

2025 Fall University-wide Study Abroad Program [Exchange] Application Guidelines

September 12, 2024
International Student Center

University-wide Study Abroad Program is a program in which students study abroad for one semester or one academic year at one of the partner universities of Meiji University all around the world. To participate in this program, students are required to apply to the internal screening and be nominated by Meiji University. Please read both "Application Guidelines" and "2025 Fall University-wide Study Abroad Program [Exchange] Admission Details" thoroughly for the details of the internal screening.

URL for "2025 Fall University-wide Study Abroad Program [Exchange] Admission Details" *To be published in early October:

https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/recruitment/2025_exchange_fall.html

1. Applicable Partner Institutions

The Universities listed in the "2025 Fall University-wide Study Abroad Program [Exchange] Admission Details"

2. Duration of Study Abroad

One semester or one academic year starting from August/September 2025.

- * Applicants choose the period at the time of application to Meiji internal screening. Note that it cannot be changed once the application is completed.
- * There may be a restriction on the period set by each university. Refer to "2025 Fall University-wide Study Abroad Program [Exchange] Admission Details" for details.

3. Number of Students

One to two students per university in general.

- * Refer to "2025 Fall University-wide Study Abroad Program [Exchange] Admission Details" for details.

4. Qualifications

All of the following 1-5 requirements must be met.

1 Applicants must be regular Meiji University students (Audit students are not eligible).

Undergraduates : Must have completed at least one semester at Meiji University at the time of application to Meiji internal screening and have earned around 15 credits per semester which are counted as graduation requirement credits.

*If you are in their 4th year of undergraduate at the time of application to Meiji internal screening and plan to enroll in a graduate school of Meiji in the semester of departure, there is a possibility that you cannot participate in this program. Consult with your school office and the office of the graduate school you plan to enter regarding the possibility of study abroad, and apply only if you can obtain permission from your supervisor at the graduate school you plan to enter by the deadline for submission of the application documents. ("指導教員許可書" (a permission letter by supervisor) must be submitted. Refer to "8. Application Documents".)

Alternatively, students who have consulted with their School and received an approval may apply in exceptional cases.

Graduates: Must have approval from their academic supervisors.

Students on leave of absence may apply under the condition that they will return to Meiji University for the semester in which study abroad period starts and are able to go through all of the necessary procedures such as taking an in-person interview, participating in orientations, application process for each university etc.

2 Applicants must be in physically and mentally good health and capable of studying abroad for the designated period.

Those who have chronic diseases or pre-existing conditions must get an approval of the physician in advance and submit a medical certificate along with the application documents.

3 Applicants must understand the required expenses of study abroad and have sufficient funds.

Students may be required to submit a bank statement to prove their financial capability as part of the application process to the host universities.

4 Both applicant and guarantor must understand and agree to the "Program Agreement".

Students must get their guarantors' permission before applying to the internal screening.

5 Applicants must meet the criteria listed in "Admission Details" of the university/universities of their choice.

GPA requirement

Must be met with the cumulative GPA of up to Spring Semester 2024. For the universities without their own GPA requirements, 2.0 is applied as the minimum. If successfully selected as candidates, students must keep their cumulative GPA above the host university's minimum requirement throughout Fall Semester 2024. **If the candidate fails to keep the GPA, the nomination will be cancelled.**

Language requirement

Applicants must have the required scores of the university/universities of their choice at the time of online application of the internal screening. (If there are more than one test listed in the "Admission Details" for one university, only one of them is required.) The universities that applicants fail to prove to have met the requirement will be excluded for screening. Make sure to check "Admission Details" carefully as some universities have different requirements depending on Schools/Departments.

English	Must meet the requirement with a result of the TOEFL iBT or IELTS (Academic Module) <u>taken in or after September 2023</u> . For partner universities without their own language requirements, TOEFL iBT 61/IELTS 5.5 are applied as the minimums. Whether or not TOEFL iBT MyBest scores, TOEFL iBT Home Edition, and IELTS Online are accepted depends on each university. Refer to "Admission Details" for details. * Note that when using MyBest Scores for the TOEFL iBT, the test date for each section must also be within the validity period. (MyBest Scores with even one invalid section score <u>cannot be used</u> .) * IELTS scores including One Skill Retake score <u>cannot be used</u> .
Non-English	Must meet the requirement with a result of the test that is <u>valid until September 2025</u> . For partner universities without their own language requirements, CEFR B1 level is applied as the minimum. If the universities of their choice do not require the submission of certificates, students may apply with a "Language Proficiency Assessment Sheet" (designated form) filled out by a professor of Meiji University in lieu of an official test certificate.

5. Application Procedures and Period

Both of the followings ①&② must be completed within the designated application period.

