Admissions Guide for
Independent Applicants
(Non-Partner Institutions)

One Year/One Semester Study Abroad Program

Academic Year 2027-2028
September (Fall) 2027 & April (Spring) 2028

School of International Liberal Studies (SILS)
Waseda University

Important Notes

This Admission Guide is for applicants from **non-partner institutions** of Waseda University and the School of International Liberal Studies (SILS), who would like to join our program by paying tuition and fees directly to SILS.

For students from partner institutions (university-wide or bilateral), please contact the Study Abroad Office or the relevant departments at your home institutions for details. Please note that you are NOT eligible to apply for the program as an independent applicant.

To Officials of University-wide Partner Institutions and Consortia

To learn about the admission guide, please contact the Center for International Education (CIE) at Waseda University.

CIE Website
https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cie/en/exchange

Thank you very much for your attention.

Admission Schedule 2027-2028

Admission Schedule	September 2027	April 2028
Application Period	January 22, 2027 – February 22, 2027, 4:00 p.m. (JST)*1	September 22, 2027 – October 22, 2027, 4:00 p.m. (JST) *1
Result Notification (Expected Announcement Date) **	April 15, 2027	December 15, 2027
Deadline for COE Application Procedure	May 13, 2027*2	Late November, 2027*2
Deadline for Tuition and Fee Transfer	May 13, 2027	January 13, 2028
COE Result Notification	Late July 2027*3	Late February 2028*3

*1 All application documents must reach us **BEFORE the deadline**.

*2 The URL for the COE Application Form will be provided after you submit the Online Application Form.

*3 The processing of a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) application may take several months. Once issued, the COE will be sent to successful applicants by email. Please note that decisions regarding the issuance of the COE are made solely by the Immigration Bureau. Waseda University and SILS cannot be held responsible for any airline ticket cancellation fees or other inconvenience resulting from delays in the issuance of the COE or the rejection of a COE application.

Handling of Personal Information

Waseda University utilizes applicant information (addresses, names, dates of birth, etc.) collected at the time of application to conduct operations such as the entrance examination, announcement of the screening results, and enrollment procedures. We will take necessary and proper measures to protect such information from leakage, disclosure, or unauthorized use. All or part of the above operations may be outsourced to an agency. In such case, the agency will be contractually required to maintain necessary and proper management. Please note that the personal information may be used as materials for studies and research to improve our entrance examinations. The information will be statistically processed to prevent any individual from being identified.

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I. One-Year Study Abroad Program Admission

These Guide applies only to students from non-partner institutions, not to students from Waseda University-wide partner institutions or SILS bilateral partner institutions.

1. Eligibility and Admission Requirements

Applicants must:

1. be enrolled in a four-year BA program or the equivalent and will be enrolled in their home institution for entire duration of the program.

   To be eligible for the Study Abroad Program, ALL applicants MUST remain enrolled at their home university throughout the applicable study period at Waseda University, as specified on P. 11, "2. Length of Study."

2. have demonstrated excellent academic and personal records at their home institutions, excluding records from previous institutions attended. The minimum GPA is **3.0** on a 4.0 scale. In the event the home institution does not use a 4.0 GPA scale system, please kindly provide a conversion.

3. possess sufficient proficiency in English to carry out everyday tasks and understand class instructions. Students must have a minimum **TOEFL iBT score of 4.0/6.0 (or 80/120 for tests taken before January 21, 2026)** ("My Best Scores" are NOT accepted) or an **IELTS score of at least 6.0**. TOEFL ITP and at-home testing formats, including the TOEFL iBT Home Edition and IELTS Online, are not accepted. Scores of English proficiency tests other than the TOEFL iBT and IELTS are not accepted.

   * TOEFL and IELTS scores are required for non-native English-speaking applicants. However, non-native English-speaking applicants studying in degree programmes **fully** taught in English are exempt from submitting test scores. Please attach official documentation confirming that your programme is fully taught in English when submitting your online application.

4. have completed most of their secondary education (six years) in a non-Japanese educational system.

5. have completed at least one semester at their home institution at the time of application. At the time students begin their program at SILS Waseda, they must have completed at least one year at their home institution.

6. be able to obtain a "Student" visa or other valid visa for studying in Japan.

Regarding Japanese Language

Prior Japanese language learning experience is not required. However, students are encouraged to acquire basic knowledge of Japanese, including hiragana and katakana, before arrival. The exchange student is **strongly encouraged, but not required** to earn 6 Japanese language credits each semester.

