Exchange Scheme with the Tohoku University

Where is Tohoku?

Founded 1907, Tohoku University is located in Sendai, Miyagi in the Tōhoku Region, Japan. It is the third oldest Imperial University in Japan and considered one of the most prestigious universities in the country of 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 2020/21 with priority given to MChem students.
- Please note: only fluent Japanese speakers (N1 level) are eligible for this exchange, there are a limited number of English language courses available.
- Due to the nature of this exchange it is only available to students who are able to opt into a 3+1 (with a year abroad) programme.
- Please consult with your department to see if your subject is eligible for this exchange.
- Open to students on 3+1 programmes must you get agreement on modules as will not be able to take full credits in own subject.

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: insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/exchange/ipla/.
- Most courses are open to exchange students although some may require pre-requisite confirmation.
- For the 2019/20 academic year, there will be a new IPLA course for Liberal Arts students that will be taught in English. For more information please visit: insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/exchange/ipla/

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: york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5
- 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 Tohoku and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
- **Visas:** The cost of visa’s can vary between £16 and £32. (approx.)

**Medical insurance:**

- Students are required to enrol 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 enrol in this insurance.
- “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: 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. As well as cases where the insured sustains a physical injury while commuting to school or in transit between school facilities.
- Students are also required to enrol 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.
- In case of emergencies, we strongly recommend students purchase “Overseas Travellers’ Personal Accident Insurance” for incoming exchange students before leaving their countries.
- **Additional costs to consider:** flights, accommodation, travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

Financial Assistance

- **JASSO Scholarship:** This scholarship application form is available on Tohoku’s student exchange application website (T-cens). Applicants must upload the form when they apply to the exchange program. The deadline is the same as the student exchange program application deadline. Late application will not be processed. The amount of the scholarship is JPY80,000 per month. More details can be found on their web page: [https://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/exchange/](https://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/exchange/)
- **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/](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.

- 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.
- Tohoku University will then apply to the Immigration Bureau for the CoE on behalf of students. It takes 2 months to get the certificate so make sure you apply in good time.
• Then, the CoE will be sent to the partner universities/students.
• Students must apply for the VISA using the CoE at the Japanese embassy/consular office in their country before departure for Japan.
• Tohoku give some more detailed information here: tohoku.ac.jp/english/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/COE_Form1_combined_Fall2018.pdf

What’s it like to study there?
• This is a new exchange, we have not yet sent any students to Tohoku. We have however sent students to Japan who would be happy to share their experiences. Please contact us for further information.

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 on average, including utilities). For further information, see: 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).

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 Tohoku
• Staff responsible for incoming students: Taro Mita(Mr.) Email: studyab@grp.tohoku.ac.jp
• Address: Center for International Exchange, 41 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, 980-8576, Japan

Useful web links
• Main Tohoku Website
• Tohoku Incoming Exchange Students
• Information for Tohoku Incoming Exchange Students
• Global Graduates
• Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
• Sendai Tourist Information
• On Campus Accommodation
• 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.