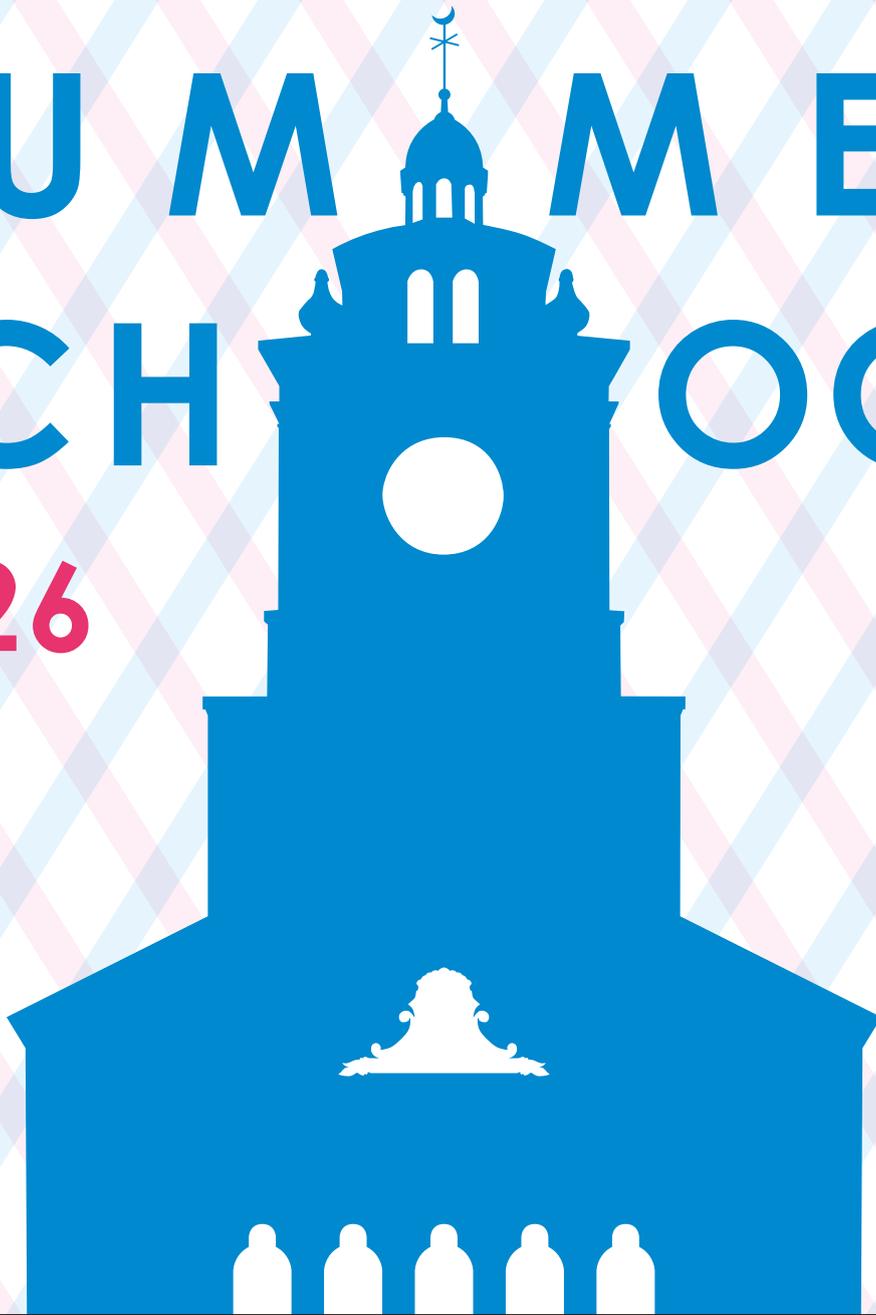


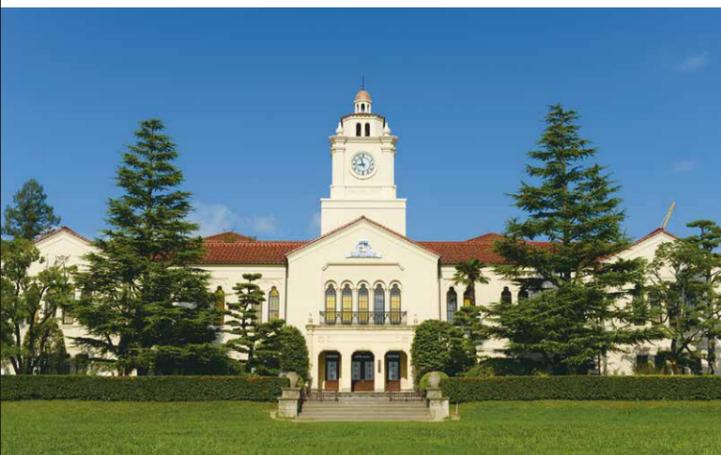


関西学院大学
KWANSEI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY

K W A N S E I
G A K U I N
U N I V E R S I T Y
S U M M E R
S C H O O L

2026





KGU SUMMER SCHOOL

The KGU Summer School is a joint program run by Kwansai Gakuin University (KGU) and selected partner institutions.

This 5 week program offers the East Asian Study track - you can select courses that suit your interest, allowing you to study a variety of topics related to Japan and East Asia along with KGU students.

Courses in the East Asian Study track are taught by KGU faculty and visiting professors from partner institutions covering a wide range of topics such as politics, international relations, history, cross-cultural psychology, business, economics, and more.

Students participating in this program will benefit greatly, not only from the academic value, but also from the cultural exchange experience.

Come and join us this summer, and be inspired by the people you will meet from all over the world and create lasting memories at KGU!



KGU Summer School Short Movie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ2MvuaibS>



Program Information

Program Dates	June 9 - July 11, 2026
Number of Participants	Maximum: 60 students
Application Requirement	Students must be enrolled at one of our partner institutions as an undergraduate or graduate student for the duration of the program.
Number of Courses/Credits	3 credits × 2 courses = 6 KGU credits
Study hours/Teaching hours	<Actual teaching hours= 66h> Each class is 90 minutes long and is taught in a lecture/seminar style.
Language of Instruction	English

Transcript/Credit Transfer

Upon completion of the program, transcripts will be issued and sent out at the end of August. Credit systems differ depending on the home university, and students are advised to consult with their home university regarding how KGU credits will be transferred.

Classes

