

Sophia University German-Japanese Exchange Program

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address	7-1 Kioi-cho Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8554, JAPAN
Website (University)	https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/
Website (Department)	https://ffs.sophia.ac.jp/en/department/german/dj-austausch/
Email	inbound-co@sophia.ac.jp
Telephone	+81-3-3238-4090

GENERAL INFORMATION

Foundation	Sophia University is a private Jesuit university founded in 1913 located in the heart of Tokyo, aiming to foster “For Others, With Others”.
Key Features	One of the top private universities in Japan Japan's pioneer in global education Diversity on one campus in the fascinating city of Tokyo Wide variety of English-medium programs Renowned for offering high-quality language education
Facts & Figures	9 undergraduate faculties with 30 departments / 10 graduate schools with 28 programs and 1 graduate degree program Total Full-time Student Enrollment: 14,000-15,000 Faculty Staff: Full-time 550 (appx. 18% from overseas) Number of International Students: 1,500-2,000 (around 100 countries in total)
Campus Location	Tokyo, JAPAN The campus is centrally located within walking distance of the National Diet, Imperial Palace and the State Guest House. Shinjuku, the world's busiest transport hub is just 5 minutes' train ride away from Yotsuya, the closest station from Sophia University.
Visa Requirements	College Students Visa or other suitable visa status (short-term visit visa will not be allowed)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Aim of Program	The aim of this program is to expand the possibilities for students from the partner institutions in German-speaking area, who are strongly interested in learning Japanese language as well as deepening their knowledge about Japan comparing with Germany and Europe. For this purpose, applicants will not be required of any academic standard, but will be expected to learn Japanese language intensively. Besides Japanese language courses, Department of German Studies offers courses, where German and Japanese students study together and mutually enhance their knowledge linguistically as well as academically one another.	
Level of Study	Undergraduate only	
Department to be enrolled	Department of German Studies (in Faculty of Foreign Studies)	
Language of Instruction	German, Japanese	
Language requirements	German B1 (required) & Japanese A2 (recommended)	
Expected GPA	No particular requirements	
Application	Nomination Deadline	Autumn Term (September) entrance : April 10 Spring Term (April) entrance : November 1
	Application Deadline	Autumn Semester: April 20 Spring Semester: November 10
	Required Documents	*Required for all applicants -Application Form * -Official transcript in English * -List of Courses Enrolled in Current Semester * -Proof of English/German Language Proficiency English: Not mandatory German: Only non-native speaker -Proof of Japanese Language Proficiency -Certificate of Health * -Digital Photograph * -Photo copy of passport * -CoE Application Form * -Housing Application (online form) *

COURSE GUIDE

Available courses	● Intercultural courses offered by Department of German Studies (taught in German & Japanese) <u>German-Japanese Exchange students are required to take at least one course from the Department of German Studies.</u> ● Japanese Language courses offered by the Center for Language Education and Research (see below) ● English-taught courses in Faculty of Foreign Studies *Courses outside the Faculty of Foreign Studies: It is required to meet the Language requirements set by each Faculty and students must submit a copy of language certificate <u>at the time of course registration.</u> English-taught courses in Faculty of Liberal Arts (FLA), Faculty of Science and Technology (FST): TOEFL iBT 79 (0-120 scale test) or 4.5 (1-6 scale test), TOEFL PBT 550, IELTS 6.0, TOEIC730, or Cambridge English C2 Proficiency (CPE) or C1 Advanced (CAE) Japanese-taught courses in the Departments other than the Department of German Studies: N1 of the JLPT may be required (depends on the Department) *It may be necessary to consult with instructor and obtain the permission beforehand to take some courses. *Japanese language courses are not mandatory, but strongly recommended. *Graduate courses are NOT available. *Bulletin is updated in March every year. Course offer and syllabi may vary each year. Please refer to the latest information available online https://ffs.sophia.ac.jp/en/department/german/dj-austausch/lehrveranstaltungen/kurswahl-und-anmeldung/
Japanese Language Course	The Center for Language Education and Research provides multiple tracks and levels of Japanese language courses according to students' needs and linguistic backgrounds. Students who wish to attend Japanese class can choose from regular track or intensive track. Students who have prior Japanese study experience will be placed to appropriate class level according to the result of Japanese placement test. https://piloti.sophia.ac.jp/eng/studyabroad/exchangeprograms/application_info/registration/#JLP Regular Track (4 credits) The regular track offers beginning, intermediate to advanced courses where 100-minutes classes meet four or five times per week. This course aims to focus on developing communicative competence through extensive practices by integrating four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. English is occasionally used for instruction as necessary. Intensive Track (8 credits) Intensive Japanese track, which offers four-level intensive courses at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, is designed for students whose main purpose of coming to Japan is to study Japanese. Classes meet for three hours a day through Monday to Friday. Fifteen hours of class time per week allow students to spend sufficient time to gain the high level of Japanese proficiency. English is occasionally used for instruction as necessary.
Registration Requirements	Exchange students must register and attend more than 10 hours of classes per week. To fulfill this requirement, attending at least 6 periods (100 minutes constitute one period) every week is necessary.
Course Restriction	Exchange students should mainly take courses offered by their own faculties and programs. For more details on course restriction: https://piloti.sophia.ac.jp/eng/studyabroad/exchangeprograms/application_info/registration/
Standard Course Load	• Regular Japanese track + 2-4 lecture classes • 14 credits of lecture classes or more • Intensive Japanese track + 1-3 lecture classes

