

Financial Aid for Study in Japan

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Kinds of Financial Aid

Federal and State Aid

Funded by taxpayer dollars or other revenue. Generally need-based, but can also be merit-based. It may take the form of scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study. You may use federal aid toward study abroad if the sponsoring institution approves the credit earned by the student.

Institutional Aid

Funded by the student's sponsoring educational institution, based either on need or merit. This is generally a scholarship or tuition waiver, awarded only to students enrolled at the institution. It is sometimes restricted for use only on the home campus or in the home state, and might not be available for study abroad.

Private Aid

Funded by a private source not the sponsoring institution. Usually available as scholarships or loans; usually awarded directly to the student, who then uses it to attend the institution of choice. Private aid may have specific restrictions, and so may or may not be available for study abroad. Private loans are offered by private lenders. Lenders provide different types of private loans, depending on the student's level of study.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form

To apply for state and federal assistance, you must fill out the FAFSA each year. When you submit a FAFSA to the U.S. Department of Education, the information is forwarded to the state student assistance agency. Each state has a different FAFSA submission deadline, but if you submit the form by February 15, you will be in time for all state deadlines.

Download the FAFSA application or apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

All types of federal financial aid for study abroad are usable as long as you are eligible and your institution has approved the courses taken abroad for credit.

Federal Grants and Loans

We couldn't create a guide like this without mentioning the most common aid sources. You likely already know about them, but just in case, here's a summary.

Federal Pell Grant

A need-based grant. To qualify, you must be a full-time undergraduate student with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) below the limit determined each year. Speak with your financial aid adviser for current information.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunities Grant (SEOG)

A need-based grant awarded to those students demonstrating the greatest financial need. Students typically must qualify for the federal Pell Grant to receive an SEOG Grant. Speak with your financial aid adviser for current information.

Federal Stafford Loan

The Stafford Loan is in the student's name and is available to all students, regardless of financial need. If the loan is subsidized, the government will pay the interest while you are in school. If the loan is unsubsidized, you have the option of capitalizing the interest or of paying the interest quarterly during the in-school period. Payment of the principal itself (for both subsidized and unsubsidized loans) does not begin until six months after graduation, provided you remain enrolled on at least a half-time (six credits) basis.

Federal Perkins Loan

A low-interest loan (5%) awarded to students demonstrating the greatest financial need. Speak with your financial aid adviser for current information.

Parent PLUS Loans

PLUS loans are available to your parents—if you are a dependent undergraduate student—to help finance your education. Parents may borrow up to the full cost of your education, less the amount of any other financial aid you receive. A minimal credit check is required for the PLUS loan, so a good credit history is required.

Qualifying for Financial Aid for Study in Japan

To qualify for financial aid for study abroad:

- You must be enrolled in a degree program.
- You must be enrolled for a certain number of credit hours while receiving aid.
- Study abroad for credit must be approved by your home institution before you leave.
- You must show a study abroad budget, and your home institution must document the cost of each study abroad program.

The 1992 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act allows you to use “reasonable costs of study abroad” to determine how much aid you should receive. Students attending low-cost institutions can qualify for more aid if the cost of study abroad is higher.

Continuing Financial Aid for Study in Japan

To continue to receive aid while abroad:

- You must show satisfactory academic credit each term, normally by earning passing grades for a full-time load of courses taken abroad for credit.
- You must reapply for federal/state aid each year you want to receive aid.

Using Existing Financial Aid for Study in Japan

Federal aid can legally be used for virtually any study abroad program that has been approved for credit by your home institution. Many state aid programs follow the same rules and regulations as the federal government. If your state does this, you should also be able to use state aid for study abroad programs approved by your home campus. Even if you have not received aid in the past, consider applying for aid for your study abroad program.

Each college and university has some latitude in deciding how to administer aid programs and how to determine the cost of attending school. So, administrators can consider special circumstances when awarding aid. Here are some things to know if you are investigating whether state or federal aid can be used for study abroad:

- Your college/university must first agree that the **credit earned abroad is approved**. The credit does not have to satisfy major requirements, but you need to be able to use it for general education or elective credit.
- Once your home institution approves the program, it is necessary to have a **written agreement between your school and KCP International**. Once you are registered, KCP submits this agreement to your university once you are registered.

- Send your financial aid office the appropriate **KCP budget** for your study abroad program. Federal law allows aid to cover all reasonable costs of study abroad including: round-trip transportation, program tuition and fees, living costs, passport and visa fees, health insurance, and so on. The website for each KCP school has a sample budget, in the Costs | Financial Resources section.
- If your study abroad program costs more than your home institution tuition, ask your financial aid office to **consider the higher costs** and give you more aid. Make sure they have a copy of your budget.
- If you have never had a Federal Family Educational Loan (Stafford, PLUS, Direct Loan) before, federal law requires that you **be in school for 30 days** before you can receive your loan money. You must also have special counseling about borrowing money for college; your loan cannot be disbursed to you until you have received this counseling.