① Online application using Oh-o! Meiji questionnaire

9:00 Thursday, October 31 to 17:00 Thursday, November 7, 2024

Title of the questionnaire: "国際教育センター主催 2025年秋出発大学間協定留学【交換型】応募フォーム"

* Questionnaire can be viewed and submitted only during the application period.

② Submission of application documents to Oh-o! Meiji group page

By 17:00 Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Upload the required documents to the designated Oh-o! Meiji group page once you receive the instruction message via Oh-o! Meiji. (Instruction message will be sent within a few days after the completion of online application to A.M. November 8 at the latest.)

Registration No. to be filled in Study Abroad Statement of Purpose will be announced on Oh-o! Meiji group page **by November 8**.

* Application outside the designated period will not be accepted whatsoever.

* Registration and submission of the documents must be completed by the applicant him/herself.

* For any amendment after submission of online application form, please contact <kokusaik@meiji.ac.jp> via email within the designated online application period.

* The scores shown on the copy of the language proficiency test certificate submitted as part of application documents must match with the scores entered in the online application form.

6. Screening Process

Screening will be based on comprehensive evaluation of their Meiji University GPA (30%), Application documents (35%) and Interview (35%). Given that all of the requirements of the universities of their choice have met, applicants with higher overall marks have the priorities to be assigned to the universities of their choice.

- * No inquiries concerning screening results and process will be answered.
- * Note that the internal screening is solely for selecting the "candidates" who will be officially nominated by Meiji University. Passing the internal screening does not guarantee the candidate's study abroad as the final decision will be made by each host university.

7. Interview

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Place: Surugadai Campus

- * Please leave your schedule open until further notice.
- * Details of interview are to be announced via Oh-o! Meiji or Email in late November.
- * Date and time of interview cannot be changed except for academic reasons such as attending classes or exams.
- * Interview will be conducted in Japanese. ***If English assistance is required, please inform in advance.**

8. Application Documents

- Upload the required documents to the designated Oh-o! Meiji group page once you receive the instruction message via Oh-o! Meiji.
- Incomplete application will be excluded from the screening. It is applicant's own responsibility to check the documents thoroughly before submitting.
- Website for the designated forms: https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/recruitment/2025_exchange_fall.html

1 Program Agreement for the Study Abroad Programs

- Make a scanned copy (PDF) after signing on the designated form.
- Both applicant and guarantor must read thoroughly before signing.
- Handwritten signature of the guarantor is mandatory even if the guarantor lives away from Tokyo or Japan.

2 Study Abroad Statement of Purpose *English version is solely for English Track students

- To be filled in electronically using the designated form. (Write your name in the designated space on all pages.)
- Following the instruction on the designated form, applicants must write the Statement of Purpose in English and in each language they are applying.
- Make sure to fill in the "Registration Number" on the first page of the form which will be announced on Oh-o! Meiji by November 8.
- Must be submitted in Word format.

3 The latest Scholastic Record downloaded from Oh-o! Meiji (up to Spring 2024)

- Official Transcript issued by automatic certificate issuing machine is not accepted.

4 Copy of the Official Certificate of language proficiency test

- The scores shown on the certificate must exactly match with the scores entered in the online application form. (Scores obtained after the online application period cannot be used for the internal screening.)
- Submission of a scanned copy of the official certificate is mandatory if applying for the universities that require submission of the certificates (refer to the "Admission Details"). In case of TOEFL iBT, PDF version of "Test Taker Score Report" downloaded from ETS account is also acceptable (as it is identical to the original copy).
- Only when the certificate does not arrive before the application deadline, applicants may submit a copy of the online scores provided that it includes "student's full name", "test date" and "details of the scores". A copy of the official certificate must be submitted once it arrives.
- Pay attention to the validity of the scores.

English: TOEFL iBT or IELTS (Academic Module) **taken in or after September 2023**

* Note that when using MyBest Scores for the TOEFL iBT, the test date for each section must also be within the validity period. (MyBest Scores with even one invalid section score **cannot be used.**)

* IELTS scores including One Skill Retake score **cannot be used.**

Non-English: Scores which is **valid until September 2025.** Term of validity varies depending on the test.

5 Language Proficiency Assessment Sheet by a professor of Meiji University
(Mandatory if you apply in a language other than English and cannot submit an official certificate of language proficiency test)

- Designated form (either English form or Japanese form). To be filled out by a professor of Meiji University.
- This form may be used in lieu of a non-English official test certificate only when applying to university/universities which does/do not require the submission of an official certificate.
- In case that the student finds it difficult to receive the original copy of the document from the professor, submission via email to International Collaboration Office directly from the professor is also accepted.
Email: kokusaik@meiji.ac.jp, Deadline: Within the application documents submission period

6 Permission Letter by a Supervisor of Meiji University
(Mandatory if you are in 4th year of undergraduate at the time of application to Meiji internal screening and are scheduled to enroll in a graduate school of Meiji in the semester of departure)

- Designated form (only in Japanese *If English version is required, please inform in advance.) To be filled out by a supervisor at the graduate school of Meiji you plan to enter.
- In case that the student finds it difficult to receive the original copy of the document from the supervisor, submission via email to International Collaboration Office directly from the supervisor is also accepted.
Email: kokusaik@meiji.ac.jp, Deadline: Within the application documents submission period

9. Important Notes

■ GPA requirement after Meiji internal screening

After the internal screening, students must keep their cumulative GPA above the host university's minimum requirement throughout Fall Semester 2024. If the candidate fails to keep the GPA, the nomination will be cancelled regardless of the progress of application to the host university.

