

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What must I accomplish to pass the domestic screening?

Your GPA and Scores for Language Proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS, Certification for Other Foreign Languages, etc.) are extremely important. For students who are admitted in April, the GPA of the first semester will be used to assess your application in fall. We will strongly encourage all students to register for courses very carefully as a poor GPA will affect your options.

2. What are the major differences between the Spring and Fall departure?

The Fall application offers a larger number of programs and a wider range of options. For Spring, the programs will focus on the regions in the Southern Hemisphere, such as the Oceania, South America and South Korea.

3. What are the types of Study Abroad Programs being offered?

There are four major categories.

- A. Double Degree Programs (University-Wide)
- B. Exchange (EX) Programs (University-Wide)
- C. Customized Study (CS) Programs (University-Wide)
- D. SILS Exchange/ Study Abroad Programs (SILS Students ONLY)

For more details on A, B and C, please refer to the CIE HP.

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/from-waseda>



D. <https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/students/study-abroad/>

4. Where can I seek consultation on Study Abroad?

To learn more about the University-Wide programs, please visit the WASEDA Global Gate. It is located on the 1F of Building 22.

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/access>



The Global Network Center (GNC) also offers advising services to all SILS students through the Research Associates.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/students/support/gnc/>



For inquiries on credit transfer and the SILS Study Abroad Programs, please contact the SILS Office.

<https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/students/study-abroad/>



5. Where can I read the CIE FAQs?

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/from-waseda/faq>



6. Where can I access the CIE Program lists?

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/from-waseda/abroad/programlist/list>



7. How can I learn more about Study Abroad scholarships?

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/from-waseda/aid>



8. How can I learn about the programs in the previous years?

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/from-waseda/abroad/1year>



9. Are all SILS students guaranteed to study abroad after passing the domestic evaluation?

No. The status of the domestic screening at the CIE and SILS is conditional. The host institutions will make the final decision. An applicant may receive the official acceptance notice right before departure.

10. How many programs can I apply to?

CIE University-Wide Programs: Up to SEVEN (7) **Subject to change*

SILS Bilateral Programs: Up to FIVE (5)

11. What and when are the Study Abroad Fairs?

The fairs are held twice annually, generally in April or May (Spring) and October (Fall). Students will be able to learn more about the available programs and the application procedures. Submission of application will usually start AFTER the fairs.

12. Can I select a specific department or a major at the host institutions?

It is possible, but please kindly note that conditions will apply, and the number is limited. To learn more, please refer to the following link.

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/from-waseda/abroad/programlist/list>

**13. When will the departure be?**

It is usually one year AFTER the CIE Study Abroad Fairs and application. Please note that departure half a year after the fair and application is extremely rare.

14. When does the application start? How should I apply?

For the University-Wide Study Abroad Programs, please attend the CIE Study Abroad Fairs to learn more about the schedules, deadlines and procedures. Please refer to the CIE HP for more details. For the SILS Bilateral Study Abroad Programs, please refer to the SILS HP for more details. A seminar will be held in late September. The deadlines are different so please take note.

15. How many semesters must I complete in WASEDA University in order to start my study abroad?

In principle, you are required to complete THREE (3) semesters before departure. SILS will recommend our students who are admitted in April to begin their Study Abroad Programs in the fourth (4th) semester. For students who join SILS in September, it can begin in the fifth (5th) semester. The student can apply for programs that begin before the 5th semester, should the conditions be met. Please note that the number of programs which begin in the third semester is very limited.

16. Can I change the host institution?

No. The decision is final.

17. What is *mutual tuition fee exemption*?

Students from WASEDA University will pay the tuition fees equivalent to that of WASEDA University, and not the host institution, regardless of the tuition fee difference. Please do note that some institutions may ask for other additional fees to cover costs. For students who are attending *Customized Study Programs (CS)*, the fees will be paid directly to the host institution. You will not be required to pay the tuition fees to WASEDA University, except for the student health promotion mutual aid association dues.

18. What are the expected costs of studying abroad?

Depending on your destination, the costs will vary. Please consider the following factors – books, lodging (dormitory/ private apartment/ share-house), domestic and international travel, insurance coverage (host nations), possible medical treatments, entertainment and all other personal expenses.

