

Institution attended: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Semester: Winter 2024

**A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.**

At Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (to be referred to as APU) my major was International Management. I took a total of 6 courses that varied between 2 credits and 4 credits each. The semesters here are divided into quarters so classes can either be held in Quarter 1, Quarter 2, or Semester. As of May 31 I will have completed the following courses (excluding Programming):

Korean 1 (Semester course) - Lecture

Class hours = 400 minutes a week \* ~18 weeks = 103 class hours

- 9 Tests
- 4 Group activities
- 1 Group presentation
- 1 Midterm exam
- 1 Speaking Test
- 1 final exam

International Economics (Quarter 1) - Lecture

Class hours = 200 minutes a week \* 7 weeks = 23 class hours

- 6 chapter exercise assignments
- 1 Midterm exam
- 1 Final exam

Computer Literacy (Quarter 1) - Lecture

Class hours = 200 minutes a week \* 7 weeks = 23 class hours

- 6 quizzes
- 4 assignments

Career Design II (Semester) - Lecture

Class hours = 100 minutes a week \* ~18 weeks = 30 class hours

- Weekly lecture reflection reports
- Group work
- 1 Final exam

### Logical Thinking and Framework (Semester) - Lecture

Class hours = 100 minutes a week \* ~18 weeks = 30 class hours

- Weekly reading quizzes
- In-class activities
- 1 Final assessment

### Programming (Quarter 2) - Lecture

Class hours = 200 minutes a week \* 7 weeks = 23 class hours

- as this is a Quarter 2 class information about course activities is not currently available

**B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.**

AP House 4 move-in: March 20, 2024

Mandatory orientation: started March 26, 2024

Course registration: April 4, 2024, 9:30am to 5pm

Quarter break: May 29, 2024 to June 4, 2024

Please be advised that the dates above will vary each year.

**C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.**

Upon arriving at AP House 4 you will receive some paperwork before getting the keys to your room and other essential information about living in Beppu. Students will have to attend a guidance session the night they move to learn about the rules of the dorm. After getting your key and room number an RA will help you bring your bags to your room and walk you through the things in your room (light switches, AC remote, etc.). On the day you move in, try to go to Don Quijote (5 minutes from the dorm) or Daiso (15 minutes from the dorm) to buy essentials for the first night like a shower curtain, food, etc.

APU Arrival assistance: Within a range of specified dates, APU will provide shuttle buses from Fukuoka Airport to pick up students and bring them to the APU houses. This service is free but you have to register before the specified deadline.

FLAG assistance at course registration: On course registration day the student organization FLAG are on campus to provide support to students trying to enroll in courses

APU Buddy: The Buddy organization will match to a local student based on information that you submit in a form in January. Buddys will organize activities to do together throughout the semester such as bowling, beach events, and exploring local restaurants and cafes.

**D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).**

Airplane tickets (YUL to ICN to NRT, HND to FUK) = ~\$1,687.50 CAD

Housing = ¥258,090 (\$2509.67 CAD as of December 12, 2023)

Full semester cost budgets:

Transportation = \$1,071.41 CAD

Academic = \$200 CAD

Emergency = \$1000 CAD

Monthly cost budgets:

Food = \$400 CAD

Leisure = varies between \$500 to \$2200 CAD

Care/Beauty = \$50 to \$100 CAD

Miscellaneous = \$75 CAD

Phone = \$50 CAD

Cash in wallet = \$50 CAD

Please note in some categories I budgeted an extra \$50 to \$100 than the actual estimated cost to account for sudden/unexpected costs.

**E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).**

Mid- to end October: Nomination to APU is completed by Telfer at the end of September.

Students are responsible for submitting their application form to APU themselves (passport size photo, application form, proof of finances issued from your bank, etc.). Required documents are outlined on the APU website for inbound exchange students. Be sure to check this yourself as the deadlines will be listed here.

Mid-December: Receive acceptance notification from APU along with an invoice for housing and other mandatory forms that you will have to fill out before the specified deadline (usually in January).

January: Receive confirmation of payment for housing and the official letter of Admission from APU. At this time APU will apply for a Certificate of Eligibility on your behalf to Japan's Immigration Bureau. You must wait until you receive the Certificate of Eligibility before you can apply for your student visa at the Embassy of Japan; however, at this time you can prepare any documents that you will need for the student visa application. Required documents are outlined on the website of the embassy (valid passport, Certificate of Eligibility, application form, passport size photo, etc.)

February: Receive your Certificate of Eligibility from APU and make an appointment with the Embassy of Japan to submit your visa application. It usually takes 5 business days to receive your passport and visa.

Mid- to end March: Fly to Beppu to move into AP House 4

**F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.**

All exchange students are required to live at AP House 4 located in downtown Beppu. AP House 4 is the residence reserved for exchange students and graduate students. Rent for the semester is paid at the time of receiving acceptance in December. The invoice covers the move-in fee, rent for the semester, Student's Comprehensive Renter's Insurance, and their administrative fees which comes to a total of ¥258,090 (\$2509.67 CAD as of December 12, 2023). The address is as follows:

APU Plaza Oita (AP House 4)  
11 Kyomachi, Beppu, Oita, Japan  
874-0926

**G) Work term (if applicable).**

N/A

**H) Other comments or recommendations.**

I recommend students to keep an eye on the deadlines themselves. In my case, neither university (uOttawa or APU) contacted me to let me know that I could submit my application to APU. APU only contacted me about submitting my application after I received an email "reminding me" that the application deadline was in one week. Fortunately, I knew when the application deadline was because I had found it myself and had prepared all of my documents ahead of time, so they were ready to submit when I received that email.

I would also recommend planning to travel while at APU! Japan is such a beautiful country and there is no shortage of places to see and visit. Even going on short day trips to areas like Usa will definitely be worth your time. One last thing I would suggest is learning some basic conversational Japanese as not all signs are in/everyone knows English. Not to stress if you don't know Japanese though, as translator apps like Google Translate and Papago Naver also work well when trying to ask people questions. In that case you should also add the Japanese keyboard to your phone so that local residents can translate their instruction to English for you.

**I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.**

My experience on exchange thus far has been amazing! I have met so many people from all over the world and have made friends that I truly hope to stay in contact with when I return to Canada. I have been trying to take everything as a learning opportunity here by, for example, talking with local students about differences between being a university in Japan versus in Canada. Since I was taking the Japanese course at uOttawa I've been able to practice what I've learned in my day to day life and I hope to improve my Japanese even more. I've had the opportunity to travel a lot while on exchange and I have been in constant awe of the beauty and history of each place I have visited. One of my favorite memories from the exchange so far has

been the impromptu cultural dinners we have in the dorms, where someone will cook a dish unique to their country and invite us over to try it together.