■ Acceptance at Host University

Note that the internal screening is solely for selecting the "candidates" who will be officially nominated by Meiji University. Passing the internal screening does not guarantee the candidate's study abroad as the final decision will be made by each host university after checking the cumulative GPA after the internal screening. Each host university has its own screening procedures and requirements. Some host universities may consider the candidate's academic background in the desired field of study as an important factor in the screening process. In such cases, there is a possibility that a candidate may be declined due to a lack of academic background. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to take courses at Meiji University related to your desired field of study.

■ Classes at Meiji University during study abroad

In principle, students are not allowed to take classes at Meiji University during the semester in which they participate in University-wide Study Abroad Program. Consult with the School/Graduate School office before applying as rules may differ depending on the School/Graduate School.

■ Preparation for the study abroad

After the internal screening, it is each student's responsibility to follow the necessary procedures such as application to the host university, course registration, arranging accommodation, applying for visa, etc. Note that International Collaboration Office will NOT prepare for these on behalf of the students.

■ Information on the countries and the partner universities

Make sure to always gather up-to-date information from the original sources (i.e., Study abroad program search site of Meiji University, official websites of each university, websites of the embassies, etc.). 「海外安全ホームページ」 provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has useful information on different countries. 「留学報告書 (Study abroad reports)」 of Meiji students who studied abroad in the previous years are available in Meiji University website for reference.

URL for 「Study abroad program search site」: <https://meijinow.jp/global/program/>
URL for 「外務省海外安全ホームページ」: <https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/>
URL for 「留学報告書 (Study abroad reports)」: <https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/report/report.html>

■ Choosing the universities

Applicants may choose up to eight universities at the time of application to the internal screening. However, keeping in mind that the applicants may be selected as candidates of any of their 1st to 8th choices, make sure to choose carefully as no withdrawal will be allowed once selected as candidates.

■ Choosing the language

University-wide Study Abroad Program is **NOT** for language learning. Whether the submission of the certificate is required or not, students must be capable of taking university level regular academic courses in that language. In case that applicants wish to apply in multiple languages, "Statement of Purpose" must be submitted in each language they are applying. Note that the scores listed in the "Admission Details" are the minimum requirements of each university. As higher scores may be required by the school/department where the applicant wishes to study, continuous efforts to improve language skills are highly recommended.

■ Study abroad in non-English-speaking countries

The study areas and courses offered in English may be limited at universities in non-English-speaking countries. Check each university's website carefully before applying. Once selected as a candidate, students are not allowed to withdraw from the study abroad program on the ground that there is no course you wish to take.

■ Academic Information

At some universities, incoming international students belong to one of the schools/departments and take most/all of the courses from that school/department, while other universities let incoming international students take courses freely from different schools/departments without belonging to a specific school/department. Refer to "Admission Details" as well as the official website of each university for the academic information. Note that some universities have restrictions on taking certain courses/areas of study for incoming students. It is therefore highly recommended for students to always have alternative options as it is not guaranteed that they are able to take the courses of their preference. Furthermore, the host university may judge the student's language ability as not sufficient to take regular courses and request to take language support courses instead. Regarding the credit transfer of language courses, consult with the School/Graduate School office.

■ Credit transfer

Credits earned at the host university MAY be transferred to that of Meiji University by going through the necessary procedure designated by the Schools/Graduate Schools. However, it is often the case that the number of approved credits is smaller than the credits students usually earn at Meiji University. Applicants should consult with their School/Graduate School office in advance as there is no guarantee of being able to graduate within the designated study period.

■ Cost of Study Abroad

It varies depending on the host university, country, type of accommodation (dormitory/apartment), lifestyle (self-catering/dining out), etc. The average cost for one year [Exchange] program is considered to be approx. 1,500,000-3,000,000 JPY (tuition and fee of Meiji University are excluded). Note that careful planning and budgeting are absolute necessities, as costs may be higher than this depending on exchange rates and higher prices.

<Example of the necessary fees>

- Tuition and fee of Meiji University
- Mandatory fees of the host university other than tuition (Facility fee, Registration fee, Student fee, etc.)
- Airfare, Visa application fee, Books & Supplies, Phone & Internet, other miscellaneous expenses, etc.
- Accommodation fee and meals
- Overseas Travel Insurance fee, etc.

