Space Engineering International Course FAQ

Updated on July 09, 2026

MEXT students	- Japanese Government (MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship students (Mainly "Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST)" students)
Others: except for MEXT students	- Scholarship students from the governments, companies and universities of their home countries - Students of Double Degree Program - Self-funded students
All students	- Both MEXT and other students

Procedure before coming to Japan (NOTE: Please follow the instructions of the Student Section for the latest procedures.)

For MEXT students only:

Q1. What documents do I need to submit, and what are the deadlines?

A1. After you have been selected as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship student, you will receive a letter from Kyutech detailing the required documents and their submission deadlines. Please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions provided.

Q2. Will the school arrange the flight itinerary?

A2. Your flight will be arranged through a travel agency in coordination with Kyutech. You do not need to book a ticket yourself, but you must complete the form sent by Kyutech. Please follow the instructions provided in the letter.

Q3. Should I bring the Certificate of Acceptance to the Japanese Embassy for my visa application?

A3. Kyutech will send a letter to you that includes “Certificate of Acceptance as a Japanese Government Scholarship Student”. Please bring it when applying for your visa and inform the embassy that you have been accepted as a Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship student.

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. When can I start my visa application at the Japanese embassy?

A4. You can apply after receiving a letter from Kyutech indicating the start date. Apply at the Japanese embassy in your country using the acceptance letter. A COE is not required.

For others (except for MEXT students):

Q5. Do I need a COE (Certificate of Eligibility)?

A5. Yes. All students except MEXT/JICA students are required to obtain a COE before applying for a visa. After passing the entrance examination, you will receive a COE application form from Kyutech by email. Please complete it accurately and return it as soon as possible. Kyutech will collect the forms, submit them to the Fukuoka Regional Immigration Bureau on your behalf, and send you the issued COE by post. The process usually takes about one month, or longer during peak periods.

For all students:

Q6. My visa is shorter than I expected. How can I extend the visa period?

A6. You can apply for a visa extension a few months before your current visa expires. Please contact the Student Section at Kyutech for details. You will need to submit the required documents to the Fukuoka Regional Immigration Bureau.

Q7. When will school start, and by when do I need to arrive in Japan?

A7. The first semester at Kyutech starts on April 1, and the second semester on October 1. MEXT students must arrive in Japan within two weeks of the semester start date and are advised to come as early as possible, as there are various procedures to arrange your living environment before classes begin. Non-MEXT students may arrive earlier than two weeks before the start date; however, dormitory move-in is not allowed before April 1 or October 1, even if permission has been granted.

Q8. What admission procedures are required for enrollment?

A8. When you arrive at Kyutech, you must first visit the School of Engineering Administrative Office (Student Section and Graduate School Section), where the admission procedures will be explained. You will need to complete some forms and pay the admission and other fees.

To start life in Japan, you will need to make a personal seal (hanko/inkan), register your address, and enroll in the national health insurance at the ward office. These procedures are also required for admission and opening a bank account.

MEXT/JICA students must submit their bank account details to receive the monthly allowance, while self-funded students must provide theirs for tuition payment by direct debit.

In addition, all students must arrange their daily life, such as securing accommodation, buying furniture, and setting up utilities (electricity, water, gas).

Q9. How can I get to Kyutech or to my accommodation from an international airport?

A9. Basically, you will need to transfer from the airport by yourself. Please contact the Student Section if you need any guidance.

Please refer to our website how to access Kyutech:

http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/about/map/access.html

Tobata campus:

http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/about/map/tobata.html

Regarding money

For MEXT students only:

Q10. How do I receive the MEXT scholarship money and when is it paid?

A10. You will receive your first scholarship payment around mid-November (approximately one and a half months after your arrival at Kyutech), and thereafter at the end of each month. The procedure is as follows:

1. Make a personal seal (hanko/inkan).
2. Open an account at Japan Post Bank and submit your bank account details to the Student Section.
3. On the 1st day of each month, visit the Student Section and sign the required document.
4. The scholarship will be transferred to your bank account around the end of each month.

