

Space Engineering International Course FAQ

Issued date: August 22, 2022

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: During the pandemic, the procedures may change time to time. Please follow the instruction of the Student Section for the latest procedures.)

For MEXT students only:

Q1. What documents do I need to send and when are the deadlines for sending them?

A1. After you are chosen as a Japanese Government Scholarship student, you will receive a letter from 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?

A2. A travel company between you and Kyutech will arrange your air ticket. You do not need to book a ticket by yourself but you have to fill in a form. You will receive a letter from 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?

A3. Student Section at Kyutech will send a letter to you that includes "Certificate of Acceptance as a Japanese Government Scholarship Student". 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?

A4. You will receive a letter from Student Section at 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).

For others (except for MEXT students):

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

A5. All students except for MEXT students need 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 Student Section of Kyutech. You must then fill out 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 Fukuoka Regional

Immigration Bureau. Kyutech will then receive your COE and will send it to you via post. The process takes about one month normally or a couple of months during peak periods.

For all students:

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

A6. A few months before your visa expiration date, you can apply for an extension. Please ask Student Section at Kyutech for the details. You will have to submit some documents to Fukuoka Regional Immigration Bureau.

Q7. When will school officially start? And around when will I be required to travel to Japan?

A7. At Kyutech, the first semester begins on April 1st and the second semester begins on October 1st. If you are a MEXT student, you must be able to arrive in Japan within two weeks 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 MEXT student, you may arrive earlier than 2 weeks before the semester starting 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 for the school enrollment?

A8. When you arrive at Kyutech, first you need to visit the School of Engineering Administrative Office ("Student Section" and "Graduate school Section"). We will explain the details of enrollment procedures then. You will be required to fill out some forms and pay enrollment fee and other fees.

To start life in Japan, first of all, it is necessary to create a seal (*hanko / inkan*) of your name. Then you need to go to the ward office for resident's registration and national health insurance registration. These procedures are necessary for enrollment procedure and opening your bank account. A MEXT student needs to provide your bank account number to Student Section in order to receive monthly allowance. A self-funded student must provide your bank account number to Kyutech for direct debit for the tuition fee. In addition, all students must complete your personal procedures, 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 Kyutech or to my accommodation from an international airport?

A9. Basically, you will need to transfer from the airport by yourself. By the time your arrival date, we will give you more detailed information regarding transportation from Fukuoka International airport to Kyutech. Please contact the Student Section if you need further guidance.

Please refer to our website how to access to 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:

Q1. How do I receive the MEXT scholarship money and when is it paid?

A1. You will receive the first scholarship money payment around mid November (or in about one and a half months after you arrive in Kyutech), and then around the end of every subsequent month. The following is the procedure to receive your scholarship money:

1. You need to make a seal of your name.
2. Open your account at Japan Post Bank and submit your bank account information to Student Section.

3. On the 1st day of each month you must come to Student Section and sign in the document.
4. The money will be transferred into your bank account around the end of each month.

For all students:

Q2. How much money do I need when I go through the enrollment procedures?

A2. The enrollment 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 2022.

NOTE: MEXT students and Double Degree

Program students do not need to pay enrollment 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	<i>Meisenkai</i> fee (Supporter's association by Kyutech alumni and alumnae)
Master's student	27,090yen	10,000yen	28,000yen
Doctoral student	38,830yen	10,000yen	32,000yen

- Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (known as "*Gakkensa*") & Comprehensive Insurance for Students lives Coupled with "*Gakkensa*" (known as "*Inbound futai-gakuso*") and SSA fee are mandatory, and the payment must be made before your research program starts in Kyutech.
- *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.

Q3. How much is the cost of living in Japan?

A3. It depends on each individual situation. The International House (student dormitory) is ¥5,900/single room per month (MEXT 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 ¥18,770 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 "HAND BOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS"

Website: <https://cache1.jimu.kyutech.ac.jp/media/001/202203/2022handbook.pdf>

— This data is as of April 2022 and subject to change.

Q4. How much money will I need for the first month in Japan?

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. It is Japanese custom to pay more than 2 or 3 times of the monthly rent as deposit money or key money or brokerage fee in addition to the first monthly rent. 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 the apartment for the next resident. Further, you likely will have to buy household items as the most Japanese apartments normally do not have furniture.

In addition to the above, you will have to pay for temporary accommodation, miscellaneous expenses, and you need to eat, so you should bring 400,000~500,000 yen for the first month in Japan. Also, if you plan to transfer money from your home country, it will take time and will be difficult to receive the money immediately after you arrive to Japan.

Even if you are a MEXT student, it takes about one and a half months to receive scholarship money so you must bring enough money for the first month.

However if you are allowed to live in the International House (student dormitory) the required amount of money is lower. It might be 300,000 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?

A5. You should bring enough money (cash) for living in Japan for the first 2 or 3 months. 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. 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?

A6. 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 500,000 yen 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.

Q7. Can I have National Health Insurance? If so, will it provide free medical treatment?

