Temple University, Japan Campus Summer 2021

February 16, 2021

Contents:

● Program Status and Review
● Expectations
● Program Dates
● Passport, Certificate of Eligibility and Visa
● Situation in Tokyo and Japan
● COVID-19 Safety, Protocol, and Requirements
  ○ Pillars of Public Health
  ○ Student Health
  ○ Contact Tracing and Health Monitoring
  ○ Student COVID-19 Testing in Japan
● Entry and Quarantine Requirements
  ○ Pre-Travel Testing, Monitoring and Entry Requirements
  ○ Arrival and Quarantine Requirements
  ○ Key Details about Quarantine
● COVID-19 Acknowledgement of Risks
● Housing
● Program Costs
● Modified Deposit Refund Policies
● Booking a Flight to Tokyo
● Personal Travel
● Visitors
● Contingency Planning
● Education Abroad Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in studying at Temple University, Japan Campus (TUJ) this summer.

This update contains important information about the program.

There is no question that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to higher education, including international education. We want to be sure that students planning to study abroad are well-informed and have realistic expectations. We hope this update addresses many of the questions that you and your families have at this time.

Please read this message in its entirety; contact Education Abroad staff via email or by making an appointment through our virtual front desk if you have any further questions or specific concerns. We are here to help you now or at any time throughout the application and pre-departure processes.

Program Status and Review
First, we continue to plan for the Temple Japan (TUJ) Summer 2021 study abroad program. However, a significant factor in determining the viability of the summer program is the Japanese government’s entry ban. Although entry restrictions for travelers with student visas had been lifted allowing our spring semester students to travel to TUJ, Japan reimplemented entry restrictions on January 4, 2021. At the present time, citizens from many countries, including the U.S., are not permitted entry into Japan for study or tourism purposes, and visas are not being processed by consulates. The Japanese government has been reviewing restrictions on a monthly basis, and we will continue to closely monitor developments.

TUJ has advised that if restrictions are not eased and Certificate of Eligibility (COE)/visa operations have not resumed for our students by late March, unfortunately the study abroad program will not be feasible as there will not be enough time to obtain student visas within the scheduled departure time frame. Therefore, we plan to let students know the status of the Summer 2021 TUJ study abroad program by March 31st.

The TUJ administration works with Temple University Main Campus leadership, Risk Management, and Education Abroad and consults with local Japanese authorities and health experts to continuously monitor conditions in Japan related to COVID-19 and to ensure that appropriate protocols and practices are in place for our Japan Campus.

Temple continues to monitor developments related to COVID-19 that might impact the health and safety of our international travelers. As part of this ongoing process, Temple consults key governmental organizations, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and Department of State, as well as our emergency services provider, International SOS, for guidance around international travel.

Additionally, due to the complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic, Temple considers other key factors, such as border and travel restrictions, local conditions including medical infrastructure and capacity, program infrastructure and student support capabilities, health and safety measures, program provision for quarantine/isolation accommodations, and ability to ensure academic continuity in making decisions about program status and continuity.

As we have seen with this pandemic, circumstances may change and require us to re-evaluate a decision to move forward with the program; any changes will be communicated to program participants as soon as possible.

Please see flight booking and contingency sections (below) for additional information.

Expectations
We are committed to offering successful study abroad programs when and where we can, and TUJ hopes to be able to welcome you to Tokyo this summer.

Study abroad in Summer 2021 will be different, though, and if immigration restrictions are lifted allowing us to offer the program, some of the expectations you had when you decided to study abroad may have to be adjusted and adapted. We believe that, with your patience and flexibility, our core mission of providing global opportunities can be realized.

Note that all outlined protocols, scenarios, and activities presented are based on what we know now about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the study abroad experience. Please keep in mind that we may have to revise information shared with students as the COVID-19 situation evolves or as unanticipated challenges arise. Education Abroad and TUJ will make every effort to keep program participants updated about plans for the summer program.

In this update, we reference several requirements and expectations that are specific to Japan’s COVID-19 control measures. It is important to note that almost everyone in Japan wears masks, and other COVID-19 related countermeasures are carefully followed across the country. We expect nothing less than the same from our study abroad participants. In fact, it is important to follow the example of your hosts in the country.

Additionally, as the sponsor of student visas, TUJ must pledge to take responsibility for students’ actions and could face severe consequences imposed by the Japanese government if any of its students fail to abide by the rules, especially rules related to entry or quarantine. Therefore, we want to emphasize how important it is for all students on the program to follow the instructions and rules prior to departure and while in Japan.

