

Space Engineering International Course FAQ

Procedure before coming to Japan

- Q1. What documents do I need to send and when are the deadlines for sending them? (Scholarship students)
- A1. After you are chosen as a Japanese Government Scholarship student, you will receive a letter from the International Student Department of Kyutech that tells you what you must send and the deadlines. Please carefully read the letter and follow it.
- Q2. Will the school arrange the flight itinerary? (Scholarship students)
- A2. A travel company between you and Kyutech will arrange your air ticket. You do not need to book a ticket yourself but you have to fill in a form. You will receive a letter from the International Student Department of Kyutech. Please follow the air ticket instructions that are in the letter.
- Q3. Regarding the Certificate of Acceptance as a Japanese Government Scholarship Student, should I take the certificate to a Japanese Embassy to obtain the visa? (Scholarship students)
- A3. The International Student Department of Kyutech will send a letter to you that includes an acceptance letter from the Japanese Government. Please bring it with you when you apply for a visa, and tell the embassy that you have been accepted by the Japanese Government. If you have questions regarding the visa applications or other general questions for studying in Japan, please ask the Information Department or Cultural Education Department in the Japanese Embassy.
- Q4. Should I apply for a visa using the acceptance letter at the embassy by myself? (Scholarship students)
- A4. You will receive a letter from the International Student Department of Kyutech that shows the date you can start to apply for a visa. After that date, you must apply for a visa by yourself with the acceptance letter at the embassy in your country. You do not need to submit a COE (Certificate of Eligibility).
- Q5. Do I need a COE (Certificate of Eligibility)? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A5. If you are a Japanese Government Scholarship Student, you do not need a COE. If you are a self-funded student, you need a COE, so you must obtain a COE before applying for a visa. After you have passed the entrance examination, you will receive a COE application form via e-mail from Kyutech staff. You must then fill the form correctly and send it back via e-mail as soon as possible. Kyutech collects COE application forms from applicants and submits them to the Fukuoka Immigration Bureau. Kyutech then receive the COEs and Kyutech will send your COE to you via post. The process takes one month normally or a couple of months during peak periods.
- Q6. My visa is shorter than I expected. How can I extend the visa period? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A6. A few months before your visa expiration date, you can apply for an extension. Please ask for details at the Gakusei-gakari of Kyutech. You will have to submit documents to the Fukuoka Immigration Bureau.
- Q7. When will school officially start? And around when will I be required to travel to Japan? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A7. At Kyutech, the first semester begins April 1st and the second semester begins October 1st. If you are a Japanese Government scholarship student, you will be able to come to Japan within 2weeks of the semester starting date. You should come to Japan as early as possible to settle your life in Japan before starting classes. There are many affairs to sort out. If you are not a Japanese government scholarship student, you may arrive earlier than 2weeks before the semester stating date. However, you cannot start living in the school dormitory before April 1st or October 1st, even though you have received a permit to live in the

dormitory.

Q8. What procedures are required to enter the school? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A8. You must make a seal, go to the ward office for resident registration and national health insurance registration, open a bank account, submit many documents to the school office, pay the entrance fee and other expenses, and apply for direct debit for the tuition fee at the bank for entrance procedures. Also you must settle personal affairs such as finding your accommodation, buying furniture, making contracts with the electric power company, Water Company, Gas Company, etc.

Q9. How can I get to my accommodation from an international airport? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A9. You will have a tutor, who is also a student in Kyutech and her or she supports your life in the school, and he or she will pick you up at Fukuoka airport, and then take you to your accommodation.

Regarding money

Q1. How much money do I need when I go through the entrance procedures? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A1. The entrance fee is 282,000yen. Other expenses, which include research accident insurance, Kyutech student fees and the Meisenkai fee, are 39,750yen for Master students and 44,600yen for Doctoral students. The tuition fee is 267,900yen for the 1st semester and 267,900 yen for the 2nd semester. Fees are listed on the Kyutech website and admission application guidance book. If you are a Japanese Government scholarship student, you will not need to pay the entrance fee or tuition fees.

