Exchange Scheme with the Tohoku University

Where is Tohoku University? - Founded 1907 - Tohoku University located in Sendai, Miyagi in the Tōhoku Region, Japan, is a Japanese national university. It is the third oldest Imperial University in Japan and among the National Seven Universities. It is considered one of the most prestigious universities in Japan, and one of the top fifty universities in the world.

Who can go?

- Three places will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2017/18.
- Please note: only fluent Japanese speakers (N1 level) are eligible for this exchange, there are a limited number of English language courses available.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York for integrated programmes (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme). Please speak to your department about the availability of extended degrees that allow you to take an additional year to study abroad.
- Please consult the opportunities by department webpage to see if your subject is eligible for exchange. https://www.york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/opportunities/

Courses

- Students will be expected to take 26 credits during their year at Tohoku (i.e. 13 credits per semester).
- All 26 credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- A catalogue of courses (or prospectus) is available online: http://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/cms/index-e.cgi?pg=100915141356
- Visiting undergraduate exchange students at Rutgers are admitted to programs provided by the Academic Colleges and Schools on the New Brunswick/Piscataway campus only according to the terms of the agreement between Rutgers and York.
- Most courses are open to exchange students although some may require pre-requisite confirmation.

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants.
- 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 integrated study.

Costs

1) Tuition Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to Tohoku and in 2016/17 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.

2) Visas: The cost of visa’s can vary between £16 and £32. (approx.)
3) Medical insurance and waiver:

1. Students are required to enroll in “National Health Insurance”. This insurance will cover 70% of the medical cost that you pay at the clinic or hospital. The fee is approximately 1,700 JPY/month. Foreign residents except temporary stay must enroll in this insurance.

2. “Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research” is also mandatory. The fee is 1,000 JPY (for 1 year). Without it, students will not be able to participate in some of the practical training courses. It covers:
   a. Cases where the insured suffers a physical injury as a result of sudden and unforeseen accidents of an external origin while engaged in educational and research activities at this university
   b. Cases where the insured sustains a physical injury while commuting to school or in transit between school facilities.

3. Students are also required to enroll in “Personal Liability Insurance for Students”. This insurance will cover the liability for bodily injury and/or property damage caused by the insured students to a third party in daily life. The cost is 830 JPY (for 1 semester) or 2,090 JPY (for 2 semesters) plus 5,000 JPY as a membership fee of UNIV. CO-OP (Refundable). Without it, they will not be able to participate in some of the practical training courses.

4. In case of emergencies, we strongly recommend students purchase “Overseas Travelers' Personal Accident Insurance” for incoming exchange students before leaving their countries.

4) Additional costs to consider: flights, accommodation, travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

Visa

The Center for International Exchange is in charge of handling visas and providing support. The procedure for applying for a student exchange visa is as follows:

1. Students are required to submit an application for the Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) along with the other required documents by the exchange program application deadline.
2. Tohoku University will then apply to the Immigration Bureau for the CoE on behalf of students. It takes 2 months to get the certificate.
3. Then, the CoE will be sent to the partner universities/students.
4. Students must apply for the VISA using the CoE at the Japanese embassy/consular office in their country before departure for Japan.

Where will I live?

On-Campus Housing:

Exchange students receive priority for living in university dormitories. Tohoku University International House, University House Sanjo and Urban Castle Kawauchi are available at reasonable rates (typically 25,000 JPY/month, including utilities). For further information, see: http://sup.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/housing/index_en.html

Off-Campus Housing:

Tohoku University can help students find apartments, if they do not wish to stay at the dormitories above. But private accommodation is usually expensive. (approx. 35,000 – 55,000 JPY/month, without utilities).

Contact details at Tohoku

Kazuko Suematsu, Center for International Exchange
41 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, 980-8576, Japan
suematsu@insc.tohoku.ac.jp

Useful web links:

Main Tohoku website – http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/english/
Incoming Exchange Students – http://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/cms/index-e.cgi
Third Year Abroad - http://www.thirdyearabroad.com/
Foreign Commonwealth Office - https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/japan

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, October 2016.