

# Exchange Program | Osaka, Japan

## Program Summary

The University of Louisville/ Kansai Gaidai year-long exchange in Osaka, Japan is for students with an interest in Japanese and Asian culture. Hosted by the Kansai Gaidai University of Foreign Studies in Hirakata, Japan, UofL students do their studies in KGU's Asian Studies Program alongside Japanese and other U.S. and international students.

Exchange students will spend two semesters studying in Japan. All classes are conducted in English, although all students are required to take at least one reading/writing and one spoken course in Japanese language each semester. Exchange students are expected to return to the University of Louisville to resume their studies.

[Kansai Gaidai University website](#)

## Exchange Details:

- Kansai Gaidai University Academic Year: Last week of August to the end of May.
- The exchange student is responsible for UofL tuition during the exchange period. Tuition is waived at Kansai Gaidai University.
- The exchange period is for ten months. The exchange student is expected to furnish spending money, transportation to and from Osaka, living expenses during the vacation period and between semesters, independent travel costs, insurance and other personal expenses (books, telephone charges, etc.). These expenses are estimated to be between \$8,000 and \$10,000 for the year.
- The exchange student receives a monthly stipend while in Osaka. The stipend is provided to them from Kansai Gaidai and is paid over 10 consecutive months. The monthly stipend is used to help with housing and meal costs.
- Exchange students may take any courses at Kansai Gaidai University for which they qualify, subject to course prerequisites.

## Program Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must have completed thirty semester hours of college coursework with a grade point average of 3.0 or better at the time of application. The scholarship recipient must be cleared by *Student Life* and receive clearance from a medical provider or Campus Health prior to being fully accepted for the exchange.

While abroad, you will be required to submit one photograph per month minimum for a total of 10 pictures. These pictures should include you and/or famous landmarks in Japan.

Upon your return to the United States, you will be required to:

- Attend the fall Study Abroad Fair to promote the Kansai Gaidai exchange
- Visit Japanese language classrooms in October
- Sit on the exchange selection committee as a non-voting member
- Mentor the current recipient during the spring semester

**To apply, submit the following materials to the International Center by the first Monday in December:**

- The application form
- Two letters of recommendation from professors at UofL (or other university/college attended). If you are taking Japanese one of these letters should be from your Japanese language teacher.
- A 750 word statement of purpose that outlines the proposed course of study, your qualifications, as well as educational objectives to be achieved by studying in Japan. In addressing your qualifications, you should include a discussion of career goals, work experience, special skills or licenses, foreign language proficiency and foreign and domestic travel experience.
- Current resume

Applicants should demonstrate the ability to conduct themselves in both interpersonal and academic situations to the credit of the University of Louisville and the United States. Upon return to Louisville, the exchange student must write a final report on the study year and provide up to twenty hours of service as a resource person for programs related to Kansai Gaidai and Japan.

### **Selection Process**

By the second Monday in December, applicants will be contacted for interview dates and times. At the interview, students will be asked questions about the exchange and their knowledge of Japanese culture. Be prepared to discuss how this particular program fits into your academic and long term life goals. Usually within ten days of the last interview students will receive notification of award status.

**Applications may be picked up and returned to:**

International Center  
Office of Study Abroad and International Travel (front desk)  
101 Brodschi Hall  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, KY 40292

Applications are also available at the fall Study Abroad Fair (the first Wednesday of September).

## **Financial matters and visa**

In order to get your student visa you will have to demonstrate that you have sufficient funds for the academic year in Japan. As an exchange recipient, you will receive a stipend for 10 months. This will be documented in the UofL acceptance letter. Therefore, you will may have to get a letter from both the bank and Financial Aid stating that you have the additional \$4,000. These documents along with the letter of acceptance from Kansai Gaidai will be submitted when applying for the visa. Students usually apply for visas in late June. The Associate Director for Study Abroad & International Travel will assist you in the visa process.