Please kindly note that the Japanese language courses are taught in the direct method. Students may experience difficulties if he/she has no knowledge of the Japanese language. Also, due to the limited number of beginner's courses, there is a higher risk of being over-enrolled in case you have no knowledge of Japanese language.

2. Admission Schedule

September 2027 (Fall Semester) and/ or April 2028 (Spring Semester)

Applicants must clearly indicate the semester and the program duration. Once the duration has been confirmed, no change will be permitted.

Admission	Study Duration	
September 2027	One-Year	October 1, 2027 - Late July/Early August 2028
	One Semester	October 1, 2027 – February 2 2028
April 2028	One Semester	Mid-April 2028 - Late July/Early August 2028

* Please kindly note that make-up lectures could still take place for previously cancelled classes after the regular sessions end. The schedules are subject to change without advanced notice.

3. Fees and Payment

(1) Screening Fee

Amount: JPY 25,000
Method: Flywire https://waseda-sils-sp3.flywire.com

Period of Transfer

Please make the payment during the designated period stated below.

Admission	Application and Payment Period
September 2027	January 22, 2027 – February 22, 2027, 4:00 p.m. (JST)
April 2028	September.22, 2027 – October 22, 2027, 4:00 p.m. (JST)

* All application documents must reach the SILS Office during the application period.
  Please note that both the **application form and the screening fee must be received** within the application period. If either is received before or after the application period, the application will not be accepted.

  Payment of the screening fee must be completed via the Flywire website before you submit your application. Access the website https://waseda-sils-sp3.flywire.com and complete the required procedure.
* As an examination number will not be issued at the time of application, please enter "95ZZZ" in the Examination Number field.

Refer to the URL below for more detailed procedures.
https://waseda.box.com/s/2dhp36oog2yeede0dgyqlb2piebdc90s

(2) Refund of Screening Fee

As a rule, application documents and screening fees are not returned or refunded.
However, the Screening Fee will be returned if you fall into one of the following categories.
Please contact the SILS admission office, if necessary.

i. You paid the Screening Fee but failed to submit the required application documents.
ii. You failed to either meet the application requirements or submit the application documents by the deadline.

Please note that the handling fee is your obligation when we refund the screening fee to a bank account outside of Japan.

(3) Screening Fee Exemption

Applicants who fall into one of the following cases are exempted from paying the Screening Fee.

i. Students who are applying consecutively to the same school for another semester or a year as a non-degree program students. The screening fee is exempted only for 2 years counting from the next Academic Year of your first enrollment date as a non-degree program student.
ii. Students from the "Screening Fee Waiver Program for applicants from specified countries" are exempted. The application form for “Screening Fee Waiver Program” must be submitted.
  Applicants who wish to be admitted into the SILS One-Year Program are eligible to apply for a Screening Fee waiver if they reside in one of the countries designated by Waseda University AND hold nationality of one of those countries. Please refer to the following for details.
  https://waseda.box.com/s/6l4rgrkp7du4nuc304i1b1c42ihh7ljj

(4) Tuition Fees

Program	Tuition Fees	Payment Period
One-Year Program (Fall 2027 and Spring 2028)	Fall 2027: JPY 845,000	May 13, 2027
	Spring 2028: JPY 845,000	January 13, 2028
One Semester ONLY (Fall 2027)	JPY 870,000	May 13, 2027
One Semester ONLY (Spring 2028)	JPY 870,000	January 13, 2028

Successful applicants will receive information regarding tuition payment by email after the admission results are announced.

4. Method of Application

Please complete the following steps.

(1) Pay the Screening Fee during the * Designated Period ONLY

(2) Prepare All Required Documents * Designated Period ONLY

1. Please refer to **P. 8 "Application Documents"**
   * Please download the prescribed forms from the following online storage.
   https://waseda.box.com/s/evqf5s72f2s97v9kmwsetuo77hzmlewb
   * If you cannot download the forms, please contact the SILS Office.

2. Submit the documents as directed in this Admission Guide.
   i) Please prepare all the documents on P.8 before proceeding to the Online Form.
   ii) Complete the online registration.
   iii) The **Official TOEFL/IELTS score** (if not exempted) must be sent directly from the testing organization electronically.
   iv) The **recommendation letter** and the **transcript** must be submitted to sp3-admission@list.waseda.jp by your home institution.