Classes are held Monday through Friday*, with frequent activities and excursions. Each class is 90 minutes long and taught in a lecture/seminar style.

* Some field trips may be on the weekends

Program Schedule

*All dates are subject to change.

June 9	Arrival Day All participants must arrive in Japan on the specified date, and will stay at a hotel near Kansai International Airport on the night of their arrival. Hotel rooms will be arranged by KGU.
June 10	Going to KGU A chartered bus will pick you up at the hotel and take you to KGU. You will check into your accommodation. Orientation Day An orientation and ice breaker session will be held
June 11	Class starts
June 18-20	Overnight Field Trip to Yamaguchi / Hiroshima
July 2-4	Overnight Field Trip to Matsuyama
July 11	Check-out / Departure Day A chartered bus will take you to Kansai International Airport.
Late August	Transcripts Issued



East Asian Study Track

All East Asian Study Track Courses are taught in English, offering a wide variety of topics related to contemporary Japan and East Asia. Students may choose one course from each group shown below. Courses are also open to KGU students.

East Asian Study Track Courses
3 credits × 2



Group A	Group B
Contemporary Japanese and American Politics and Society or Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Asian History or Walking in Japan: A Study in Urban Design	Humanity and Global Environmental Change or Japan-U.S. Media and Pop Culture Remix: Special topics in Communication and Media Studies or Japanese Economy and Business



Group A

Contemporary Japanese and American Politics and Society

▪ Offered by: Southern Methodist University

This course offers a general introduction to the major historical, political, and social trends of contemporary Japan that affect the future of Japan, East Asia, and the world including the United States. Unlike the courses that merely focus on economic development, political institutions, and elite politics, this course focuses on popular attitudes and culture, political participation, and the government's response in the globalized world.

Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Asian History

▪ Offered by: Nazareth University

In Asian history, Acehnese sultanas negotiated with Dutch traders, geishas and courtesans became world-famous poets, Chinese and Indian eunuchs led armies and treasure fleets, vengeful daughters assassinated Chinese warlords, hijras and devadasis leveraged their devotion to carve out spaces in temples and ritual life, radical feminists denounced patriarchies and imperialism, Filipino cigarette manufacturers unionized and secured paid maternity leave, and Japanese mothers educated their children in Confucian classics. This thematic course explores their stories and many more, but it also examines how gendered discourses regarding parenting, masculinity, femininity, and sexuality were imagined, crafted, and challenged in Asian history from earliest times to the present. We will cover topics such as labor and equity, widow-immolation and agency, eunuchs and impotence, Orientalism and fetishization, gender dysphoria and euphoria, foot binding, anarcho-feminism, gender identity and expression, abortion and legal regimes, sexual identity, and much more. We will also take advantage of our location in the greater Kansai area by taking short field trips, conducting interviews with local students and community-members, and undertaking research projects on local activists.

Walking in Japan: A Study in Urban Design

▪ Offered by: Presbyterian College

Most people believe that safe places for walking should be a right, not a privilege. But the vast majority of urban infrastructure around the world does not prioritize walking infrastructure; instead, it tends to prioritize and encourage driving, even when the majority of the population does not drive a car. In this course, we will study principles of walking design. We will observe evolving infrastructure in cities around the globe. And finally, we will get out and walk around Nishinomiya, assessing how well this city is implementing the design principles of walkability.



Group B

Humanity and Global Environmental Change

▪ Offered by: Southern Methodist University

Through the course's readings, activities, assignments, and discussions, the students will gain knowledge and practice in anthropological approaches to issues such as conservation, ecology, climate change, water, waste, environmental justice, indigenous knowledge, energy, and environmental change. They will be able to: Articulate how humans experience and shape environment. Explain how "nature" is cultural and constructed. Explore how humans value the environment. Discuss the impact of globalization on cultural ecologies. Discuss major issues in anthropology and environment, such as water, energy, food, and waste. Understand how anthropologists study and critique socio-environmental issues. Understand anthropological perspectives on climate change. Be introduced to gender, indigenous, and social theory related to environment. Participate in citizen science and new movements in environmental monitoring.

Japan-U.S. Media and Pop Culture Remix: Special topics in Communication and Media Studies

▪ Offered by: Stetson University

This course explores the dynamic intersections between Japanese and U.S. media and pop culture, focusing on how global flows of influence shape genres, aesthetics, and audience experiences. From horror films like Ringu and Get Out, to kaiju and superhero spectacles, anime and Disney/Pixar animation, dystopian survival narratives, video games and music, we will examine how media genres evolve through transnational exchange, shape media identities, and reflect cultural anxieties. While some of these topics may be more familiar than others, all will serve as entry points for thinking critically about media as a cultural force. In this journey, we will draw on the frameworks of cultural studies and globalization, exploring concepts such as the role of pop culture in everyday life, cultural hybridity, genre conventions, audience reception, commodification, cultural and media imperialism, and individual and collective identities.

Japanese Economy and Business

▪ Offered by: Kwansei Gakuin University

The purpose of this course is to give students an overview of the Japanese economy and business practices in Japan. Starting with the development of the Japanese economy from 1945 until today, this seminar first gives an overview of the changes that occurred during that time, investigates to what extent the Japanese employment system has transformed, and discusses recent developments in the Japanese labor market. In the second part of this course, students will learn about Japanese management by using real-world case studies, which will help them to develop cross-cultural communication and management skills that are beneficial for their future careers.



Fieldwork and Cultural Activities

Fieldwork Activities

Fieldwork activities provide valuable learning opportunities for everyone. By participating in fieldwork, you can apply the knowledge you have acquired in the classroom and develop a better understanding of your field of study. Enjoy fieldwork activities filled with traditional and modern elements of Japanese culture! Students will visit one of the Japan's most popular automobile manufacturers, Mazda - you will tour one of the Mazda's plants and learn about their latest technology, production system and business strategy. You will also visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima Island. Itsukushima Shrine is famous for its "floating" Torii gate, which appears to be floating on the water during high tide.

Another destination is Matsuyama in the Shikoku region. The trip includes a visit to a shipyard, a traditional hot spring, Matsuyama Castle, and more. There will also be a boat ride through the docks of Matsuyama, allowing students to enjoy the natural beauty of Japan while learning about its industries.

*Destination subject to change based on availability



Cultural Activities

You will also have a chance to participate in various types of Japanese cultural activities, such as Wadaiko (traditional Japanese drumming), Yuzen-zome (yuzen dyeing), or watching a baseball game to feel the Kansai spirit! Participating in these inspiring cultural activities will give you a great experience to connect more deeply with Japanese culture.