All study abroad students will be required to sign a pledge with TUJ (sample pledge for Spring 2021) committing to follow several rules. Failure to comply with these rules will most likely result not only in revocation of your student visa, immediate removal from the program, and immediate departure from Japan, but also could irrevocably damage Temple Japan’s reputation with the government and ability to sponsor student visas going forward. It could also impact your ability to enter Japan in the future.

We ask for your full cooperation during the application and pre-departure processes and encourage you to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

We will communicate any major changes to the program or pre-departure requirements through your Temple email; it is your responsibility to monitor your email for updates. Please confirm that the emergency contact information submitted in your application is correct and current as we also send program updates to your emergency contacts’ emails.

Program Dates
Although we do not anticipate significant changes to the Summer 2021 program dates, they are subject to change and will be confirmed when the program status is announced.

At this time, we do anticipate that study abroad student arrivals would take place over a period of several days in mid-May to account for several factors that could impact travel such as limited flight availability, longer visa processing times, and difficulty in timing test results and travel arrangements.

**Passport, Certificate of Eligibility and Visa**

Due to the pandemic, Japan has suspended its visa waiver program for visitors staying in Japan for less than 90 days. As we have seen last year, we expect that if Japan opens its borders to travelers again, they will open gradually by first allowing travelers with resident visas (such as student visas) into the country. Therefore, all summer applicants will be required to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility and student visa in order to attend the program. Detailed instructions are posted to applicants’ online study abroad accounts.

Around the time that COEs are issued, Education Abroad will provide instructions on how to obtain a student visa.

**Current Situation in Tokyo and Japan**

- Temple Japan campus facilities and administrative offices are open. TUJ is operating this spring, with approximately 40% of undergraduate classes held on campus and the remainder online. TUJ was excited to welcome our Spring 2021 study abroad cohort. To read more about TUJ operations, visit the [TUJ homepage](#).  
- Businesses and local attractions in Tokyo are open, and public transportation is fully operational.  
- The number of cases in Japan fluctuates but has been low in comparison with many countries around the world. In early January, 2021, the government issued a state of emergency in Tokyo and the surrounding areas following a rise in cases. The measures, implemented to reverse trends and keep COVID-19 cases down, focus primarily on businesses that are most susceptible to the virus, such as bars and restaurants. Companies and organizations are being encouraged to adopt remote working to the extent possible. The government did not ask schools to close. As an additional precaution, the local government asked everyone to refrain from non-essential excursions after 8 pm. Recently, case numbers in Tokyo have declined, although the state of emergency measures are scheduled to remain in effect through March 7, 2021.  
- Up-to-date COVID-19 data for Tokyo can be accessed through the [Tokyo Metropolitan Government website](#)
Up-to-date COVID-19 data for all of Japan can be accessed through the World Health Organization website.

Additional COVID-19 information in English can be found on the following sites:
- Tokyo Metropolitan Government COVID-19 Information
- U.S. Embassy in Japan COVID-19 Information
- The Japan Times COVID-19 News Updates

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) continues to closely monitor the situation in the country and provide updates on trends and governmental measures.

The government encourages individuals to obey strict public health measures. Some key guidelines issued in Japan for individuals to protect public health include:
- Wear a mask. Students are required to wear masks at all times while inside the Temple Japan campus building.
- Disinfect hands and fingers thoroughly
- Avoid the 3C’s: crowded places, closed places, and close contact within your personal space.

COVID-19-related Health and Safety Measures at Temple Japan

The health and safety of our students is our top priority. Temple Japan continues to follow public health guidance and regulations from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) and consult with local health officials.

Based on guidance from these sources, as well as Temple University’s Main Campus, Temple Japan COVID-19-specific protocols in place to mitigate risk of transmission in program facilities and respond to possible and actual COVID-19 cases. We highlight several main aspects of the plans and protocols below.

Four Pillars of Public Health

Important public health measures have been implemented at Temple Japan, including the four pillars of public health best practices: face coverings, physical distancing, hand hygiene and health monitoring. All staff, faculty and students are expected to adhere to these practices. In accordance with Japanese public health guidance and regulations, facilities are set up for reduced capacity to maintain physical distancing (approximately 6 feet) during classes, activities and events held at Temple Japan.

Student Health

All students should plan to continue to follow the four pillars of public health while in Japan. The following resources and protocols are also in place.

- Students have access to the English-speaking health assistance provided 24/7 by International SOS. Through this service, students make appointments with local, English-speaking doctors for anything from a cold to emergency care.
● Students who experience any symptoms related to COVID-19, or who have been in close contact with a positive case, are required to stay in their dorms and contact TUJ’s Office of Students Services immediately for assistance. Students are required to follow the instructions of local health officials, which may include measures such as medical consultation, testing, quarantine and/or self-isolation for a prescribed period.

