Exchange Scheme with Keio University

Where is Keio University?

Keio University is located in Minato, Tokyo. Known as the oldest institute of higher education in Japan, over 150 years since its founding, Keio has thrived under its founder’s motto of jitsugaku, or empirical science, as it continues to transform Japan as a modern nation through contributions to education, research, and medicine.

Who can go?

- **One place** will be made available to undergraduate students from York in 2020/21 on the Japanese Language Programme (JLP).
- There are also unlimited places available on the Keio International Programme (KIP).
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York for credit-replacing programmes (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme). Due to the limited availability of English taught modules this exchange would better suit students on a 3+1 programme. Students are not required to have any Japanese to be able to take part in this exchange.
- Please consult the Opportunities by Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- York students must take **7 modules per semester**, which amounts to approximately **16 credits**. Japanese education is modelled on the US system. Classes are typically 1 or 2 credits, or **22.5 hours of contact time** (**90 minute class over a 15 week semester**). For a credit-replacing programme all credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- If a student wishes to take extra courses in other non-degree related subjects, they should limit this to one additional course per semester.
- As a guide, you can view previous courses for the 2019-20 academic year [here](#).

Programmes Available at Keio:

1. **Keio International Program (KIP)**
   A comprehensive program designed for exchange students who want to study about Japan and East/Southeast Asia in English and take Japanese language courses as well
   *Students with advanced Japanese proficiency may also take undergraduate courses in Japanese offered by faculties.*

2. **Japanese Language Program (JLP)**
   An intensive program for students who wish to focus on Japanese language learning
   You should discuss these options thoroughly with your department-supervisor.
How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants. Grades will only be converted for credit replacement students.
- University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables [here](#).
- Please ensure that you are fully aware of how your grades will be converted on your return to York.
- Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on credit-replacing exchange.

Costs

*Please note that the costs below are based on previous years and are provided for guidance only. Exact costs may vary due to exchange rates, inflation, personal circumstance and/or other reasons.*

- **Tuition Fees**: Students will pay no tuition fees to Keio and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
- **Visas**: Please check the costs related to applying for a visa. For further information, please see the Visa section below.
- **Medical insurance**: Exchange students are requested by Japanese Government to join National Health Insurance. Monthly premiums are approx. $15 USD. Students can join a ward/city office of their residence. For more information: [keio.ac.jp/intl_student/handbook/health.pdf](#)
- **Additional costs to consider**: flights, accommodation (see below), travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)
- Please note that students applying to Keio are required to complete a **Certificate of Health** that must be certified by a health professional. This can incur additional costs, please check at your local health centre.
- **Full details of documents required can be found on the Keio **Incoming Exchange Students** webpages.

**Monthly living costs**

Taking utilities, food, clothes, transportation, books and miscellaneous expenses into consideration, monthly living costs should come to about ¥130,000 - ¥170,000.

**Example:**

Keio Housing*: ¥55,000 - ¥79,100  
Food: ¥30,000 - ¥60,000  
Clothes: ¥10,000 - ¥20,000  
Books: ¥7,000  
Transportation: ¥8,000+  
Medical Insurance: ¥1,500  
Mobile Phone: ¥5,000+  
Miscellaneous: ¥15,000

**Important Notes:**

It is important that students have enough funding to cover the expected costs of their stay at Keio, which should be at least ¥130,000 (or equivalent in their country’s currency) per month for the expected period of stay. It is very difficult for exchange students to apply for a scholarship after they come to Japan. It is also difficult for exchange students to get a part-time job.

Financial Assistance

- Information on the various scholarships offered to Exchange students at Keio can be found in the [Scholarship Information Guidebook for International Students](#) 2019 Academic Year
- **York Futures Scholarship** new for 2019/20. Support for personal and professional development. Funding of up to £6000 available to students applying to study abroad in 2020/21. There are two rounds of applications for this funding, Autumn Term and Easter Vacation/start of Summer Term. We recommend that you apply for the first round of funding to secure this before you have received confirmation of your study abroad place. For more information please see the following web pages: [york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/skills/work-experience/yfs/](#)
Visa

Please be aware that Centre for Global Programmes staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

- Japanese Immigration Law requires international students to obtain a COE before applying for their student visa, an official document issued by the Japanese Ministry of Justice.
- Once you receive the COE, you can then submit this with the student visa application.
- Keio will require nominated students to submit their COE applications along with their program application. The university will submit the COE application on the student’s behalf.
- The immigration office will normally take a month to issue the COE.
- Visa applications require students to prove they have sufficient funds in their bank accounts; the minimum sum recommended to cover living costs for the academic year is 130,000 JPY per month.
- The status of your visa application should be ‘college student’. The visa is usually issued a few days after the application is submitted, but may take a week or more depending on circumstances.

What’s it like to study there?

“Probably the most striking thing about arriving in Japan is just how nice everyone is. I have not met many fellow students but I have had to go to into government offices, banks and shops to prepare for life. People are almost always brighter and more helpful than they are in the UK.

The language barrier is tricky and sometimes awkward but is less of a problem than I expected. As above, everyone is very helpful, and most people know enough English to be able to communicate anything important. My understanding of Japanese is very basic but after trying to speak even broken Japanese in restaurants people have been very encouraging.

I was quite surprised by the almost obsessive focus on hygiene in Japan. Among other things, we are expected to change from outdoor shoes to slippers every time we enter and leave the accommodation, people wear masks to prevent themselves from passing on colds, and in shops you put money in a container for the cashier to take it from instead of handing it to them directly. These are mostly little things that are easy to get used to, but I am mindful of slipping up and possibly appearing improper.

The first thing I did to get settled in was to socialise with the other students in my dormitory, through card games and good old fashioned drinking games, as well as exploring the surrounding area near the accommodation with other international students. This helped me feel more at home by making the surrounding area more familiar and getting me better acquainted with the people I am living with. I think this may help me to build a better support network. Furthermore, I am also now more aware of anywhere I need to go for everyday life while living in Yokohama.”

Antonia, Politics, Year Abroad 2019-20

Where will I live?

- Keio housing (accommodations subsidised by Keio) is GUARANTEED for exchange students if they apply for housing on time.
- Students are provided with a room at one of the student dormitories subsidised by Keio University. In some dormitories, weekday meals are included in the fee.
- Usually, students are required to pay rent through automatic debiting from their bank account each month, but sometimes the first and the last month’s rent may be paid in cash at the counter of Office of Student Services.
- The rent charged to students varies from ¥51,000 - ¥78,000(approx.). Students will also be charged ¥20,000 (£142 approx.) maintenance fee on their first month’s rent. Deposits and key charge are not required.

https://www.student.com/
Is it the right choice for me?

- When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the Considerations Checklist on our web pages.
- This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.

Contact details at Keio

- Address: 2-15-45 Mita Minato-Ku, Tokyo 108-8345 JAPAN
- Your main point of contact at Keio will be: Maya NAKANO (Ms.) Student Exchange Coordinator
- Group E-mail: ic-student@adst.keio.ac.jp, Tel: +81 (03) 5427-1798

Useful web links

- Keio University Main Site
- Keio Student Exchange Program
- Keio Student Visa
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Tokyo Tourist Information
- Cost of living Comparison Site
- Alternative cost of living comparison site

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Centre for Global Programmes cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, October 2019.

Students are responsible for researching their own exchanges and making sure that they have considered all costs and the compatibility of the overseas programme to their own degree, in discussion with their departments and supervisors. The Centre for Global Programmes are here to offer support.