For all students:

Q11. How much money do I need when I go through the admission procedures?

A11. The admission fee is 282,000yen.

The tuition fee is 267,900yen per semester. Fees are listed on the Kyutech website and Admission

Guidelines.
http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/admissions/ This information is valid as of April 2026.
NOTE: MEXT students and Double Degree Program students do not need to pay admission fee and tuition fees. However, all students need to pay the other fees as described below:

Other fees for international students

	Student Insurance (in total)	Student Support Association (SSA) fee	* *Meisenkai* fee (Supporter's association by Kyutech alumini and alumnae)
Master's student	27,940yen	10,000yen	28,000yen
Doctoral student	40,040yen	10,000yen	32,000yen

- Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (known as "*Gakkensai*") & Comprehensive Insurance for Students lives Coupled with "*Gakkensai*" (known as "*Inbound futai-gakuso*") and SSA fee are mandatory, and the payment must be made before your research program starts in Kyutech. These fees are one-time payment to cover two years for master, and three years for doctoral students. The fees must be paid by cash money in Japanese yen, so please prepare the amount in cash upon your arrival.
- * *Meisenkai* (supporter's association by Kyutech alumni and alumnae) fee is optional, and you may pay the fee and join *Meisenkai* anytime you wish while you enroll in Kyutech.

Q12. How much is the cost of living in Japan?
A12. It depends on each individual situation. The International House (student dormitory) is ¥5,900/single room per month (MEXT/JICA students ARE NOT eligible to live in the student dormitory). Apartment rent outside of Kyutech is about ¥30,000～¥50,000 per month. Other utilities (such as water, electricity, gas) will be about ¥5,000～¥20,000 per month. National Health Insurance is approximately ¥20,000 per year. If you are planning to invite your family member after you have settled down in your life in Japan, the cost will be more than above. See the "HANDBOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS"
Website: https://www.kyutech.ac.jp/media/001/202603/2026handbook.pdf

－ This data is as of April 2026 and subject to change.

Q13. How much money will I need for the first month in Japan?
A13.The first month in Japan requires a large amount of money, especially when renting an apartment. You will usually need to pay 2–3 months' rent in advance for deposits, key money, and agency fees, in addition to the first month's rent. These fees are generally non-refundable. You may also need to purchase basic furniture, as most apartments are unfurnished.
In addition, you will need to cover temporary accommodation, daily expenses, and meals. Therefore, it is recommended to bring about 400,000–500,000 yen for your first month. If you plan to transfer money from your home country, it may take time to receive it, and in some cases, it may take several months due to banking restrictions.
Even MEXT students receive their first scholarship about one and a half months after arrival, so sufficient funds are necessary. However, if you stay in the International House (student dormitory), the initial cost is lower, at around 300,000 yen.

Q14. I don't want to bring much money with me. Is there some service of transfer money from oversea?
A14. You should bring enough money (cash) for living in Japan for the 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 countries. However, you should confirm that they have a branch near Kyutech and they offer remittance from oversea to Japan before you come to Japan.

Q15. I understand that I should take between 400,000 and 500,000 yen with me when I go to Japan for the first time. Is there a cashless way to do this?

A15. Yes, use a debit card issued by VISA, MASTERCARD, etc. Create such a card at your own bank near home. Be sure of two things:

(1) it can be used at any ATM in the world, and

(2) your bank will authorize a 500,000yen transfer. This authorization might require some paperwork – so do it before you leave your country. When you arrive in Japan, go to an ATM and use your debit card. You will receive your funds in Japanese yen from the ATM. The exchange rate is better than what you would get at Money Changers dealing in cash. The bank takes a fee, of course, but the fee is reasonable. Many students at Kyutech are using debit card to access funds from their home land accounts.

Please note that not all cards can be used at Japanese ATMs. Be sure to check with your card issuer before coming to Japan to ensure that overseas cash withdrawals in Japan are available.

Q16. Can I have National Health Insurance? If so, will it provide free medical treatment?