*Activities are subject to change.



Application

Program Fees

Total: **580,000** JPY*

* The tuition is 174,600 JPY, which will be waived for students who will be coming on an exchange basis. The home institutions and KGU must have a written agreement on whether or not to accept students on an exchange basis prior to acceptance to the program.

Included in program fees	NOT included in program fees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All classes and extracurricular activities offered throughout the program Accommodation for the duration of the program KGU Training Center(Gym) fees KGU designated hotel on Arrival Day (one night) Chartered bus from the hotel to KGU Chartered bus from KGU to Kansai International Airport (Departure Day) Liability Insurance, Fire Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airfare Commute between KGU and the participant's accommodation Overseas Travel Insurance You are required to be covered by travel insurance that protects you against the cost of potential problems such as flight cancellation, lost luggage, stolen property, and illness or injury for the duration of the program. Any other costs that are not listed in the "Included in program fees" section.

How to apply

Nominations shall be made by your home university prior to your application. However, your home university must be one of the partner universities of KGU. Please consult with the study abroad office at your home university. Once we receive your information from your university, further details regarding application procedures will be provided along with the URL for the application form. Applications can be completed online, and shall be available one month prior to the deadline.

 <https://ciec.kwansei.ac.jp/study/shortprograms/summerschool/>



Application Schedule

Nomination Deadline
Early March

Application Deadline
March 23

Admission Results
Early April

Housing and Expenses

Accommodation Options



▲ For details

We offer two accommodation options, homestays or the International Dormitory. You can indicate your preferred choice at the time of application.*

*There are a limited number of rooms/placements in each type of accommodation. Please note that we are not always able to guarantee a place in your choice of accommodation.



Homestays

All host families are registered directly with KGU. Staying with a Japanese family is a very effective way to improve your Japanese language skills and gives you a great opportunity to experience the Japanese lifestyle.



International Dormitory

Experience different cultures and build strong international friendships through living in a dormitory. Rooms are separated by gender, and sharing time and living together under the same roof, you get to make friends with people from all over the world!



Living Expenses

The cost of living can vary depending on where you stay, your lifestyle and budget. On-campus cafeterias and convenience stores provide affordable meal options. There are some local grocery stores near the campus, so preparing meals is very easy for those who stay at the KGU International Dormitory. These are estimated costs of living in the local area, to give you a rough idea of how much you will need during the program.

* Homestay option provides 2 meals on weekdays, 3 on weekends.

* Students are advised to bring around 70,000 JPY in cash for emergency situations or when credit cards are not accepted.

Food (3 times a day)*	Approx. 2,000 JPY~ 1DAY
Transportation cost from accommodation to KGU*	Approx. 550 JPY (for return journey) 1DAY
Miscellaneous* (toiletries, hobbies and outings, emergency money, etc.)	Approx. 80,000 JPY~

About KGU

Mastery for Service

"Mastery for Service", Kwansei Gakuin's school motto, reflects the ideal for all its members to master their abundant God-given gifts to serve their neighbors, society and the world.



Kwansei Gakuin University is an independent institution for higher education, offering Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. degrees in over 35 different disciplines to a student body of approximately 25,000. Founded in 1889, the university maintains academic standards that rank among the highest of all Japanese universities and colleges. KGU places a large emphasis on producing 'global citizens'; and in 2014 was selected by the Japanese government as one of 37 universities nationwide to receive funding under the Top Global University Project.

Location

KGU is located in Nishinomiya city, roughly halfway between the two cities of Osaka and Kobe (a one-way trip to either city takes about 30 minutes by train). Students can enjoy this convenience while also taking in the beautiful natural surroundings of the Nishinomiya Uegahara campus.



Kwansei Gakuin University at a Glance

*As of January 2026



1889

founded in Kobe



Over

320

partner institutions
worldwide



14

undergraduate
schools



More than

25,000

students



Over

1,400

international students



14

graduate /
professional schools

Center for International Education and Cooperation (CIEC)

1-155 Uegahara Ichiban-cho, Nishinomiya, Hyogo 662-8501 JAPAN

Email: kgu-short@kwansei.ac.jp

Web: <https://ciec.kwansei.ac.jp/study/shortprograms/summerschool/>