A7. All international students with a status of residence of "Student" are required to join the National Health Insurance. Please complete the procedure at the municipal office. You have to pay the insurance fees, and medical treatment will not be free. With the insurance, the Japanese government will support 70 % of your medical charges incurred. You need to pay the remaining 30 %. If the remaining 30 % of the medical charges exceeds 35,400yen* in one month at one stated hospital, then the excess amount will be supported by the government.

In addition to the National Health Insurance, we ask all international students to join the Student Insurance (*Gakkensai* and *Inbound futai-gakuso*) in case a serious illness or accident occurs.

*If you have a certain amount of income in Japan, the insurance premium and upper limit of out-of-pocket expenses will be different.

Q8. Is it easy to exchange US dollars to YEN upon arrival? Is it easier to exchange EURO to YEN?

A8. In international airports in Japan, you can exchange both US dollars or EURO to Japanese yen at Foreign Currency Exchange Service shop, bank, as well as by Foreign Currency Exchange machine. In addition to airports, you can exchange foreign currency at JR Hakata Station, and any branches of Fukuoka Bank (local bank). Note: rare foreign currency exchange may not be possible depending on the service branch. You will need some Japanese money by cash when you travel from the airport to Kyutech or 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 those services closing, then you have to bring some Japanese yen from your country. You are not able to pay with foreign currency in Japan. Also credit card payment may not be acceptable for the payment of small amount of shopping, transportation fees, and payment at small stores. Cash payment is still common in Japan.

Q9. Can I obtain a scholarship?

A9. MEXT students are not allowed to receive any other scholarships. If you are not a MEXT student, there are some scholarships you can apply if you meet the scholarship requirements. However, we cannot promise that you can receive a scholarship because there will be a selection process for each scholarship, and the result announcement will be after your enrollment. So, we strongly recommend you to secure your school fees by yourself before enrollment.

Q10. Can I find a part time job?

A10. If you are a Japanese government (such as MEXT and JICA) scholarship student, you will receive enough money from the Japanese government so that you should study or research hard instead of working. You should not plan to get a job in Japan.

Other students can ask the Student Section about part-time jobs. It might not be easy to find a part time job if you cannot speak Japanese though.

Regarding accommodation

Q1. Can I live in a Kyutech student dormitory?

For MEXT students only:

A1. 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 room in the dormitory is limited. Students without any scholarship has the priority to live in the dormitory.

For others (except for MEXT students):

A1. If you wish to stay in the International House (student dormitory), you need to apply for that in advance. If there are more applicants than rooms, the resident will be chosen by drawing lots. There is a possibility not to be chosen. If you are chosen to stay in the International House, your stay will begin from April 1st or October 1st depending on which semester you enroll. Please note, even if you have permit to stay in the dormitory it is only for the first 6months. Because there is a priority for new coming students, only if there is a vacancy, you can apply for an extension for another 6 months during the specific period. If there are more applicants than rooms, there is a possibility you won't be chosen. In this case, you must find an apartment outside of Kyutech. All the notice for International House residents will be posted on the notice board, so you should check the notice boards regularly. If you have any questions about International House, please contact the Student Section.

For all students:

Q2. How long will it take to receive an apartment?

A2. If you are not living in the student dormitory, you will need to find your apartment by yourself after coming to Japan. Generally, students find their apartment within 3-10days after arrival, but it depends. As soon as you arrive in Kitakyushu, your tutor will help you to find your apartment. As soon as you find the apartment, you must report your address to the Student Section.

Q3. Do I have to book temporary accommodation by myself?

A3. From your arrival date, you need to stay in temporary accommodation until you can move into a student dormitory or an apartment. In Kyutech, we have an on-campus accommodation named "*Sensui-so*". Although the number of room is limited, if there is a vacancy, your supervisor or tutor will help you to make a reservation. So, once your itinerary has been fixed, please contact them.

If *Sensui-so* is not available, you need to find and book a hotel near Kyutech Tobata campus by yourself. You can find many hotels near JR Kokura station (the JR station for Kyutech is only two stops away from the Kokura station).

If your flight is arriving late at night, it may be better to stay at a hotel near the airport for the first night. Please note there are two airports in Fukuoka Prefecture: one is Fukuoka airport (code: FUK), and the other is Kitakyushu airport (code: KKJ). KKJ is much nearer to Kyutech than FUK –check Google map. On the other hand, FUK tends to have better international connections. KKJ can be accessed easily via Haneda Airport of Tokyo. You can find suitable hotels at any English-language hotel-booking website. The rates vary between 5,000 yen to 30,000 yen per night. We recommend you to book a room as soon as possible to secure better rates. Please take care of hotel arrangements on your own, but let us know your final reservation details.

Q4. How can I find an apartment near the school?

A4. There are some real estate agencies we use for international students. Kyutech Student Section is in charge of most issues related to students' school life, while the Graduate School Section is taking care of academic issues, such as course registration and degree requirements. When you come to Japan, please visit the Student Section and ask about the real estate agencies with your tutor, who will support international students and help you to find an apartment.

