Exchange Scheme with Waseda University

Where is Waseda University?

Established in 1882 - Waseda University is an independent, private research university, located in Shinjuku, the centre of Tokyo, Japan. It is a large university with approximately 52,000 students and is one of the selected universities which receive additional funding from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s “Global 30” Project.

Who can go?

- **Two** places will be made available to university-wide undergraduate students from University of York in 2020/21 and another **two** places specifically for **History 3+1** students.
- 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). 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 Subject](#) webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.
- Waseda has strict requirements on the academic ability of students. If you are taking a 3+1 year abroad then you must have achieved at least a 60% grade average in your first year. Replacement credit may be possible if students have achieved 60% in their first term modules of their first year.

Courses

- It is recommended that exchange students take 7 courses per semester (which amounts to 14 credits). The School of International Liberal Studies (SILS) has its own curriculum. Some exchange students take as many as 20 courses (40 credits). Students should take care not to overload their timetable.
- If a student wishes to take extra courses in other non-degree related subjects, they should limit this to one additional course per semester.
- Waseda does offer courses in English from the School of Political Science and Economics, School of Commerce, School of Social Sciences, School of International Liberal Studies, School of Fundamental Science and Engineering, School of Creative Science and Engineering and the School of Advanced Science and Engineering.
- Please note that the School of Political Science and Economics have a GPA requirement of 3.0 (60%). Students who do not achieve this mark by the end of the proceeding academic year will not be allowed to continue on the exchange.
- You can view the 2018/19 course catalogue here as a general guide. Remember to select English as the language of instruction: [wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA101.php?pLng=en](#)

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 Waseda 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 and waiver:** International students are required to participate in the National Health Insurance Scheme which will consist of monthly payments. The scheme will cover 70% of costs with health claims. Waseda offer a Waseda University Student Health Promotion Mutual Aid Association cover which can cover the remaining 30%. More information here: [waseda.jp/fsci/gips/other-en/2018/02/05/12069/](http://waseda.jp/fsci/gips/other-en/2018/02/05/12069/)
- **Housing:** Nisha Waseda International Student House 49000 Yen per month. Additional costs to consider: flights, accommodation, travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities) [https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/exchange/practical](https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/exchange/practical)
- **Funding:** Toyota-Shi Trevelyan Trust up to £5000 per award. Eligibility: a good knowledge of the Japanese language and pursuing a course in a related field. Applications, CV with academic reference, letter outlining your background and intended course of study in Japan with your most recent bank statement to: scholarships@ish.org.uk. We will have more information about the details of this scholarship later in the spring term.
- **Funding:** Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) scholarship is available for students to apply for as part of their application to Waseda. You cannot apply for scholarship once your application has been submitted. Please note that the deadlines for applying for this may be quite tight and you should be prepared to have all the relevant information available (including financial information).

**Financial Assistance**

- **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/](http://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.
- Waseda 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 80,000 JPY per month.
- The cost of visa’s can vary between £16 and £32. (approx.)
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?**

“I really enjoyed my study abroad experience. As someone who is quite shy, I feel really proud when I look back and realise I spent an entire year in a different country where I didn't know anyone. I think being in Japan made me come out of my shell, exploring Tokyo and making friends from all over the world has improved my confidence and made me more outgoing. At times I felt homesick, which is only to be expected when you're so far from home. My advice to anyone in the same situation would be to not focus on how long it is until you go home, but make the most of your time abroad, because you’ll definitely miss it once you're back in Britain!”

“My advice to anyone considering study abroad is to just do it. I was nervous about it at first but I had such a great year, and would do it all again!”

_Tess, History, Year Abroad 2015/16_

“I have … grown much more aware of how different societies in different parts of the world operate, thus improving upon my observation and analytical ability. The most helpful advice I could give to students interested in a study abroad experience is to research quite a bit of what that country and its citizens has to offer and try to grasp the basics of that country's language before applying to study there. In both cases, you may or may not discover difficulties that may hinder your day-to-day living and studies at university.”

_Robbie, History, Year Abroad 2017/18_

**Where will I live?**

On-Campus Housing:

- There are three dormitories which are specifically for exchange students, **Waseda University International Student House, Waseda Hoshien International House** and **Nishi Waseda University International Student House**, all of which are within walking distance of the Waseda, Toyama and Nishi Waseda campuses.

Off-Campus Housing:

- Exchange students also have the option of a shared rental house or a homestay if they would prefer to live off campus.
- Students can apply through the **Waseda University International Corporation** if they would prefer to experience a homestay: [w-as.jp/japan-exp/](http://w-as.jp/japan-exp/)
- If students want to find off-campus shared rental housing, they can apply through the **Waseda University Property Management Corporation**.

**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 Waseda**

- Inbound Co-ordinator: Ms. Natsumi KAWANA Tel: +81-3-3203-9079
Email: ex-in-cie@list.waseda.jp

Useful web links

- Main Waseda Site
- Japanese Visa Application
- Waseda Student Exchange Program
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Tokyo Tourist Information
- On Campus Accommodation
- Home Stay Off 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.