Q2. How do I receive the MEXT scholarship money and when is it paid? (Scholarship students)

A2. You will receive the first scholarship money payment around the end of October, and then around the end of every subsequent month. The following is the procedure to receive your scholarship money:

1. you must make your seal.
2. Open an account at Japan Post Bank and submit the bank account to Gakusei-gakari.
3. On the 1st day of each month you must come to Gakusei-gakari and sign in the document.
4. The money will transfer into your bank account around the end of each month.

Q3. How much is the cost of living in Japan? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A3. It depends on each individual situation. The International House (student dormitory) is ¥5,900/single room per month (Japanese Government Scholarship students are not eligible to stay in the student dormitory). Accommodation outside of Kyutech is about ¥30,000~¥50,000 per month. Other utilities will be about ¥5,000~¥20,000 per month. National Health Insurance is ¥18,770 per year. If you are planning to bring your family to Japan after you settle your life in Japan, the cost will be more than above. See the "HAND BOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS" website: <http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/pdf/handbook.pdf> -This data is as of April 2013 and will change.

Q4. How much money will I need for the first month in Japan? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A4. The first month of living in Japan requires a lot of money. You must pay a large amount of money when you contract your apartment, and you likely will have to buy household items as Japanese apartments normally do not have furniture. You will have to pay for temporary accommodation, miscellaneous expenses, and you have to eat, so you should bring 300,000~400,000yen for the first month in Japan. Also, it is Japanese custom to pay more than double or 3times the monthly rent payment for your apartment as deposit money or key money or brokerage fee. Normally the money you pay as deposit money or key money will not be refunded when you leave the apartment and will be used to repair and renew for the next

resident. Even if you are a Japanese Government scholarship student, it takes a month to receive scholarship money so you must bring enough money for the first month. If you stay in the International House (student dormitory) the required amount of money is lower. It might be 200,000 yen for the first month.

- Q5. I don't want to bring much money with me. Is there some service of transfer money from overseas? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A5. You should bring enough money for living in Japan for first 2 or 3month. Even if you open your bank account in Japan, some banks do not offer remittance from or to overseas immediately after opening bank account. There are some organizations which offer remittance among the world, however you should confirm that they have a branch near Kyutech and they offer remittance from overseas to Japan before you come to Japan.
- Q6. Can I have National Health Insurance? If so, will it provide free medical treatment? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A6. All regular Kyutech students can have National Health Insurance. You have to pay some insurance fees, and medical treatment will not be free. You have to pay 30% of medical treatment fees and medicine cost, and the Japanese Government will pay 70%. We ask all students to join the National Health Insurance policy in case a serious illness or accident occurs.
- Q7. Is it easy to change US dollars to Yen, upon arrival? Is it easier to change EURO to Yen? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A7. In the international airport, there is a BUREAU de change and it is possible to exchange US dollars or EURO to yen, so either is acceptable. Rare foreign currency exchange may not be possible at a BUREAU de change or at a bank. You will need some Japanese money when you travel from the airport to your accommodation, so you must at least exchange some US dollars or EURO to Japanese yen at the airport. If your arrival time is after the BUREAU de change closing time, then you have to bring some Japanese yen from your country. You are not able to pay with foreign currency in Japan.
- Q8. Can I obtain a scholarship? (Self-funded students)
- A8. We cannot promise that you can receive a scholarship. You may be able to apply for a scholarship if you meet the scholarship requirements, and then there will be a selection process. If you pass the selection process you will be able to receive the scholarship.
- Q9. Can I apply for a scholarship? (Scholarship students)
- A9. You are a Japanese Government scholarship student, so you are not able to apply for scholarships.