(3) Screening

An internal screening will be conducted based on the documents.
If you do not meet the criteria, your application will be rejected.

5. Academic Accommodation

Should you have any conditions that may require any kind of assistance and would require support and special accommodation while studying at SILS, **please indicate your conditions clearly at the time of application.**
Please be reminded that for us to offer appropriate support, we may require additional documentation about your conditions and needs.

6. Screening

The screening will be conducted based on the application documents.

7. Notification of Screening Results

The screening results will be sent by email on the following dates from the SILS Office. Please kindly note that the SILS Office will not respond to any inquiries regarding the screening results.

Month of Admission	Notification of Screening Results
September 2027	April 15, 2027
April 2028	December 15, 2027

8. Entrance Procedures

Successful applicants will receive guide for entrance procedures together with the notification screening results. Please follow the guide and complete all necessary procedures.
The entrance procedure after the designated period will not be accepted.
If you decide to withdraw from the program after confirming your participation, please contact the SILS office immediately.

Month of Admission	Deadline for Tuitions & Fees Payment and Entrance procedure
September 2027	May 13, 2027
April 2028	January 13, 2028

9. Application Documents

The application process will be mostly conducted through the online system, and there are a number of documents that you must prepare in advance. Carefully read this application guide and prepare all the required documents before the beginning of the application period.

* Documents marked with an asterisk (*) must be submitted using the prescribed form. Please download from the following URL: https://waseda.box.com/s/evqf5s72f2s97v9kmwsetuo77hzmlewb
* For the item(s) marked △, please submit it if applicable.
* The SILS Office may ask you to submit additional documents when deemed necessary.

Application Documents * Please see P.9 for the details

No.	Application Documents	Who should submit
1	Online Application	Applicant
2	Personal History *	Applicant
3	Official TOEFL/ IELTS Score	ETS/Examination Board △
4	Photocopy of Passport (Identification page)	Applicant
5	Photo for COE form/Student ID card	Applicant
6	Fee Payment Receipt	Applicant
7	Application for Screening Fee Waiver (If applicable) *	Applicant △
8	Questionnaire *	Applicant
9	Check List *	Applicant
10	Recommendation Letter	Home institution
11	Official Transcript(s) from the Home Institution	Home institution

Important Notes

1. Applications must be submitted during the designated application period. Applications submitted outside this period will not be accepted. * Exception: TOEFL iBT and IELTS scores may be submitted before the application period.
2. All documents must be written in **English**.
3. All documents submitted will not be returned. Please make sure that you make photocopies, if necessary.
4. You may be asked to turn in photocopies of the application materials when you apply for the student visa at the Embassy in your country. Please make photocopies of all the materials and keep them with you.
5. Please use the “Checklist for Documents to Submit” to double-check the required documents. Please take note that the decision on admission is made on the submitted documents. The SILS Office reserves the right to reject your application if the submission is incomplete.
6. You will be deemed to have committed a dishonest act if Waseda University determines that you have falsified, fabricated, or plagiarized the document(s), statement(s), or information submitted in your application. In such cases, any decision taken regarding your application may later be invalidated.

1. Online Application Form

Please complete the below Online Application Form during the application period.
https://my.waseda.jp/application/noauth/application-detail-noauth?param=b1bqvib_n41h1pJf84qs6A
* Only available during the application period.

Please prepare **all required documents** before starting the online application, as there is **no temporary save option**.The application form includes an **essay** of at least 1,000 words in English. Please explain your objectives for participating in the Study Abroad Program, beyond language learning and cultural understanding, as well as the academic fields you would like to pursue during your study at the School of International Liberal Studies (SILS).

2. Personal History *

Please provide accurate and complete information in all sections of the form, including your academic history.

3. Official TOEFL / IELTS Score Report

A minimum **TOEFL iBT score of 4.0/6.0** (or 80/120 for tests taken before January 21, 2026) ("My Best Scores" are NOT accepted) or an **IELTS score of at least 6.0**.
* TOEFL ITP at-home testing formats, including the TOEFL iBT Home Edition, IELTS Indicator and IELTS Online, are not accepted. Scores from English proficiency tests other than the TOEFL iBT and IELTS are not accepted.

The score report must be valid at the time of submission (**two-year validity**). The official score must be sent directly and electronically by the testing organization and must arrive by the application deadline. Scores received before or during the application period will be accepted; however, scores received after the application deadline will not be accepted.