IMPORTANT

Please make sure your parents and/ or guarantors, who will be financing your Study Abroad Program, are fully aware and supportive of your plans and final decision. It is your personal responsibility to consult them and share the necessary information. They will also be required to sign on the official pledge of agreement (waiver). The CIE and the SILS Office will be able to advise whenever necessary, so please do not hesitate to contact us when in doubts.

Regarding Taking Courses at the Host Institutions

You have the freedom to choose the courses that you would like to take at the host institution. However we would strongly encourage you to register for courses that are academically challenging, and particularly to look for courses that you might not be able to do at Waseda University.

19. I am planning to take a rather similar course or a course with the same subject-title of a course I have taken at WASEDA University. Can the credit(s) be transferred?

In principle, the “passed” credits indicated on the *official transcript* can be transferred to WASEDA University, subject to the checks and final approval of the SILS Study Abroad Committee. However as mentioned, we would strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to register for a different course and learn something new.

20. Can the credits for foreign language courses and Physical Education (PE) classes be transferred to WASEDA University?

It is possible as long as they are indicated on the *official transcript*. Please kindly note that the number of credits earned for such classes may be lesser, when compared to a regular seminar/ lecture course and tutorial. In principle, you should not register for a foreign language course in your native language.

21. I would like to take the same class in both the semesters during the Study Abroad Program. Can the credits be transferred to WASEDA University?

In principle, it is NOT acceptable, unless you failed it in the first semester, or you have a special reason to do so. It is possible for consideration, subject to approval, if both the courses, together with the credits and grades, are clearly reflected on the *official transcript*. It is subject to the checks and final approval of the SILS Study Abroad Committee. We would strongly encourage you to take this rare opportunity to register for a different course and learn something new.

22. The Teaching Assistant (TA) activity counts for credits at the host institution. I am a Teaching Assistant (TA) for a Japanese language class. Can the credits be transferred to WASEDA University?

As long as the TA activity is clearly reflected and validated on your official transcripts and other recognized certificates issued by the host institution, it is possible to transfer the credits to WASEDA University. This will also apply to an internship.

23. I am taking language classes at an external language school, which is NOT affiliated with the host institution. Can the credits earn at the language school be transferred to WASEDA University?

No. It is plausible IF the language classes at the external language school are reflected on the *official transcript* of the host institution, including the number of credits, grades and lesson hours. In the event you are issued a completion certificate by the language school only, the credits will be considered separately. You must be prepared to submit all the relevant official documents. If the documents are not in Japanese or English, please submit a proper translation. Please note that such credits will be subject to the final approval of the SILS Study Abroad Committee.

24. How can I notify a change of address and telephone number of my guarantor(s)/ payer(s) of the tuition fees during my Study Abroad Program?

If you were NOT living with your guarantor before the Study Abroad Program, please submit a prescribed form to the SILS Office. In the event that a change occurs when you are overseas, please write to sils-ac@list.waseda.jp.

If you were living with your guarantor before the Study Abroad Program, please change the address from MyWaseda (→My Profile).

Please maintain sufficient funds for the tuition fees in your bank account in Japan.

25. [VERY IMPORTANT] I would like to transfer my credits and graduate in the SAME semester when I complete the Study Abroad Program. Is it possible?

No. There is the risk that the transcripts from the host institution may fail to be delivered on time and/ or the document evaluation process may be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Without completing the credit transfer and earning all the required credits, you will not be allowed to graduate from SILS. Even if you are scheduled to start your career or attend a graduate school, SILS will not be able to grant any special provisions.

The student is fully responsible for the credit transfer application. Please plan with utmost care and ensure that the credit transfer period and the graduation semester do NOT overlap.

26. When I return from my Study Abroad Program, it will be my ninth (9th) semester (or beyond) at SILS. How will my tuition fees be calculated?

For students who are enrolled in SILS for more than EIGHT (8) semesters, the tuition fees will be calculated according to the number of credits they have left in order to graduate. For students returning from their Study Abroad Programs, the transferred credits will not be taken into account in the tuition fee calculation. It will be based on the remaining credits BEFORE departure.

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