Regarding accommodation

- Q1. Do I have to book temporary accommodation? (Scholarship students)
- A1. Kyutech staff will book temporary accommodation for you so you do not need to book one yourself. Kyutech staff will contact you when a temporary accommodation booking is made.
- Q2. How long time will I live in temporary accommodation? How long will it take to receive an apartment? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A2. You will stay in temporary accommodation from your arrival day to your moving day from your temporary accommodation to your apartment. After you come to Japan you have to look for an apartment yourself. You will have a tutor for one year, who will assist you with school life and he/she will look for an apartment with you. When you find an apartment, you have to report it to Gakusei-gakari and the staff who booked the

temporary accommodation for you. The staff will report your moving date to the temporary accommodation and cancel the remaining days.

Q3. Am I going to stay in Kyutech student dormitories when school starts? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A3. If you wish to stay in the International House (student dormitory), you must apply to the International House beforehand. If you are chosen to stay in the International House, your stay will begin from April 1st or October 1st. However if there are more applicants than rooms, there is a possibility to not be chosen. If you are a Japanese Government Scholarship student, you are not eligible to apply to the International House. Please note, even if you can stay in the dormitory it is for the first 6 months, and you must apply an extension to stay in the dormitory by yourself every 6 months at specific period. And also there would be a possibility to fail it if there are more applicants than rooms. If you fail to stay in the dormitory you must find an apartment. It will be notified on the notice board so you should check the notice boards regularly.

Q4. How can I find an apartment near the school? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A4. There are some real estate agencies we use for international students. Most of the agencies don't speak English and it is difficult to contact them directly, especially when you are outside Japan. At Kyutech there is a section called Gakusei-gakari, which is in charge of most student-related school life except classes. When you come to Japan, please come to Gakusei-gakari and ask about the real estate agencies with your tutor, who will support international students, and the tutor will help you to find an apartment. Japanese apartments usually do not have furniture so you also have to buy furniture yourself.

Regarding lessons and school

Q1. I can't speak Japanese at all. Is it a problem? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A1. Many people in Japan do not speak English, so it is hard to settle in Japan at the beginning because of the language barrier. Not all shops or offices have an English speaker and you need support from someone who can speak both English and Japanese even at the University General office. We have a tutor system, in which a student (normally a Japanese student) will support an international student for the first year. However, you should diligently study Japanese as well. Regarding classes, you will take Space Engineering International Course, and all classes (except Japanese language class) are taught in English.

Q2. Can I take lectures in English? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A2. All lectures of Space engineering International Course (SEIC) can be taken in English except the Japanese language class. Please see the following website for details on SEIC subjects:

<http://space-academy.ele.kyutech.ac.jp/space.html>

Q3. I would like to know my research plan in the university. (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A3. Each students will have a different research plan. If you need to know specifics of your research plan in advance, you must contact your supervisor on an individual basis.

Q4. How can I follow the study process in the university? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A4. Many students feel uneasiness before beginning something new or when in a new environment. You should research our school and your field as much as possible by yourself in advance. Even if we provide all relevant information the uneasiness may stay with you for some time until you get to know the university environment. For research preparation in advance you should contact your advisor.

Q5. I would like to know the University requirements for Ph.D. graduation. (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A5. From 2014, you have to earn 6 credits by taking classes from specific categories, have to take Japanese class

to earn 1 credit, have to do a Field Research Project or Special Study to earn 2 credits, and have to do Project Research and submit your Doctoral thesis to earn 2 credits.

Q6. I would like to know the University requirements for Master graduation. (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A6. You have to earn 30 credits in total by taking classes from specific categories, conducting research, and submitting your Master's thesis.

Q7. What are the facilities inside the university campus? (Both self-funded and scholarship student)

A7. There are many different research facilities and libraries in our campuses. Please see our home page and page 18 of the "Hand Book for International Students" for details:

http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/library_facilities/, <http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/pdf/handbook.pdf>

Regarding mobile phone and internet

Q1. Can I buy a mobile phone without a residence card? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A1. When you buy a mobile phone and make the contract, you need your residence card, your bank account, and your seal (same seal is required to open your bank account).

