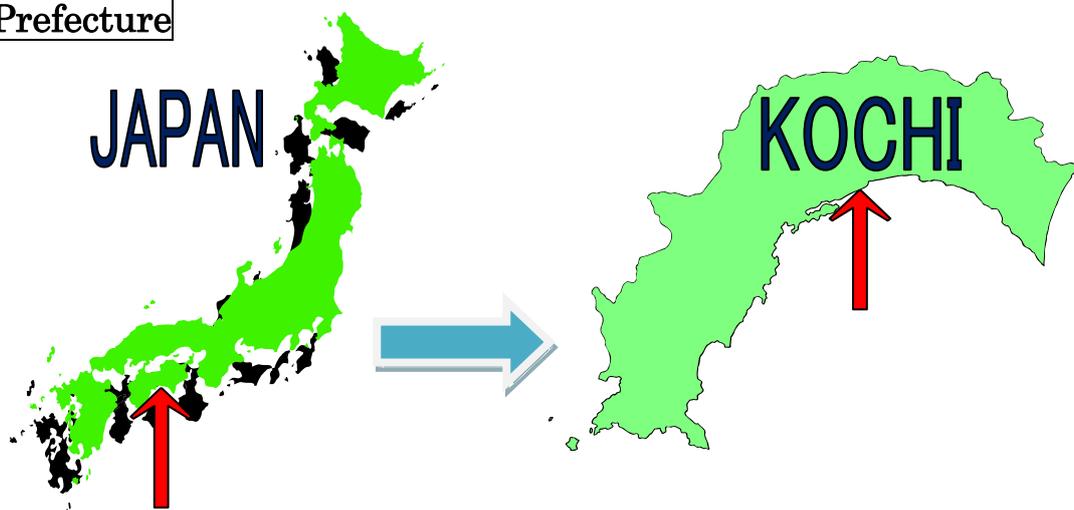
Kochi University

A Guide to Life as an Exchange Student

—Spring 2015—

Greetings from the International Exchange Division of Kochi University. This booklet contains some important information for those coming to Japan as an exchange student. Please read it carefully.

Kochi Prefecture



Kochi Prefecture is located in the south of Shikoku Island in the west of Japan, with the Shikoku Mountains in the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south. Kochi enjoys a mild climate throughout the year, with the benefit of nature's gifts in all seasons.

Kochi University

Kochi University was founded in 1949. It now has six faculties on three campuses: the Asakura Campus with the Faculty of Humanities and Economics, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of Regional Collaboration; the Oko Campus with the Medical School; and the Monobe Campus with the Faculty of Agriculture. Each campus has Master's and Doctoral courses. Most students study on the Asakura Campus.

International Exchange Division

The International Exchange Division is in charge of international students. It is located on the Asakura Campus, in the white building near the East Gate. Please contact us through the international office in your university, if you have any questions.

Tel : +81-88-844-8145 or +81-88-844-8683

Fax : +81-88-844-8718

E-mail : kr03@kochi-u.ac.jp

Academic Calendar <2015>

First Semester

March 25-26	Recommended dates of arrival
April 1-2	Japanese language placement test
April 3	Orientation for new international students
6-8	Course registration
7	Medical checkup
13	First day of classes
August 3-7	Final examinations

Second Semester

September 24-25	Recommended dates of arrival
September 29	Japanese language placement test
30	Orientation for new international students
October 1	First day of classes
December 27-	Winter vacation
January 6	
February 2-8	Final examinations



Visa

If you wish to study at Kochi University as an exchange student, you must obtain a **student visa**. The procedure is as follows:

- 1) About 6 months before your arrival, you submit all required documents to Kochi University.
- 2) We apply for your visa, with your documents, to the Immigration Office.
- 3) We receive a certificate of eligibility from the Immigration Office (about 2 months after application).
- 4) We send the certificate to the international office of your university.
- 5) On receipt of the certificate from the international office of your university, you apply for a visa to the Japanese Embassy or Consulate in your country.
- 6) You receive a student visa.

Accommodation

There are no dormitories for exchange students on the Asakura Campus. Therefore exchange students live in privately owned apartments. We will be happy to help you find your accommodation. We will provide you with details of accommodations two or three weeks before your arrival in Japan.