Submission Method:

- TOEFL iBT
  Institution Code: 9342
  * Please provide your Application Number and Date of Birth in the Online Application Form.
- IELTS
  Institution: Waseda University
  Department: Admissions Center
  Address: 1-6-1 Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-8050, Japan, Admissions Center, Waseda University
  Delivery Method: Electronic Score Delivery * Please provide your TRF Number in the Online Application Form.

Exemptions

Native English speakers and applicants who have studied at a post-secondary educational institution which conducts courses in English are exempt.
Non-native English-speaking applicants enrolled in a degree programme fully taught in English may be exempt from submitting English proficiency test scores. In such cases, applicants must provide publicly available information confirming that the programme is fully taught in English, such as information on the university's official website.

4. Fee Payment Receipt of Screening Fee

Print the "Fee Payment Receipt" for the Screening Fee. See P. 6 for more details.

5. Application for Screening Fee Waiver *

Eligible applicants only.

6. Photocopy of Passport

Please submit scanned copies of the pages showing your photo and passport number. If you have more than one passport, please submit scanned copies of all passports.
*Japanese passport holders **must** enter Japan using their Japanese passport.*

7. Photo for COE form/Student ID card

Please upload a color photo taken within 3 months before the time of application. The photo must meet the requirements specified by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan. Please refer to the link below for details.
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/photo_info_00002.html

8. Questionnaire *

Please complete the form and upload it to the online application form. Answers to this questionnaire do not affect the admission decision.

9. Check List *

Please check all application materials before proceeding to the Online Application Form.

10. Recommendation Letter

The letter must be written by a dean, academic advisor, professor/instructor of your home institution with a good knowledge of the applicant's academic performance. A teaching Assistant or administration staff are not qualified as a recommender. It must be sent from the study abroad coordinator at your home university directly to sp3-admission@list.waseda.jp .

11. Official Transcript(s) from the Home Institution

The official transcript(s) must be sent directly by your home institution to sp3-admission@list.waseda.jp using an official school-domain email address.

Please also submit your home institution's grading scale together with the transcript(s).
Example: Grading Scale for the One-Year Program at SILS

- If your home institution does not have an official email domain, the official transcript(s) must be sent by post.
- If your home institution uses a digital credential service such as National Student Clearinghouse, Parchment Exchange, or My eQuals, please arrange for your transcript to be sent directly to sp3-admission@list.waseda.jp through the service.
- If an official transcript cannot be issued in the prescribed format, please submit an official certificate indicating the period of study, all subjects taken, grades, and credits earned. The certificate must bear the official seal of your home institution.
- If you are a transfer student, please submit an official transcript from your current home institution, not from your former institution.

II. Program Information for the SILS One-Year Study Abroad Program

Located in central Tokyo, the School of International Liberal Studies (SILS) is one of the Waseda University's undergraduate divisions, which was established in April 2004. In this school of approximately 3,000 students, classes are largely conducted in English by an international faculty, and up to one-third of its multicultural student body comes from outside of Japan. During their second year, most SILS students will participate in study abroad programs, adding a global perspective to their broad education in liberal arts and the modern world. In addition to this degree-seeking program, SILS offers a One-Year Study Abroad Program to international students. The participants in this program can take courses with the regular SILS students. This unique setting makes it well-suited for students from around the world, who are seeking to gain a better understanding of Japan through a wide and varied perspective, such as politics, journalism, art, education, literature, and industry.

1. Academic Calendar

The 2027–2028 academic calendar is subject to change without prior notice.

Fall Semester 2027	Academic Orientation	Mid-September, 2027
	Classes begin	October 1, 2027
	Winter Break	December 22, 2027 – January 5, 2028
	Classes end	February 2, 2028
Spring Semester 2028	Academic Orientation	Late March, 2028
	Classes begin	Mid-April, 2028
	Classes end	Late July/Early August, 2028

* Please kindly note that make-up lectures could still take place for previously cancelled classes after the regular class session ends.
https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/about/

2. Length of Study

The SILS One-Year Study Abroad Program has been designed with an emphasis on both general lecture courses and Japanese language study. We adopt a semester system. Fall is the first semester of the academic year, and the Spring semester marks the second.
Applicants entering the fall are encouraged to apply for the full-year program. Course registration is held each semester, and coursework is graded at the end of each semester based on attendance, class participation, papers, tests, and examinations.
To accommodate the needs of our international students, SILS offers two study options: One Academic Year and One Semester for applicants entering in the fall. Applicants entering in the spring may apply for the One-Semester Program only.