Q2. Can I use internet at home and at the school? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A2. If you have a mobile device such as an I-pad or smartphone, you will be able to access internet almost anywhere if you have a data plan or are at the university. However, if you want to connect your computer to the internet while at home, you have to make your own contract with a provider. Some apartments have a Wi-Fi system already included in the apartment contract, so you can use internet immediately after you start living in the apartment. The internet connection is generally good in Japan but some foreign students say that it is worse than their own country. This could be because Japan has many hills and mountains near towns so the geographical features make the connection worse.

Others

Q1. Can I open a credit card account in Japan? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A1. You may be able to open a credit card in Japan with your residence card, your own seal, and your bank account, but it is sometimes difficult. It might depend on the credit card company and your personal finances. You also need a phone number so you should apply after obtaining a mobile phone.

Q2. Is there a supermarket around Kyutech? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A2. Near the campus there is a supermarket called Supina and some convenience stores as well.

Q3. Can I find a Kindergarten, which teaches in English, near Kyutech? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A3. There are some kindergartens that teach in English near Kyutech.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL KITAKYUSHU is the closest and is about 1 km away from Kyutech.

<http://iskisk.web.fc2.com/>, <http://iskisk.web.fc2.com/boshuu.html> (Application information and price list, but only in Japanese.) The entrance fee is ¥100,000 and the annual fee is ¥756,000 (you can pay in monthly installments of ¥63,000 as well). The teaching materials fee is ¥5,000 for first-year, ¥10,000 for second and third-year, swimming fee (optional) is ¥2,000/year, and the insurance and facilities fees are ¥5,000/year each.

<http://iskisk.web.fc2.com/syokai.html> (English page for introduction.)

The web page seems to have not been updated for a while so the information may not be accurate.

OHANA INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN is 3~4km away from Kyutech on the map. <http://ohana-international.com/index.html>, <http://ohana-international.com/application.html> (Application information and price list, but only in Japanese.) School expense for 5days attendance course; the entrance fee is ¥60,000 and the monthly fee is ¥60,000 including swimming and insurance. Extra fees for teaching materials and facilities are ¥5,000/year each. School expense for 2 or 3days attendance course; the entrance fee is ¥20,000 and the monthly fee is ¥3,000×number of attendance days, which including swimming and insurance. Extra fees for teaching materials and facilities are ¥5,000/year each. Teachers are native speakers and assistants are Japanese.

CIC ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN is further away.

<http://www.ciceigo.com/internationalkindergarten.php> They have two kindergarten branches in Kitakyushu but both are 10~15km from Kyutech. <http://www.ciceigo.com/internationalkindergarten.php> (price list). The monthly fee is ¥37,000 or ¥39,000. <http://www.ciceigo.com/aboutcic.php> (English page). This kindergarten does not show the entrance fee or other extra fees on the web page.

Q4. What is the Japanese climate like? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A4. Japan has four seasons. Japan has long islands from south to north so the climate depends on the location. In the Fukuoka area, spring is from about March to May, summer is from June to August, autumn is from September to November and winter is from December to February. In spring, day time becomes warmer and warmer but night time is still cold. Even in March sometimes we have snow. The end of March is the most beautiful time to see cherry blossoms. In summer, almost every year we record the hottest temperature. In Fukuoka, day time is over 35 degrees C and humid so you have to be careful of heatstroke. Autumn is a mild season and by the end of autumn you will be able to see beautiful autumn colours. Between June and November, some typhoons appear. A typhoon is a mature tropical cyclone that develops in the western part of the North Pacific Ocean between 180°and 100°E, and sometimes some areas have terrible damage including fatalities and injuries, so you should often check the weather forecast and be careful during typhoon season. In winter, the coldest temperature in Fukuoka will be minus 2~3 degrees C in the early morning or late night and sometimes we have snow.