ACADEMIC CALENDAR in 2027 (based on AY2026- subject to change)

	Spring Semester (subject to change)	Autumn Semester (subject to change)
Arrival Date	By April 1	By September 20
Orientation	April 2 and April 8	September 21 and September 25
JP Placement Test	April 3	September 22
Course Registration	early April - mid April	late September - early October
Classes	April 11 - July 24	September 28 - January 25
Final Exams	July 25 - August 1	January 26 - February 2
Transcript Issuance	MID-SEPTEMBER (Early issuance is not permitted.)	LATE MARCH (Early issuance is not permitted.)
Other Important Academic Information	Summer Recess : August 2 - September 27 (subject to change) Winter Recess : December 24 - January 6 (subject to change) Spring Recess : February 3 - March 31 (subject to change)	
Latest Calendar	https://piloti.sophia.ac.jp/eng/studyabroad/exchangeprograms/academic_calendar/	

CREDIT EXPLANATION & GRADING SYSTEM

Credits	Type of course	Credits awarded		
	Lecture course	2 or 4 credits per course :one credit = 675 minutes class successfully completed		
	Language course	2-8 credits, depending on the course: one credit = 1,350 minutes class successfully completed		
	Physical education practice	1 credit per course: one credit = 1,350 minutes class successfully completed		
Grading Scale	Grade	Scale	Description	Quality Point Index
	A	100 - 90	Evaluation is based on achievement of the course objectives. >See the Grading Criteria in the User Guide https://piloti.sophia.ac.jp/eng/academicrecords/certificate/current/	4.0
	B	89 - 80		3.0
	C	79 - 70		2.0
	D	69 - 60		1.0
	W			
	F			

ACCOMMODATION AND LIVING EXPENSES

Accommodation and Living Expenses		
Off-Campus Accommodation	Housing	Dormitory Fee for 1 semester and 1 year (Subject to change without notice)
	Sophia Soshigaya International House	Dormitory fees and their conditions vary considerably in amount.
	Sophia-Arrupe International Residence	
	Sophia Edagawa Men's Dormitory (for Men)	1 semester fee (4 months): from ¥ 300,000.- to ¥ 750,000.-
	DK House Tokyo Nerima	1 year fee (10 months): from ¥ 600,000.- to ¥ 1,600,000.-
	DK House Shinkoiwa	*For the latest information and details, please refer to the "Housing Summary" available on the webpage below: 
	Dormy Naka Kasai Global House (for Women)	
	Dormy + café Nakanosakaue	
	BeGood Zoshigaya Ekimae	
	FlatShare SHIN-Otsuka Campus	
	Riverside Higashi Nakano	
	Azalea House	
	Green Share Nishi Ogikubo	
https://piloti.sophia.ac.jp/eng/studyabroad/exchangeprograms/housinginfo_costs/housing_list/		
Other Expenses	Meals: 30,000 - 60,000 yen per month/ Public Transportation: 5,000 - 10,000 yen per month Books: 30,000 - 50,000 yen per semester/ Personal Expenses: 30,000 yen per month (depends on)	
Insurance (Mandatory)	Japanese National Health Insurance	Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research
	1,500-3,000 yen/ month (depends on resident areas)	1000 yen

OTHER INFORMATION

Student Supporter	Exchange students can sign up for the Student Supporter Program before arriving at Sophia University. The student supporter is often the first Sophia student the exchange student meets before classes begin. Student supporters help exchange students to settle down and interact with each other throughout the study abroad period and beyond.
Events	Exchange students also regularly take part in cultural events. Sophia University offers opportunities such as a "Rakugo Event", "flower arrangement experience", "tea ceremony experiences", and "Kabuki Tour".
Global- Network	"Global-Network," more commonly known as "GL-Net" is a student volunteer organization that hosts a variety of events to encourage interaction between local and international students at Sophia. It is officially supported by Sophia University's Center for Global Education and Discovery and students organize and host many events during lunch breaks and on weekends.
Extracurricular Activities	At Sophia University, more than 270 groups are active as authorized circles. All exchange students are welcome to participate in Sophia's Extracurricular Activities. For more information including the list of student club and circles, please visit the link below. (https://findsophia.jp/club-list/?lang=en) https://findsophia.jp/club-list/?lang=en
Short-term Programs	Sophia University offers short-term programs—Summer Session (July) and January Session—separate from its exchange programs, with participants making individual arrangements for visas and accommodations. These programs provide students with the opportunity to explore Japan from a wide range of perspectives, both academically and culturally. Over the years, more than 14,000 students from around the world have taken part in Sophia University's Summer Session, and many alumni have gone on to pursue successful and inspiring careers related to Japan. https://piloti.sophia.ac.jp/eng/studyabroad/short-term/
Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPmHXQbKIWTxi0QFyti3D6dUjtt0Uf6d
Instagram	Sophia University: https://www.instagram.com/sophiauniversity/?hl=en Center for Global Education and Discovery (CGED): https://www.instagram.com/sophia_cged?igsh=MWFiazV0MnN5eDAzMA==