A16. All international students with a “Student” visa must enroll in National Health Insurance at the municipal office. Insurance is not free: the government covers 70% of medical costs, and you pay 30%. If your monthly out-of-pocket cost exceeds 35,400 yen (depending on your income), the excess will be covered. In addition, all students must enroll in student insurance (*Gakkensai* and Inbound *Futai-Gakuso*). Insurance premiums and the maximum out-of-pocket amount may vary depending on your income.

Q17. Is it easy to exchange US dollars to YEN upon arrival? Is it easier to exchange EURO to YEN?

A17. At international airports in Japan, you can exchange US dollars and euros into Japanese yen at currency exchange counters, banks, or exchange machines. You can also exchange money at JR Hakata Station and major banks such as Fukuoka Bank. Please note that not all currencies may be accepted at every location.

You will need some Japanese cash money when you travel from the airport to Kyutech or to your accommodation, so you must at least exchange some amount to Japanese yen at the airport. If your arrival time is after those services closing, then you have to bring some Japanese yen from your country.

Foreign currencies cannot be used for payment in Japan. Although cashless payment is becoming more common, cash is still widely used. In particular, some small shops, restaurants, clinics, and local services may not accept credit cards or electronic payments, so it is important to carry sufficient cash.

Q18. Can I obtain a scholarship?

A18. There are some scholarships you can apply if you meet the scholarship requirements.

However, we cannot guarantee that you will receive a scholarship, as each scholarship has its own selection process, and the results are announced after enrollment. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you secure sufficient funds for your school fees before enrollment.

Q19. Can I find a part-time job?

For MEXT (and JICA) students only:

A19. MEXT (and JICA) Scholarship students receive a stipend from the Japanese Government for their studies and living expenses. Therefore, basically part-time jobs are not allowed for them. Only limited cases such as activities contributing to his/her study and research at Kyutech may be considered. If a MEXT (and JICA) student wishes to engage in any part-time job, he/she must consult with the Student Section to get approval in advance.

For others (except for MEXT and JICA students):

A19: Firstly, you are coming to Japan on a 'student' visa, so your main activity is study. You can work part-time as long as it does not interfere with your studies. However, there are restrictions on working hours, and you must obtain permission from the immigration office in advance. In addition, having Japanese language proficiency at the JLPT N2 level or above will make it easier to find a part-time job.

Regarding accommodation

Q20. Can I live in a Kyutech student dormitory?

For MEXT students only:

A20. MEXT students are not eligible to apply for a student dormitory since they are receiving enough allowance to live outside of campus, also the number of rooms in the dormitory is limited. Students without any scholarship have the priority to live in the dormitory.

For others (except for MEXT students):

A20. If you wish to stay in the International House (student dormitory), you must apply in advance. If there are more applicants than rooms, residents will be selected by lottery, and there is a possibility you may not be chosen.

If selected, you can move in from April 1 or October 1, depending on your enrollment semester. The initial stay is limited to six months. You may apply for an extension of up to another six months if there is a vacancy, but this is not guaranteed.

If you are not selected or cannot extend your stay, you will need to find accommodation outside Kyutech. Important notices are posted on the dormitory notice board, so please check it regularly. For inquiries, please contact the Student Section.

For all students:

Q21. How long will it take to find an apartment?

A21. If you are not staying in the student dormitory, you will need to find an apartment by yourself after arriving in Japan. Generally, students find an apartment within 3–10 days after arrival, although this may vary. Once you arrive in Kitakyushu, your tutor will help you search for an apartment.

Please note that it may take about one week or longer to complete the contract with a guarantor company. After you secure an apartment, you must report your address to the Student Section.

Q22. Do I have to book temporary accommodation by myself?

A22. From your arrival, you will need temporary accommodation until you can move into a dormitory or apartment. Kyutech offers on-campus accommodation called "Sensuiso." The number of rooms is limited, so you should consult your supervisor or tutor about availability or reservation procedures once your itinerary is fixed. However, you may need to make the reservation by yourself.