Q5. Can I find a part time job? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A5. If you are a Japanese government scholarship student, you will receive enough money from the Japanese government scholarship so that you should study or research hard instead of working. You should not plan to get a job in Japan. If you are a self-funded student, you can ask Gakusei-gakari about part time jobs. It might not be easy to find a part time job if you cannot speak Japanese though.

Q6. How do I learn Japanese language in a short time? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A6. [Japanese has three different alphabets and it is not easy for foreigners to learn. However, there are many study options in today's world, so you can study Japanese online. Here are some websites from which you can learn:](#)
<http://www.freejapaneselessons.com/>, <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/lesson/english/>

Q7. When are Japanese meal times? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

A7. Breakfast and dinner times vary although lunch break is normally from 12:00-13:00. Breakfast depends on the person but maybe around 6-8am: dinner also depends on the person but maybe around 6-8pm.

Q8. How can I become familiar with Japanese culture and Japanese people? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)

- A8. You could read books and articles about Japan and Japanese people. You should start to learn about Japanese culture and Japanese people, while keeping an open mind. Japanese people are basically shy and polite. You might feel unfriendliness or coldness from Japanese people, but most people are nice and kind. Many people do not speak English so you might have difficulty with conversation as well. As time passes you will become more familiar with Japanese culture and Japanese people.
- Q9. Are there communities for foreign students? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A9. There are some organisations for foreign students. For details, please see page 36 of the “Hand Book for International Students”. <http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/pdf/handbook.pdf>
- Q10. Is it easy to bring my family to Japan? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A10. Regarding the procedure, you have to prepare everything yourself when you bring your family to Japan so it is not easy, especially if you do not speak Japanese. Settling into Japanese life is also not easy for your family due to the different language and culture, and of course it takes much more money to live in Japan so it is not easy from a financial standpoint either. You should carefully consider the decision before bringing your family to Japan. If you do decide to bring your family, you should first become familiar with life in Japan, and then bring your family.
- Q11. What are some things that Japanese people dislike? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A11. Basically, Japanese people are polite so we dislike rudeness or making trouble for others. We almost automatically try to avoid making trouble and avoid rudeness such as being late for appointments, untidy public areas, speaking impolitely to seniors or unfamiliar people etc. But of course it depends on the person. You should not think with a stereotyped mind or prejudice.
- Q12. Is it difficult for foreign students to make friends in the school? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A12. There are many foreign students in Kyutech so it is not difficult to make foreign and Japanese friends at Kyutech. Additionally we have the tutor system, in which foreign students are supported by a tutor (normally a Japanese tutor) during the first year in Japan, so your first friend will be your tutor. However, Japanese people might hesitate to speak to you on their own, so you may need to initiate conversation.
- Q13. Can I find food with Islamic regulations (HALAL Food)? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A13. There are very few Muslims among the Japanese people here so it is difficult to find HALAL food in our area. However, you may be able to get it via a mail-order: <http://www.kobebussan.co.jp/english/>
- Q14. I'm Muslim. Can I do daily prayers and Friday prayer? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A14. We don't have the custom of praying in the way of the Muslim people so it is difficult to find a place or time to pray while you are attending classes or researching.
- Q15. I've heard that when I rent an apartment I need a guarantor. Who can be my guarantor? (Both self-funded and scholarship students)
- A15. There are some real estates which cooperate with Kyutech. If you need to find an accommodation outside of school, we ask you to find your apartment with those real estates. If you find an apartment with those real estates, Kyutech will be a guarantor for you. However, if you find an apartment with a real estate which does not cooperate with Kyutech, Kyutech will not be your guarantor. You cannot ask your supervisor or friends to be your guarantor. It would be big trouble, please do not ask anyone to be your guarantor. And also do not be anyone's guarantor.