Accommodation Expenses

We recommend apartments with a monthly rent ranging from about ¥20,000 to ¥30,000. In addition, the “common service” fee ranges from ¥3,000 to ¥5,000. When you make a contract, some apartments require a deposit, key money, and/or an agent charge.

A fully furnished apartment ranges from ¥100,000 to ¥150,000, including additional fees.

Co-signer

A co-signer is required for an apartment contract in Japan. If you have difficulties finding one, Kochi University can be your co-signer, provided that you hold Renter’s Insurance. The premium for Renter's Insurance is ¥4,000 per year.



Arrival

The recommended arrival dates for spring 2015 are March 25 and 26. We offer a pick-up service if you arrive at Kochi Station or Kochi Ryoma Airport between 9:30 and 12:30 on those days. To arrange this, you should notify Kochi University International Exchange Division as early as possible with your arrival date, time, place and flight schedule.

We cannot receive and keep your luggage for you before your arrival. Be sure to arrange to receive it yourself after you arrive in Kochi.

After Arrival

Necessary Procedures

- Residence registration
- Joining Japan's National Health Insurance
- Arranging electricity, gas and water contracts for your accommodation
- Opening a bank account



You will be assigned a Campus Life Initiation Tutor, who will help you with these procedures. These are Japanese and international students at Kochi University.

Expenses after Arrival

You need to buy certain items for daily life as soon as you come to Japan. One of them is a futon (Japanese bed), which costs around ¥10,000.

You may need up to ¥150,000 as key money for your apartment contract. Only cash is accepted for this, so you should bring sufficient money. The apartment rent and additional fees can vary. Please ask for details at the International Exchange Division.

Mobile Phone

If you want to use a phone that you have brought from your country, you must either use the international roaming service of your phone company, or rent a SIM card at a SoftBank (phone company) shop at the airport or in town. Please go to the URL below for more details.

<http://www.softbank-rental.jp/rental-plan.php>

You can buy a new phone at any of the shops of the major phone companies, such as docomo, au, or SoftBank. The normal contract period for a phone in Japan is two years; if you cancel it before it expires, penalty fees can be quite high. People under 20 years of age must have a guarantor for the contract. Kochi University cannot be a student's guarantor.

International Student Support Association

The Kochi University International Student Support Association is a volunteer group. One of their activities is to lend bicycles, heaters, electric fans, and other such items. If you want to borrow something, submit an application form to the International Exchange Division, indicating the items you wish to borrow.

All items are lent to students by the courtesy of the Association. Appreciate their generosity and use them responsibly.

Please note that the Association will lend bicycles only in cases of real need. If you borrow a bicycle, please be responsible:

- Do not lend the bicycle to any other person.
- Be sure to lock the bicycle when you are away from it.
- Do not leave the bicycle where you cannot be responsible for it.
- If it is damaged, you must have it repaired at your own expense.



Tutors

Japanese students or international students will support you as tutors.

There are two kinds:

- Campus Life Initiation Tutors will help you settle into your accommodation, go through all the necessary registrations with you, etc.
- Semester Tutors will help you with your studies and daily life activities for one semester.

Classes

You are required to take at least **seven courses** while at Kochi University.

Supplementary Japanese Language Courses

Exchange students may choose to take supplementary Japanese language courses provided by the International Exchange Division of the Center for International Collaboration, Common Education, and Faculties. If you wish to take one, you must take the Japanese language placement test conducted at the beginning of each semester. The syllabus and timetable will be provided at the time of the test. Please note that these courses are supplementary, and so no credits will be issued; instead, a certificate of completion will be issued specifying the number of contact hours. Any conversion of these hours to credits will be at the discretion of your home institution when you return.

Classes of Common Education and your Faculty

If you wish to take any courses offered by the Division of Common Education or by the Faculty you belong to, you need to register for them.

There may be restrictions regarding registration for some courses. For further details, ask at the Registrar's Office on the second floor of the Student Service Center.

Special Events for International Students

Kochi University provides international students with many special events. An Annual Study Tour is offered around October. In December there is the President's Welcome Party for International Students. Other events include an orange picking excursion, kimono wearing, local festivals, and much more. Announcements will be made for all these events. Join us and have lots of fun!

**We look forward to welcoming
you here at Kochi University.**