■ Mandatory Overseas Travel Insurance

It is mandatory for every student who participates in "University-wide Study Abroad Program" to purchase the overseas travel insurance designated by Meiji University for safety management reasons. If the host university/country also has a mandatory insurance, students must purchase both insurances. (Estimated cost of the mandatory Overseas Travel Insurance of Meiji University: approx. 120,000-200,000 JPY for one year program)

■ Accommodation

Students are responsible for finding their own accommodation during study abroad. Some universities have student dormitories or provide information on apartments but they are not necessarily guaranteed. Note that International Collaboration Office does not take part in finding students' accommodation.

■ Visa application

Students are responsible for obtaining the necessary visa to study abroad. In general, they can apply for visa at the embassy/consulate/visa application center of each country. Note that International Collaboration Office does not take part in visa application.

■ Impact on Job Hunting

Studying abroad may affect the job hunting depending on the year and timing of the study abroad. It is highly recommended to consult with the Employment/Career Support Center (就職キャリア支援センター) at an early stage.

■ Study abroad while taking Special Certification Program Course

Due to the nature of the course, there is a high possibility of not being able to graduate within the designated study period. Students must consult with the Certification Courses Office (資格課程事務室) before applying.

■ Study abroad in the last year at Meiji University

Students must consult with the School/Graduate School office before applying as each school has different rules.

■ Meiji University Study Abroad Encouragement Subsidy

Participants of "University-wide Study Abroad Program" are eligible to apply for "Meiji University Study Abroad Encouragement Subsidy". Refer to the Application Guidelines published in June/July each year for the details of the eligibilities, amount of subsidy, etc. (Guidelines for the previous year is available for reference for the time being).

URL for the Application Guidelines: <https://www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/financial/jyosei.html>

■ Application to another study abroad program at the same time

Applicants are generally not allowed to apply to another study abroad program such as the programs organized by their schools at the same time. However, as long as applicants can decide which program to join before the interview date*, applicants are allowed to apply to another program. Applicants must specify the details of the other program in the online application form and inform the International Collaboration Office as soon as its result is out. Note that it is obligatory to choose this program if the result of the other program is to be announced after the interview date. Applicants must carefully consider of your priorities. Also, applicants must consult with the program organizer (school, study abroad agency, etc.) in advance for an approval.

* Examples of the cases that applicants are allowed to apply to another study abroad program

- 1) This program is your 1st choice, and you withdraw another program's application after being selected as candidates of this program.
- 2) Another program is your 1st choice, and its result is out before the interview date of this program.

■ Withdrawal

Once selected as candidates, students are not allowed to withdraw from the study abroad program without a reasonable ground. Keeping in mind that one's withdrawal may result in taking away another student's study abroad opportunity, applicants must do well enough research on the study abroad process, necessary funds, risks and consequences of the study abroad, etc. before applying.

■ Possibility of Cancellation of Study Abroad Program

In principle, International Student Center sends students to only countries and regions where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs overseas safety information is at a "Level 1" or lower. In addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs overseas safety information, depending on the safety condition in the country or region where the host university is located, Meiji University may decide to cancel or postpone the study abroad program or request an early return.

10. Schedule after the Online Application & Submission of the Application Documents

2024	~Late November	Document screening
	Early December	Announcement for the details of the interview
	December 7	Interview
	Late December	Announcement of the internal screening results
2025	January 15 (TBD)	Orientation for the successful applicants !!Mandatory to attend!!
	January to March	Nomination of the candidates to the host universities
	January to May	Application to the host universities
	Late March	Cumulative GPA throughout Fall Semester 2024 checked by International Student Center
	Late March	Pre-workshop !!Mandatory to attend!!
	March to July	Admission from the host university/ application for visa, accommodation, airplane ticket, etc./ procedure required by the school
	Late June	Pre-departure Orientation !!Mandatory to attend!!
	August to September	Departure
	December to February, 2026	Return to Japan (for one semester study abroad) !!Must return <u>within one month</u> of the last exam!!
2026	May to August, 2026	Return to Japan (for one academic year study abroad) !!Must return <u>within one month</u> of the last exam!!

* Above schedule is "provisional" and the timings for the application, admission, departure/return, etc. vary depending on the host universities.

* Refer to the official websites of each university for their Academic Calendars.

11. Inquiries

Meiji University International Collaboration Office (Study Abroad) [Izumi Campus]

Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00-11:30, 12:30-17:00

Phone: 03-5300-1542

Email: kokusaik@meiji.ac.jp

- * Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays (excluding the designated class day on holidays).
- * Note that the office hours change during Summer, Winter and Spring Breaks.
- * Make sure to identify yourself (school, student number and name) when contacting via email/phone.