Academic Credit

Usually, it is not difficult to arrange transfer credit toward U.S. degrees, since KCP courses are offered at recognized institutions. However, it is the responsibility of the student's home institution to approve the amount of credit to transfer. At the end of the program, every participant receives an official university transcript. In addition, course descriptions are available for all programs to help evaluate transfer credit.

Scholarships

Scholarships that can be used for study abroad may be awarded on the basis of personal attributes (ethnic or religious background, parents' field of employment, children of veterans, descendents of immigrants from specific countries), or on academic focus, major, or career path. The challenge for you is to locate appropriate and relevant funding. You may find further scholarship and financial aid information at your school's study abroad office. Here is a starting list to help you.

Bridging Scholarships for Study in Japan

From the Association of Teachers of Japanese. Assistance up to \$4,000 to qualified students for study at an eligible program in Japan.

Blakemore Asian Language Fellowships

Scholarships for advanced language training for students planning to pursue careers related to Asia.

David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarships

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) provides scholarships to undergraduate students who study languages and cultures considered important to U.S. national security. Students are not eligible to receive the Boren scholarship if they are studying in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, or the U.K.

Foundation for Asia Scholars

The mission of the FAS is to develop global citizens and leaders by assisting students in obtaining cultural and academic experiences in the Asia Pacific region. Students who are from underrepresented populations in international education are a priority. Applications for four different categories of scholarships are accepted three times a year (deadlines are December 31, April 30, and August 31); scholarship amounts range from \$500 to \$2,000. You must be enrolled in a North American college or university where transfer credits from a program abroad will be applied to the degree being earned.

Freeman Awards for Study in Asia

From the Institute of International Education (IEE). Funds for study abroad in East and Southeast Asia (\$3,000–\$7,000), depending on program length.

Gilman International Scholarship Program

From the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (U.S. Dept. of State), administered by the IEE. Awards for study abroad, for U.S. citizens or U.S. national students who receive federal need-based aid under Title IV—Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study, Stafford Loans, Perkins, Loans, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, up to \$5,000, depending on length of program.

Millennium Scholars

From the Millennium Society, for students aged 17– 25 who are in an accredited, undergraduate degree-granting college/university that offers a cross-cultural environment and who have verifiable need for financial assistance.

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships

Funded by the Rotary Club Foundation, awarded for study in another country where Rotary Clubs are located.

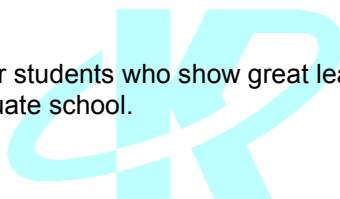
Sankei Grants for Non-Japanese Students

Contact: The Sankei Shimbun
Sankei Media Services
1-7-2, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-77 JAPAN
Tel: 011-81-3-3275-8696

Scholarships for students of advanced level Japanese to study in Japan.

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Scholarships for international study for students who show great leadership ability, are interested in government, and intend to go to graduate school.



Websites

StudyAbroadFunding

From the IEE. Country or subject search: their comprehensive database includes study abroad scholarships, fellowships, and grants. Our primary source of funding information.

IEFA

International Education Financial Aid. Financial aid information for students wishing to study in a foreign country. Comprehensive listing of grants, scholarships, loan programs, and other information to assist you in funding study abroad.

Finaid.org

Information on aid, advice about finding aid, and a special section on financial aid for study abroad. A good general resource is the Financial Aid Information Page.

Embark

A site for finding colleges and financial aid. Sources of financial aid, advice for students, and specific information for high school, college, graduate, transfer, and international students. Information for parents as well.

Fastweb

Search free in a database of over 180,000 scholarships and loans.

College Board

News and up-to-date information on financial aid, a scholarship search, and links to financial aid resources.

Collegenet

An excellent resource on financial aid and scholarships. Factual information, defines the types of financial aid, and answers questions about the FAFSA, scholarships, private aid, and other alternative financing.

Direct Loans

The federal government's Direct Loan website, with information on accounts, entrance counseling, and loan consolidation.

Freschinfo

Free scholarship search.

GoCollege

Links to a free scholarship search, as well as information about government loans.

IIE/Students

A portal to many financial aid and scholarship sources.

USNews

Types of financial aid available, 10 best-value colleges, steps and tips to get financial aid, student's recession guide, and an aid letter decoder.

ED.gov

The U.S. Department of Education main site for financial assistance.