If Sensuiso is not available, you must book a hotel near the Kyutech Tobata campus by yourself. Many hotels are located near JR Kokura Station, which is only two stops away from the campus.

If you arrive late at night, it is recommended to stay near the airport for the first night. There are two

airports in Fukuoka Prefecture: Fukuoka Airport (FUK) and Kitakyushu Airport (KKJ). KKJ is closer to Kyutech, while FUK has more international flights. KKJ is also accessible via Tokyo Haneda Airport. Hotel rates generally range from 5,000 to 30,000 yen per night. We recommend booking as early as possible. Please arrange your accommodation yourself and inform us of your reservation details.

Q23. How can I find an apartment near the school?

A23. We can introduce some real estate agencies that support international students. After arriving in Japan, please visit the Student Section with your tutor, who will assist you in finding an apartment. The Student Section handles daily student matters, while the Graduate School Section is responsible for academic matters such as course registration and degree requirements.

Q24. I've heard that when I rent an apartment, I need a guarantor. Who can be my guarantor?

A24. When renting an apartment in Japan, you are generally required to use a guarantor company. Please confirm the details with the real estate agency when signing the contract.
You cannot ask your supervisor or friends to act as your guarantor. Please do not ask anyone to be your guarantor, and do not agree to be a guarantor for others, as this may involve significant responsibility and risk.

Regarding course work

For all students:

Q25. I can't speak Japanese at all. Is it a problem?

A25. You may find it difficult at first due to the language barrier, as not all places have English-speaking staff. You may need help at places such as the post office or ward office.
Kyutech has a tutor system in which a student supports you for the first three months. However, tutors are volunteers, so you should not rely on them for everything and are encouraged to learn basic Japanese for daily life.
All classes in the Space Engineering International Course are conducted in English (except Japanese classes). You will also take a "Japanese for Beginners" course.
Some people can understand simple English if you speak slowly. In difficult situations, you can use a translation app.

Q26. Can I take lectures in English?

A26. All lectures of Space engineering International Course (SEIC) are given in English except Japanese language class. Please see the following website for details on SEIC subjects:
Outline
https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/
SEIC Curriculum and syllabus
https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/seic/

Q27. I would like to know my research plan in SEIC.

A27. Each student has a different research plan. If you would like to know the details in advance, please contact your supervisor directly.

Q28. How can I follow the study process in SEIC?

A28. It is natural to feel uneasy before starting in a new environment. You are encouraged to research the program and your field in advance. For specific research preparation, please contact your supervisor directly.

Q29. I would like to know SEIC course requirements for Ph.D. graduation.

A29. You have to earn 10 credits in total by taking classes from specific categories, conducting your research and submitting your doctoral thesis. For the details, please refer to the following website:
SEIC Curriculum and syllabus
https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/seic/
We will explain the details about the course requirements at Orientation for new students after you enroll.

Q30. I would like to know SEIC course requirements for Master graduation.

A30. You have to earn 30 credits in total by taking classes from specific categories, conducting research, and submitting your master's thesis. For the details, please refer to the following website:
SEIC Curriculum and syllabus
https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/seic/
We will explain the details about the course requirements at Orientation for new students after you enroll.

Q31. What kind of facilities are there in Kyutech?

A31. Please see our website: http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/library_facilities/
and "Handbook for International Students" for details:
https://www.kyutech.ac.jp/media/001/202603/2026handbook.pdf

Regarding mobile phones and internet

For all students:

Q32. Can I buy a mobile phone without a residence card?

A32. To purchase a mobile phone and sign a contract in Japan, you need a residence card and a bank account. A personal seal (*inkan*) may also be required depending on the provider.

Q33. Where can I buy a SIM card?

A33. You can purchase many different kinds of SIM cards at any international airport in Japan. Each vendor offers different prices, validity duration, and data size. You should compare what they offer.
Besides airports, you can buy SIM cards online, and at some home appliance stores. Procedures for using SIM cards vary with vendor, and such information is generally in Japanese. Perhaps the best way to secure SIM cards is to seek the assistance of the student tutor who is assigned to you.
Another way to get internet access is to use rental pocket Wi-Fi services. You can get this service at home appliance stores or online.