● Students who test positive for COVID-19 at any point while in Japan, including upon arrival at the airport, are required to follow instructions of Japanese authorities and are likely required to go immediately to a government-run facility to self-isolate and be monitored for up to ten days, or to a hospital if deemed necessary by the authorities. There are many facilities in the region, most of which are hotels currently designated for this purpose. Public health authorities determine the facility to which students go. English may not be spoken at these facilities; if needed, privately-run medical interpretation services are available via phone for a fee. Also, while TUJ staff check in with any students via email or phone daily, visitors (including TU staff) are not allowed in the isolation facility.

● All courses at TUJ have online continuity plans in the event a student must quarantine or self-isolate.

Contact Tracing and Health Monitoring
Japan’s MHLW conducts detailed contact tracing throughout the country, and TUJ staff have been trained in contact tracing to assist in these efforts.

Student COVID-19 Testing in Japan
● All travelers must obtain a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure for Japan and are also tested for COVID-19 upon arrival in Japan by immigration/quarantine authorities at the airport.

● Symptomatic students and students identified as close contacts through contact tracing follow MHLW’s protocol for testing. Students who must be tested are directed to go to a medical facility to obtain the test.

Entry and Quarantine Requirements
If students are able to travel to Japan, we assume that Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to have specific entry and quarantine requirements in place. Please note that Temple University and TUJ have no control over immigration regulations and procedures and that these regulations are subject to change at any time. Below we summarize the requirements that were in place when our spring 2021 students entered Japan to provide an idea of what summer students may expect. More specific and up-to-date details will be provided after we announce the program status.

Pre-Travel Testing, Monitoring and Entry Requirements
Students must:
• Monitor your health and report your temperature and presence of any COVID-19 symptoms to TUJ daily for the 14 days prior to departure.
  ○ Naturally, students were encouraged to carefully follow public health guidelines and limit their possible exposure to COVID-19 at all times and especially in the two weeks leading up to their trip.
• Cancel your trip if any common symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
  ○ All travelers were required to complete a health screening questionnaire on the flight that was reviewed by immigration upon arrival at the airport in Japan.
• Obtain a certificate confirming a negative COVID-19 test.
  ○ The test had to be administered in the country/region of departure within 72 hours of departure for Japan and meet certain criteria; rapid antigen tests were not approved for this purpose.
  ○ The certificate confirming the negative test result had to be printed on paper, include specific information, and be completed and signed by a doctor or nurse who administered the test and could verify the results prior to departure for Japan. Students were required to present the certificate to the Immigration inspector upon arrival.
  ○ **Travelers would be denied entry to Japan if:**
    ■ they did not have this certificate to present upon arrival; or
    ■ the certificate did not contain all of the required information; or
    ■ the testing requirements were not followed (for example, the test was administered outside of the window or was not an approved test)
  ○ Note that some people who have had COVID-19 continue to test positive for a long time. Entry to Japan was not permitted without a negative test result.
• Have private medical insurance.
  ○ Temple’s international travel medical insurance provided to all study abroad program participants fulfilled this requirement.
• Download three apps to your smartphone for the quarantine period - LINE, COCOA COVID-19 contact tracing app, and Google Maps; keep location services on; and retain location data through Google Maps for 14 days after entering Japan.
• Present other required immigration documents, including passport with student visa for students travelers.

**Arrival and Quarantine Requirements**

Students must:
• Undergo testing for COVID-19 upon arrival in Japan by immigration/quarantine authorities at the airport.
• Quarantine for 14 days in single room dorm accommodations.
• Sign a pledge to TUJ that you will follow all rules of quarantine.
  ○ Students are reminded that following local laws and regulations is required under Temple’s Student Conduct Code. **Failure to comply with the rules of**
quarantine will result in immediate revocation of your student visa and dismissal from the program.

- Take private transportation upon arrival; you are prohibited from taking public transportation to your quarantine facility or at any time during your first 14 days in-country.
  - TUJ arranged private transportation for students from the airport to the dorm facilities. The cost of this transportation ranged from approximately 6000 - 20,000 yen (approximately $60-$200) for Haneda airport arrivals, depending on the number of students using the service that day. Costs were higher for students who could not fly into Haneda and flew into Narita airport (up to approximately $400).