(1) Academic Year
Fall & Spring Semester (September 21, 2027 to September 15, 2028)

(2) Semester
Fall Semester (September 21, 2027 to March 15, 2028)
Spring Semester (April 1, 2028 to September 15, 2028)
** To be eligible for the Study Abroad Program, ALL applicants MUST be enrolled at their home university throughout the semester(s) stated in (2), not only during the Study Duration stated in (3).*

(3) Study Duration
Fall Semester (October 1, 2027 to February 2, 2028)
Spring Semester (Mid-April 2028 to Late-July/Early August 2028*) (TBA)
** Schedules are subject to change without advanced notice.*

The Study Duration chosen at the time of application **cannot be changed subsequently**, unless under unforeseen circumstances. Course registration and student orientations are held before the beginning of classes. Students are expected to arrive at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of the semester.

3. Curriculum and Course Registration

In principle, successful applicants are expected to be in Japan for the duration of their study.
For details on the curriculum and course registration requirements, please refer to the following document:
https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/assets/uploads/2026/03/SP3-course-requirements_2026-Spring.pdf

4. Syllabus

The syllabus will be provided at the beginning of each semester. Details on the class schedule, textbooks, and other readings, examinations, papers, and grading systems will be clearly indicated the syllabus.
Please note that the availability of the classes offered in Fall 2026/Spring 2027 is NOT guaranteed for Fall 2027/Spring 2028.

5. Assignments

The types of assignments vary depending on the course, so please refer to the syllabus for details.
Generally, students are given substantial reading assignments for each course to prepare for the class discussions. Papers are assigned along with examinations. They usually take place in the middle and/or the end of each semester.

6. Class Participation

In principle, there will be 14 classes held for 2-credit courses and 28 classes held for 4-credit courses at SILS; this includes days on which tests are scheduled. In principle, students must attend all classes and The School Regulations of Waseda University obligate students to attend at least 2/3 of the classes (This does not mean that you are excused for not attending 1/3 of the classes).
Students who are unable to attend classes or meet course requirements due to circumstances recognized by the University, such as bereavement, jury duty, infectious disease, or nursing experience and teaching practice, may request special academic consideration in accordance with the University's procedures. Please note that the final decision regarding the handling of absences and academic consideration rests with the course instructor.

7. Grade Announcement

Grades are released according to the schedule below.

Fall Semester 2027	Late February – Early March
Spring Semester 2028	Late August – Early September

The exact release date and further details will be announced on the website and via Waseda email.

* If you are concerned with the schedule of credit-transfer in your home institution, please consult directly with YOUR home school office.

8. Transcript

If you wish to order a transcript, please apply online. Further details will be provided by email before the end of the programme.

9. Immigration Procedures * IMPORTANT

Applicants of foreign nationality seeking to enter Japan and enroll in universities need to possess a valid passport and receive a valid visa. Upon visa application, an applicant is required to submit a "Certificate of Eligibility" together with his/her passport to a Japanese embassy or consulate in his/her country of residence. For foreign applicants, Waseda University acts as a proxy to obtain the Certificate of Eligibility from the Immigration Services Agency of the Ministry of Justice. Please note that in some cases, the Immigration Services Agency may require additional materials.

(1) Certificate of Eligibility

Japanese Immigration Control Law requires international students to obtain a proper student visa to study in Japan. The **Certificate of Eligibility** is the principal document necessary for visa application. The Immigration Services Agency will issue this certificate to the students through their admitted institution.
SILS will apply for the certificate at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau for all exchange students. It usually takes approximately one to three months for the Immigration Services Agency to issue the COE. Upon receipt from the Immigration Services Agency, SILS will send the certificate to individual independent students by email.
Please note that the Immigration Services Agency of Japan may reject the COE application depending on the content of the documents prepared by the applicant. When your application is rejected, you cannot join this Program. Waseda University shall not be held responsible for rejected application.

(2) Student Visa

The student should then submit the certificate, together with a complete application for a **Student Visa** and his/her passport, to the nearest Japanese Consulate. This can be done in person and usually the visa is granted within a few days after the application is received.