Regarding course work

For all students:

Q1. I can't speak Japanese at all. Is it a problem?

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 may need help from someone who can speak both English and Japanese at the post office, ward office, etc.

We have a tutor system, in which a student (normally a Japanese student) will support an international student for the first three months. However, they are doing tutor as voluntary work while they are busy on studying and taking classes, so you cannot rely on them for everything. You should diligently study enough Japanese to be able to shop, take taxis, visit banks, etc.

Regarding classes, you will take Space Engineering International Course, and all classes (except Japanese language class) are taught in English. All SEIC international students are required to take "Japanese for Beginners" class, there you will be able to learn some fundamental Japanese.

Some Japanese can understand simple words and short sentences if you speak slowly. So for example, if you want to ask the direction, you should try using simple words and speak slowly. Worst case, you may want to try using a smartphone's translation app or dictionary.

Q2. Can I take lectures in English?

A2. 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:

<https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/> (outline)

<https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/seic/> (curriculum & syllabus)

Q3. I would like to know my research plan in SEIC.

A3. Each student will have a different research plan. If you need to know specifics of your research plan in advance, you must contact your supervisor individually.

Q4. How can I follow the study process in SEIC?

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 supervisor.

Q5. I would like to know SEIC course requirements for Ph.D. graduation.

A5. 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:

<https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/> (outline)

<https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/seic/> (curriculum & syllabus)

We will explain the details about the course requirements at Orientation for new students after you enrolled.

Q6. I would like to know SEIC course requirements for Master graduation.

A6. 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:

<https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/> (outline)

<https://www.tobata.kyutech.ac.jp/gr-school/gra-program/seic/> (curriculum & syllabus)

We will explain the details about the course requirements at Orientation for new students after you enrolled.

Q7. What kind of facilities are there in Kyutech?

A7. Please see our website: http://www.kyutech.ac.jp/english/library_facilities/

and "Hand Book for International Students" for details:

<https://cache1.jimu.kyutech.ac.jp/media/001/202203/2022handbook.pdf>

Regarding mobile phone and internet

For all students:

Q1. Can I buy a mobile phone without a residence card?

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. Where can I buy a SIM card?

A2. 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.

One example: Japan Travel SIM by IJmio

<https://t.ijmio.jp/en/index.html>

Besides airports, you can buy SIM cards online, and at some home appliance stores such as Yamada Denki and BIC CAMERA. 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. ---This information is valid as of November, 2018.

Q3. Can I use internet at home and at the school?

A3. If you have a mobile device such as an i-pad or smartphone, you will be able to access Campus Wi-Fi using your student ID at the Kyutech campus. 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.

Others

For all students:

Q1. Can I open a credit card account in Japan?

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?

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? Where can I get the information about childcare, and education for my child?

A3. 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.

Q4. What is the Japanese climate like?

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. When are Japanese meal times?

A5. 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.

Q6. How can I become familiar with Japanese culture and Japanese people?

A6. 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.

Q7. Are there communities for foreign students in Kyutech?

A7. There are some organisations for foreign students in Kyutech. Please refer to the Hand book for more details: <https://cache1.jimu.kyutech.ac.jp/media/001/202203/2022handbook.pdf>

Q8. Is it easy to bring my family to Japan?

A8. You have to organize the procedures (e.g. applying for a Japanese visa for your family member) by yourself. Kyutech will not support the procedures. So it may not be easy, especially if you do not speak Japanese. Settling into Japanese life also may not be easy for your family due to the different language and culture, and of course it would take much more money to live in Japan compare to living alone. 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 yourself, and then bring your family.

Q9. What are some things that Japanese people dislike?

A9. Basically, Japanese people are polite, and dislike rudeness or making trouble for others. So always be polite and always be on time for appointments.

Q10. Is it difficult for foreign students to make friends in Kyutech?

A10. 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 three months in Japan, so your first friend will be your tutor. However, Japanese people might hesitate to speak to foreign students at the beginning, so you are encouraged to initiate conversation.

Q11. Can I find food with Islamic regulations (HALAL Food)?

A11. 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 some via a mail-order. Also there is a COSTCO WHOLESALE JAPAN in Yahatanishi ward, 14km from Kyutech Tobata campus, where you can get multinational foods.

Note: SEIC has many students who are Islamic.

Q12. I've heard that when I rent an apartment I need a guarantor. Who can be my guarantor?

A12. When you make a contract for your apartment rent, you are required to make a contract with a guarantor company. For the details, please confirm with the real estate agency when you make a contract. You cannot ask your supervisor or friends to be your guarantor. Please do not ask anyone to be your guarantor. And also do not be anyone's guarantor. You will be in big trouble.

Q13. What kind of city is Kitakyushu?

A13. You can find general information for international students living in Kitakyushu on the following website offered by City of Kitakyushu:

<http://ssl.city.kitakyushu.lg.jp/page/studyinkitakyushu/en/about/>