**Key Details About Quarantine**

- Quarantine rules, protocols and plans are subject to change, but students should anticipate a mandatory quarantine period upon arrival, regardless of any negative test results prior to air travel.
- TUJ coordinates quarantine housing in single rooms in the dormitories. Students may need to quarantine in one dormitory and then move to another dormitory for the remainder of the semester.
- Please be aware that alcohol is prohibited in and around the dormitories during quarantine and throughout the semester. The dormitories are non-smoking facilities.
- TUJ makes every effort to assure this initial quarantine period is as comfortable as possible. Students receive a small welcome kit with items such as a mask and snacks upon arrival to the dorm. TUJ Office of Student Services staff are available remotely to address students’ questions and concerns. Each dorm has a live-in TUJ dorm manager as well.
- Study abroad students may need to participate in orientation and begin classes while still in quarantine. Wi-Fi access is available for participating in orientation and coursework, as well as online group activities.
- During the quarantine period, students must spend most of their time in their rooms. Students are not permitted to leave the dormitory for any reason other than to purchase food at convenience stores or grocery stores and are only able to do so in small groups when accompanied by TUJ or dormitory staff. Students are permitted to order food from delivery services, such as Uber Eats. The use of shared kitchens may be limited and/or restricted to students who need to prepare their own meals; wearing masks and maintaining social distancing will be required. All meals must be eaten in students’ rooms. Spaces on other floors of the dorms (e.g. multipurpose rooms, fitness gym, cafeteria, etc.) are off-limits while students are quarantining.
- **Students are required to bring a thermometer that reads in Celsius** and report their temperatures to TUJ each morning.
- Entering a two-week, isolated quarantine in a very small dorm room after arriving in a new country with only limited trips to the local grocery or convenience stores may be a difficult adjustment. Students are advised to be prepared with books, movies, and other activities. As
mentioned above, TUJ provides some online activities as well. All students should consider the potential effects of this isolation on their mental health and consider engaging in tele-counseling while abroad. Temple Japan’s counseling office offers individual and group tele-counseling sessions throughout the quarantine period and into the semester. Other options include tele-counseling through International SOS or private providers in the U.S., if a student chooses to work with an existing care professional who offers remote services to travelers outside of the U.S.

COVID-19 Acknowledgement of Risks

Study abroad program participants are required to review and sign the COVID-19 Acknowledgement of Risks.

Summer Program Housing

- In order to ensure that Temple Japan can respond to any COVID-19 risks and best assist students during the summer 2021 semester, students are required to stay in university-arranged housing throughout the semester and may not choose to find their own accommodations. Homestays and independent housing are not permitted at this time.
- The cost of the summer-long housing in a single room ($3400) includes the initial 14-day quarantine housing. Detailed information about housing refund policies will be available soon on our website.
- TUJ uses two housing facilities for students. The first is the Musashi-Kosugi Dorm, a residence located in Kawasaki, Kanagawa. TUJ also uses Hakusan Dorm, a residence located in Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, if the Musashi-Kosugi residence fills. A standard single room is about 12 square meters and comes equipped with a bed, a private bathroom with a shower, a desk and a chair, an A/C unit, a refrigerator, and a closet. A different dorm facility may be used for the quarantine period.
- Dormitory facilities have shared kitchens on each floor, laundry rooms, and other common spaces throughout the building.
- The relative commuting distance from the University-arranged dormitory to the campus in Sangen-jaya is approximately 50-60 minutes by public transportation. Compliance with mask wearing in Japan is extremely high, but you should not expect to be able to physically distance on trains. Even with lower ridership than normal due to more people working remotely, trains can still be very crowded, especially during commuting hours.

Estimated Program Costs

Detailed, estimated program cost information will be provided to applicants and posted to our website soon.

Modified Program and Housing Deposit Refund Policies
Deposits: We have modified our program and housing deposit policies for TUJ Summer 2021 to give students as much flexibility as possible.

Temple students: Students may receive a refund of the $200 program deposit and/or $200 housing deposit for any reason until April 5, 2021. To receive a refund, students must inform Education Abroad by email of their intent to withdraw from the program by April 5, 2021. The refund will appear as a credit and will be applied to a student’s future summer or fall semester balance on their Temple account. If there is no balance on their account, any refund will be returned to the student via direct deposit or paper check based on the preference set up for their Temple account.

Non-Temple students: Up until April 5, 2021, students may withdraw from the program for any reason and not lose their $200 program deposit or $200 housing deposit. If students withdraw after April 5, the program deposit and housing deposit are non-refundable. Students must inform Education Abroad by email of their intent to withdraw from the program by April 5, 2021. We strongly recommend that students sign up for direct deposit (instructions in your online account) in order to avoid delays with processing any refunds. Otherwise, refunds will be distributed via physical check in the mail.