If the student enters Japan with a visa for purposes other than for study as a student (e.g., for business or sightseeing), he/she will be required to change the visa status to a student visa. In most cases, a student visa will be issued at a Japanese Consulate located in a country other than Japan. However, you must obtain the **Student Visa** before coming to Japan.

Admission to the One-Year/One-Semester Study Abroad Program at SILS ceases to be valid if, for any reason, a student does not arrive in Japan the day before classes begin. Upon arrival at the university, the students will be required to present to the SILS Office their travel documents such as passport, visa, etc.

Student Visa Application Procedures

The details will be announced after the submission of Online Application Form. Please note that international students are required to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE), which is a must when applying for your student visa and formal entry into Japan. If you are applying for Certificate of Eligibility through another institution in Japan, please notify us on submission. The Immigration Bureau will reject multiple COE applications from the same person through different institutions.

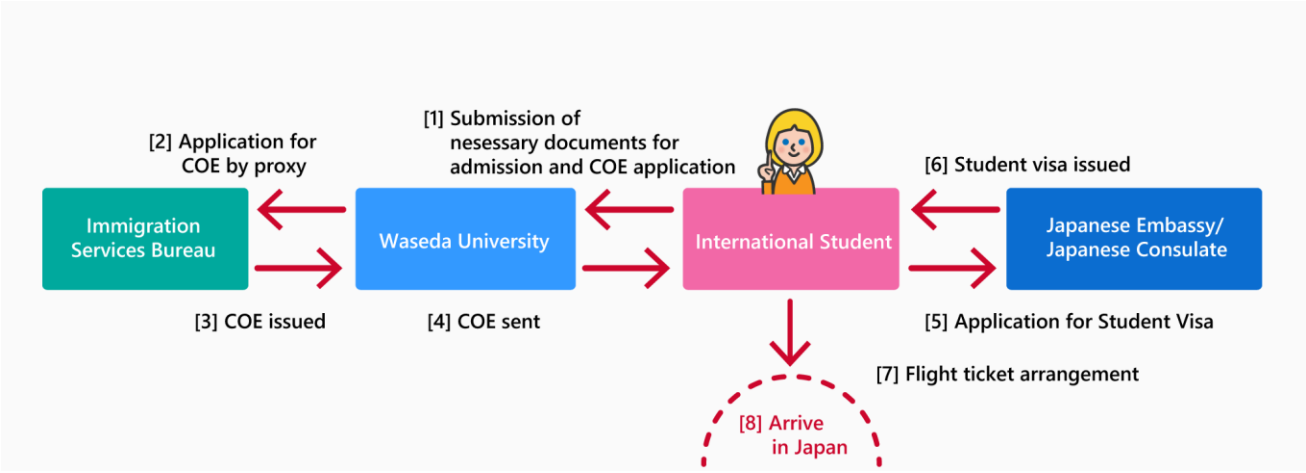
You will have to turn in either/both Bank Balance Certificate and/or Scholarship Certificate with total of at least 1,440,000 yen for One-Year Program, 720,000 yen for One-Semester Program. Certificates need to be official.

Since it takes time to issue such certificates, please kindly start preparing for the documents in advance.

In the event you plan to pay the tuition fee/ living expense in Japan by a scholarship, you will need to upload an official certificate of Scholarship in the Online COE Application Form which will be given after the completion of submitting application forms. Please prepare it in advance.

The Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is valid for three months from the date of issue. Please make sure to obtain your visa and enter Japan within the validity period of your COE.

[Sequence of Steps Involved in Obtaining a "Student" Visa]



For those who are already enrolled in an educational institution as a non-degree student

If you are currently enrolled in another educational institution in Japan as a non-degree student, please consult the Immigration Services Agency of Japan in advance, as this may affect your application for an extension of your period of stay.

III. Course Information

1. SILS Lecture Courses

SILS is a liberal arts school. We offer various lecture courses from the following seven clusters:

(1) Life, Environment, Matter and Information
(2) Philosophy, Religion and History
(3) Economy and Business
(4) Governance, Peace, Human Rights, and International Relations
(5) Communication
(6) Expression
(7) Culture, Mind and Body, and Community

The lecture courses are 2-credit or 4-credit classes. Students are required to take at least eight credits of lecture courses at the Intermediate / Advanced level in each semester. To learn more about the courses, please refer to the URL below.
https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/registration/
The maximum number of SILS lecture course credits allowed per semester is 14.
A 2-credit course meets once a week. A 4-credit course meets twice a week. One lesson is 100 minutes.

