

# EPOK

EXCHANGE PROGRAM OKAYAMA  
AT OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY



## LEARN about JAPAN in JAPAN, and with JAPANESE STUDENTS.

Okayama University is a top-class national research university with over 140 years of history. We have 11 faculties, 8 graduate schools, and offer a variety of stimulating programs for students interested in all fields of study.

Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK) is a program organized by Okayama University which offers students from partner universities an opportunity to study in Japan. Through this program, EPOK encourages students to learn and understand Japanese culture, customs and social backgrounds. Classes are offered in English and Japanese. Okayama University and EPOK provides students with an ideal setting for studying abroad; one that nurtures learning while offering students an environment for freedom, growth and experience.



### EPOK Academic Curriculum and Certificate

The Curriculum of EPOK Program is twofold; the challenging Japanese language course and liberal arts course in a wide array of study areas, including Japanese culture and society, nature and science, and global communities, in relation to Japan and its global environment.

With the EPOK elective classes offered in English, and the Japanese language course that offers beginner level instruction, the curriculum is made available for students with no previous Japanese training.

Students who have sufficient command of Japanese (Japanese Language Course Level-5 or above, or JLPT N2 or above) may be able to attend undergraduate classes in general education or other departments.

Students can obtain credit through the coursework at EPOK towards their degree at the home university. (They need to check with their home university for credit transfer and procedures.)

Students who fulfill the EPOK requirement can earn a Certificate of Study Japan EPOK.

Please visit our website for details: <http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/ouic/eok/curriculum.html>

Student Exchange Program

Center for Global Partnerships  
and Education

 OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

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<http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/ouic/english/epok/index.html>





EPOK Partner Universities are in 14 countries and regions. Students across the globe are participating in EPOK.

#### Europe

UNITED KINGDOM  
GERMANY  
FRANCE  
ITALY

#### Asia & Oceania

CHINA MALAYSIA  
KOREA PHILIPPINES  
TAIWAN VIETNAM  
THAILAND AUSTRALIA

#### North America

UNITED STATES  
CANADA

## THE VOICES OF STUDENTS

### A student from Canada

It was a life changing experience for me to be able to participate in this exchange program. Every person has their own desires to come here, some want to improve their Japanese skills as much as possible, some people want to travel, some want to experience the culture and I truly believe that the EPOK program gives you the tools to accomplish yourself.

### A student from UK

My experience studying here in Okayama has completely changed my sense of who I am. It's hard to choose just one or two things I've enjoyed, because every single aspect of my time in Japan has truly been a blessing. I couldn't have asked for a better environment to learn about Japan and experience Japanese culture. And I will recommend Okayama to every friend I know who is considering studying in Japan.

### A student from Australia

My "Okadai" experience was even more interesting when I found the Kendo club and immediately joined in for the everyday practice. Furthermore, going through EPOK course to follow my interest in Samurai Bushido and connecting it to Kendo was a very unique task for me and I enjoyed every moment of it.

### A student from US

By working in L-café as well as helping out as a Teaching Assistant in various English classes, I was able to help many Japanese students improve their English ability, making many friends along the way. I'm immensely proud of what I've accomplished during my time here in Japan, and I will never forget the memories that have been made here.

### A student from Taiwan

I am living in "Share House", it's a kind of dorm that have your own room and public living space in the same time. Roommates are all from different countries, so it is also a good chance to get close to people from different countries, not only the language studying but also the culture knowing.



## MESSAGE FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Dr. Junko Obayashi

Experience and discover Japan through "EPOK" at Okayama! The EPOK course designed for students from around the world whose interest can vary in culture, social system, community, environment and etc. encourages a multi-disciplinary approach to study and understand Japan. On and off campus, you will be able to expose yourself to actively-learning opportunities while immersing yourself in Japanese local culture. Your buddies and new friends from around the world can share such experiences. It is our pleasure to witness EPOK students expand their own horizons with unique experiences, and make Okayama their second home. Join us with EPOK in Okayama.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

All EPOK students stay at the International Share House on campus. Students share a unit with one Japanese student and two other international students. (Every unit is single sex, has a common room with kitchen facilities, a bathroom, a toilet and four private rooms.) This offers great opportunities to experience customs and cultures of Japan as well as other parts of the world.



## ESTIMATED MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES

• Rent(dormitory)	¥23,000	• Transportation	¥0
• Utilities	¥15,000	• Miscellaneous	¥12,000
• Food	¥30,000		
Total			¥80,000



## TIMELINE (Example)

	SPRING (April – August)	FALL (October – February)
Application (All documents to be submitted online)		
Application Deadline	Middle of November	Middle of May
Screening at OU	November–December	May–June
Acceptance Notice to Home U. Coordinator	By the middle of January	By the end of June
Housing (Dorm) arrangement Notice to Students	By early March	By early September
VISA application and acceptance letter sent to students by postal mail	By early March	By early September
Preparation for Study in Japan • Arrange your flights • Access guide • Baggage delivery service	By early March	By early September
Designated arrival date (subject to change)	Beginning of April	End of September
Finish your EPOK study	August	February

## WELCOME TO "OKAYAMA — THE LAND OF SUNSHINE!"

Okayama Prefecture is located in the center of West Japan and is particularly blessed with fine weather compared to other parts of the country.

As the climate is very mild, with low rainfall, this area has thriving agriculture, specializing in fruit products such as Muscat grapes and white peaches.

While abundant agricultural products are grown on Okayama's fertile lands, rich marine products are provided by the Seto Inland Sea. Known as "the Mother Sea," the Seto Inland Sea is the largest inland sea in Japan.

It produces various ingredients used to prepare local cuisine, such as "Mamakari-sushi," offering visitors a variety of attractive culinary delights in each of the four seasons.

Okayama is also known for its educational history and cultural achievements.

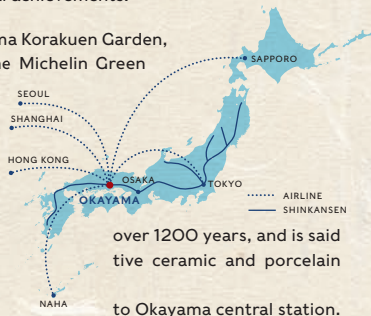


For example, famous are the Okayama Korakuen Garden, which was awarded three stars in the Michelin Green Guide Japan, and the "Shizutani-school," the oldest school in Japan, built for citizens by the Lord of Okayama in the Edo Period.

This area is also known for its craftsmanship, such as in the Bizen Ware pottery, which has been produced for to be the oldest of the six representative producing areas in Japan.

Okayama University is located close to Okayama central station.

You can get to the beautiful campus in only ten minutes by car. On the bullet train, it takes 60 minutes to Kyoto, and 3.5 hours to Tokyo. It's easy to go anywhere around Japan from Okayama.



Please visit the website for details:  
<https://www.okayama-japan.jp/en/>