All students: If Temple University cancels the program for any reason up until the start of the semester, the program deposit and housing deposit will be applied to the Temple student account or refunded to the Non-Temple student as outlined above.

Booking a Flight to Tokyo

Accepted program participants should not book flights until further notice.

TUJ may require program participants to arrive at Haneda Airport (unless unavailable from your departure location).

Education Abroad will provide more details about quarantine, testing, arrival dates, and flight requirements as soon as possible after the program status is announced.

Personal Travel

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission or complications with crossing borders and/or quarantine requirements, students with Japanese study visas must remain in the country. Temple Japan students will be prohibited from traveling outside of Japan during the summer program.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to know at this juncture if tourist-related travel to other countries will be allowed at the end of the program when the student visa dates end. For this reason, students should not plan to travel after their semester or they should be prepared to change their travel plans, which could be very costly. We hope that these restrictions may lift by late summer, but flexibility, patience and understanding any financial commitments remain key when considering personal post-program travel.
As a result of these restrictions, summer 2021 participants should plan to have a fully Japanese immersive experience that does not include travel outside of Japan.

We understand that this may be disappointing. However, we hope students will see this as an opportunity to embrace Japanese culture and complete the semester feeling more like a local than a visitor. Japan is a beautiful country with distinct and varied regions and traditions, and TUJ faculty and staff are looking forward to sharing the countless ways students can explore Tokyo and Japan so that students can make the most out of their experience. Fortunately, there is so much to do in Japan, and you should never become bored.

**Visitors**

At this time, tourists from many countries (including U.S. citizens) are not permitted entry to Japan so family and friends should not expect to be able to visit program participants. With the Olympics scheduled for the summer, this could change, although with COVID-19, it is simply too early to tell.

However, we still strongly encourage families to have valid passports in the event they need to visit for a serious emergency and are permitted to do so. Please note that due to public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, U.S. passport operations are delayed. Read our notice about passport operations.

If visitors (tourists) are able to come to Japan, they may still be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine. Also, please note that overnight guests are not permitted in student housing.

**Contingency Planning**

Unfortunately, with COVID-19 still impacting travel around the world, the possibility remains that conditions may change to the degree that Temple must either cancel the program or ask students to return to their home countries earlier than planned, or that a student’s home school rescinds approval for study abroad in Japan before or during the semester.

**Flight Purchase**

As stated earlier, program participants should not book flights until further notice. However, at that time, it will be important to review and understand all of the financial policies and restrictions before committing to a flight. Please note: Temple University is not responsible for any costs students may incur, including airfare and any cancellation or change fees, in the event students withdraw from the program or the program is rescheduled, modified, or canceled by Temple. Therefore, students should:

- purchase flights with the most flexible change and refund policies;
- understand these policies and their financial responsibility before purchase, including any conditions related to the ability to use a cancelled ticket for a later flight; and
- investigate trip cancellation insurance options but carefully review the exclusions.
Academic Continuity
We want to make sure that students continue with their academic programs in the event that we cannot run the program.

Therefore, we advise all summer students who need to take summer courses to create a back-up academic plan as follows:

○ Temple students should register for any necessary Main Campus summer courses when priority registration begins. You will be asked about your back-up academic plan in your Temple Japan course request so that we can determine the best timing for your Temple Japan course registration.

Once the program begins, if there is a situation which requires a lockdown or quarantine, Temple Japan is prepared to transition to an online format, either on a program or individual level, for any period of time.

Program Interruption
Students who start the summer 2021 program with TUJ will be able to complete their credits in the event that there is a forced change to the structure of the program. All TUJ courses will be ready for remote learning, should we need to implement this option at any point of the semester.

If conditions change to the degree that we need to ask students to return to their home countries, TUJ can facilitate an orderly but prompt departure (as we did in Spring 2020). Students would be responsible for contacting their carrier to arrange a return flight to their home country.

● Temple University is unable to assist with any additional costs associated with having to leave Japan, so we advise students to purchase flights with the most flexible change and refund policies, and to understand both those policies and their financial responsibility as a way of preparing for this possibility.

All students who study abroad with Temple are covered by international travel medical insurance. We advise all students to keep their insurance coverage in their home countries, as the travel medical insurance will only cover students while participating in the program abroad. Details about the coverage are provided to accepted students in the pre-departure materials.

Education Abroad Contact Information
We appreciate that this is a lot of information in one document. Please don’t hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Students who would like to meet with Temple Japan Program Manager Maddy Sullivan may visit the Education Abroad virtual front desk to set up an appointment. Alternatively, students may contact Maddy by email at madelyn@temple.edu.