Formula to calculate the actual class time of SILS lecture courses:
2 credits = 100 minutes (1 class) x 14 weeks (1 semester) = 1400 minutes

One-Year Study Abroad Program students can take the Intermediate/ Advanced lecture courses ONLY.
Please note that the One Year/Semester Study Abroad Program Students are not permitted to take Introductory-level SILS lecture courses or any SILS seminar courses, regardless of the reason. Please also note that, in accordance with the Student visa requirements, students holding a Student visa are required to register for courses totaling at least 10 hours (600 minutes) of class time per week.
https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/registration/

* This is for your reference only. Courses are subject to change without notice. There is *NO guarantee* that the classes listed above will be offered in the new academic year.
* The course list for the Fall semester will be updated in the beginning of September and in mid-March for the Spring semester.

2. Japanese Language Courses

Prior Japanese language learning experience is not required. However, students are encouraged to acquire basic knowledge of Japanese, including hiragana and katakana, before arrival. The exchange student is **strongly encouraged, but not required** to earn 6 Japanese language credits each semester.
Please kindly note that the Japanese language courses are taught in the direct method. Students may experience difficulties if he/she has no knowledge of the Japanese language. Also, due to the limited number of beginner's courses, there is a higher risk of being over-enrolled in case you have no knowledge of Japanese language.

As the courses are taught in the direct method, i.e., the language of instruction for Japanese language courses is Japanese. Since the number of courses for beginner level is extremely limited, we strongly recommend knowing at least "hiragana" and "katakana" to avoid over-enrollment.
https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/en/
** Guidebook & Syllabus will be updated right before each semester.*

Before the course registration, students who would like to take the Japanese language courses at Level 2 or above are required to take a Japanese placement test designated by Waseda University to know which level of Japanese course you are recommended to register. (Level 1 to 8). Students are strongly recommended to take six credits of Japanese language courses each semester. The maximum number of Japanese language credits is 7.

Formula to calculate the actual class time of Japanese Language courses:
1 credit = 100 minutes (1 class) x 14 weeks (1 semester) = 1400 minutes

3. Other Foreign Language (OFL) Courses Offered by SILS

Students are allowed to take "Other Foreign Language" (OFL) courses offered by SILS if there are vacancies. Please kindly note that SILS regular students have priority taking OFL courses in order to fulfill the requirement for graduation. Students will not be able to register once the class is fully enrolled. Please also note that many OFL courses are taught in Japanese, some are taught in English or in the direct method.

OFL credits are not included in the minimum required number of credits, but they are included in the maximum.

4. University-wide Open Courses

University-wide Open Courses are offered by various schools and institutions at Waseda University and are open to all Waseda students. There are two categories: a) University-wide Open Courses offered by the Global Education Center (GEC) and b) University-wide Open Courses offered by other faculties/schools.

* One-Year Study Abroad Program students will not be able to take summer courses, courses conducted overseas, and courses offered by other universities.

i) University-wide Open Courses Offered by Global Education Center (GEC)

Almost all the courses are taught in Japanese. These courses are designed for the average Japanese college students. The same level of Japanese language proficiency is required. Taking these classes is a good way for advanced students to develop their Japanese language ability**.**

ii) University-wide Open Courses Offered by Other Faculties/Schools

Most of the courses in this category are taught in Japanese. Only a limited number of courses are offered in English. University-wide Open Course credits are not included in the minimum required number of credits, but they are included in the maximum.

= Precautions for Course Registration =

(1) SILS Lecture Courses

- Course registration generally begins after the program starts. As the course list for your study period has not yet been published, please refer to the course lists from previous academic years on the webpage below for reference. https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/registration/
- All students are required to complete course registration within the designated registration period.
- Due to course capacity limitations, not all students, including regular (degree-seeking) students, can be guaranteed a place in their desired courses. We cannot guarantee that students will be able to fulfill the number of credits required by their home university.
- When planning your courses, please carefully check the online syllabus for course requirements, language of instruction, and other relevant information.
- Exchange students are expected to take 8 SILS courses. To meet the requirements for a Student Visa, students must take courses totaling at least 10 hours per week (approximately 6 courses), unless otherwise specified. Please also refer to the below requirements for details.
  https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/assets/uploads/2026/09/Course-requirements_2026Fall.pdf
- Some courses specifically designed for degree-seeking students, such as Introductory level SILS lecture courses and SILS seminar courses (ALL levels) are NOT open to the exchange students.
- A computer-based lottery will take place should the number of applicants exceed the capacity of the course. Please note that courses that have reached capacity cannot be registered for during subsequent course registration periods.
- If you wish to drop a course, you must complete the required withdrawal procedure within the designated period. Course withdrawals will not be permitted after the course registration period for any reason.
- Waseda University does not use the ECTS system. For questions regarding credit transfer or recognition at your home university, please contact your home university directly.
- For further details regarding course registration, please refer to the below web page.
  https://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/registration/