Q34. Can I use internet at home and at school?

A34. On campus, you can use Wi-Fi with your student ID on devices such as a tablet or smartphone. At home, you need to arrange your own internet contract unless your apartment already provides Wi-Fi.

Others

For all students:

Q35. Can I open a credit card account in Japan?

A35. You may be able to obtain a credit card in Japan with your residence card, bank account, seal (if required), and a phone number. However, approval can be difficult and depends on the credit card company and your financial situation. It is recommended to apply after you have obtained a mobile phone.

Q36. Is there a supermarket around Kyutech?

A36. Near the campus there is a supermarket called Spina and some convenience stores as well.

Q37. Can I find a Kindergarten, which teaches in English, near Kyutech? Where can I get the information about childcare and education for my child?

A37. For information about childcare support, including how to apply kindergarten, elementary school, etc., please refer to Kitakyushu International Association website: http://www.kitaq-koryu.jp/en/.
They provide Childcare Support Handbooks and various information about life in Kitakyushu in Japanese, English, Korean, Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese. They offer free consultation services as well.

Q38. What is the Japanese climate like?

A38.Japan has four distinct seasons, and the climate varies depending on the region, as the country stretches from north to south. In the Fukuoka area, spring is from March to May, summer from June to August, autumn from September to November, and winter from December to February.
In spring, days become warmer, but nights can still be cold, and it may even snow in March. Late March is the best time to see cherry blossoms.
Summer is very hot and humid, with temperatures often exceeding 35°C, so you should be careful of heatstroke. Autumn is mild, and you can enjoy beautiful autumn colors. Between June and November, typhoons may occur, sometimes causing serious damage, so you should check weather forecasts carefully. In winter, temperatures in the Fukuoka area can drop to around −2 to −3°C in the early morning or late at night, and it sometimes snows.

Q39. When are Japanese mealtimes?

A39. 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 6-8 pm.

Q40. How can I become familiar with Japanese culture and Japanese people?

A40. 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.

Q41. Are there communities for foreign students in Kyutech?

A41. There are some organisations for foreign students in Kyutech. Please refer to the Handbook for more details: https://www.kyutech.ac.jp/media/001/202603/2026handbook.pdf

Q42. Is it easy to bring my family to Japan?

A42. You must arrange all procedures (e.g., visa applications) by yourself, as Kyutech does not support them. It may be difficult, especially without Japanese language skills. Your family may also face challenges adjusting to life in Japan and living costs will be higher than living alone. Please consider carefully. If you decide to bring your family, we recommend that you first settle in Japan before inviting them.

Q43. What are some things that Japanese people dislike?

A43. Basically, Japanese people are polite, and dislike rudeness or making trouble for others. So always be polite, and always be on time for appointments.

Q44. Is it difficult for foreign students to make friends in Kyutech?

A44. As there are many international and Japanese students in Kyutech, it is not difficult to make friends. You will also have a tutor (usually Japanese) for your first three months, who may become your first friend. However, Japanese people may hesitate at first, so you are encouraged to take the initiative.

Q45. Can I find food with Islamic regulations (HALAL Food)?

A45. It may be somewhat difficult to find HALAL food in this area. However, some options may be available through online shopping. In addition, you may find a variety of international foods at stores such as Costco in Yahata-Nishi Ward, about 14 km from the Tobata Campus.

Note: SEIC has many students who are Islamic.

Q46. Are there any useful sources of information for international students living in Kitakyushu?

A46. Yes. You can find helpful information on daily life, procedures, and support services on the official Kitakyushu City website, the “Life in Kitakyushu” guidebook, and the Kitakyushu International Association website.

◆Life in Kitakyushu: A Guide for Foreign Residents
https://www.city.kitakyushu.lg.jp/contents/01800022_00001.html

◆A website that provides daily life information for foreign residents living in Kitakyushu in languages such as English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Arabic.
https://kitakyushu-japan.jp/residents/