(2) Other Courses

- Waseda University sets the Japanese language proficiency level on a scale of 1 to 7 based on the CJL Level Check Test score. Please refer to the below for details of the CJL Level Check Test and check your level.
  https://www.waseda.jp/inst/cjl/en/students/registration/placementtest/
- The maximum number of credits students may earn for CJL courses is 7 per semester.
- University-wide open courses include courses offered by Center for Japanese Language (CJL), Global Education Center (GEC) and Center for International Education (CIE). Also a few courses offered by each school are open to the entire university (subject to capacity).
- If the number of applicants exceeds the course capacity, registration will be determined by lottery. Lotteries are not uncommon, and students may not be able to register for their preferred courses.

V. Pre-Arrival Information

1. Health Insurance

Medical costs are high in Japan. International students on the One-Year Study Abroad Program at SILS are expected to have medical insurance to cover the entire period of their stay in Japan. Even if students have a medical insurance plan in their home country, they must apply for the National Health Insurance, a Japanese Government Plan (*Kokumin Kenko Hoken*), at the nearest district or municipal office of their place of residence.

The insurance premium differs depending on the ward/district where you live. International students of temporary residence may declare they have no income from the previous year (earned in Japan) and apply for a 50 - 70% discount in health insurance payment (*Gengaku Shinsei*, specific to the Tokyo Metropolitan Office). Please ask the national health insurance representative of the local public office if the discount applies in your ward/ district. By taking advantage of this discount application, students will have less financial burden and the payment should only be around a few thousand yen per month.

2. Housing

Waseda University has three university dormitories for exchange students near the Waseda Campus. However, due to the significant increase in the number of exchange students from university-wide exchange partner institutions, university dormitory accommodation is currently available only to students from those institutions. Therefore, SILS is unable to offer university dormitory accommodation to students from non-partner institutions.

SILS provides information on alternative housing options, including accommodation offered by affiliated companies. Please carefully review the options below and, once you receive your acceptance notification, contact the operator of your preferred accommodation directly for further information and application procedures.

Housing Options

a. Share House & Apartment (Waseda University Student Housing Center)
https://waseda-housingsupport.com/?pos=slink

b. Waseda University Affiliated Dormitories: WID (Waseda International Dormitories) and Dormy (recommended dormitories for Waseda University students)

* These are not on-campus dormitories. The affiliated dorms are operated by “Kyoritsu Maintenance Co. Ltd”. WID is open to Waseda University students only. In Dormy you may live with students from other universities.
https://wasedalife.com/en/

c. Homestay (Waseda University Academic Solutions Corporation)
https://www.w-as.jp/international/homestay/english.html

d. Find accommodation on your own.

3. Extra-Curricular Activities

The One-Year Study Abroad Program at SILS and Waseda University provide many opportunities for extra-curricular activities throughout the academic year. These activities will help the student gain better understanding of Japan and its social norms.

Examples

- Volunteer Activities *available at SILS and the Waseda Volunteer Center (WAVOC)
  <URL> https://www.waseda.jp/inst/wavoc/en/
- The Intercultural Communication Center (ICC) * hosts a wide range of cultural exchange events for students
  <URL> https://www.waseda.jp/inst/icc/en/
- Student Clubs and Circles
  <URL> https://www.waseda.jp/inst/weekly/circleguide/

4. Estimated Living Expenses

Please refer to the following URL for information on living costs and expenses.
https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/life/cost-of-living/

VI. Contact Information

For more information, please refer to the following URL.
Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the SILS Office.

School of International Liberal Studies (SILS)
Waseda University
One-Year Study Abroad Program

E-mail: sp3-admission@list.waseda.jp
URL: http://www.waseda.jp/fire/sils/en/oneyear/
Monday to Friday
10:00 - 16:00 (Japan Standard Time)

* We are closed on Saturday, Sunday, and days specified by the university and most national holidays.