国際教養大学
Akita International University

AIU Student Exchange Fact Sheet

Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026

As of June, 2025

Full Legal Name of the Institution	**Akita International University**
Mailing Address	Center for International Affairs Akita International University 193-2 Aza-Okutsubakidai, Tsubakigawa, Yuwa, Akita 010-1211 Japan TEL: +81-18-886-5936, 5937
Website	https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/

Akita International University (AIU) at a Glance

Programs	Faculty of International Liberal Arts Global Business Program / Global Studies Program/ Global Connectivity Program /Japanese Language Program / Japan Studies Program
Language of Instruction	**English** (except for language courses, and a few courses in the Japan Studies Courses for international students with advanced Japanese language skills)
Average Class Size	Approx. **15 students per class**
No. of Short-Term International Students	Non-Degree-seeking International Students: - **157** (from 31 countries and regions) in Fall 2024 - **160** (from 34 countries and regions) in Spring 2025
Partner Institutions	**208** in 52 countries and regions
Quick Facts	https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/about/quick-facts/

Center for International Affairs

Director	*Ms. Mika Ito* (EMAIL: mito@aiu.ac.jp)
International Collaboration Officer (Agreements, Faculty Collaboration, Erasmus+ Mobility)	*Mr. Travis Senzaki* (EMAIL: ico@aiu.ac.jp)
Inbound Exchange Team (Students coming to AIU)	*Ms. Naoko Kawamura, Ms. Terumi Asakura, Ms. Hatsumi Sato, Ms. Shoko Makishi* (EMAIL: international@gl.aiu.ac.jp)
Outbound Exchange Team (AIU Students going overseas)	*Ms. Miyuki Kimura, Ms. Chelsea Takahashi, Ms. Yukie Yamamoto, Ms. Junko Takahashi* (EMAIL: studyabroad@gl.aiu.ac.jp)

Important Dates

*Application Timeline: https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/application-timeline/

*Academic Calendar: https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/course/#academics_calendar_courses

Fall Semester 2025

Nomination Period*	**Feb 1 - Feb 20**, 2025
Application Period	**Feb 1 - Apr 1**, 2025
Arrival Date	**Aug 25**, 2025 (Orientation: Aug 25 - 30, 2025)
Semester Dates	**Sep 2 - Dec 23**, 2025 (Final Exam: Dec 17 - 23, 2025) **Winter Program 2026:** **Jan 5 - Mar 4**, 2026 (Final Exam: Feb 26 - Mar 4, 2026) "Winter Program" is an OPTIONAL, intensive study period available for students enrolled in the fall semester. There is no tuition charge and it does not count in the exchange balance.

Spring Semester 2026

Nomination Period*	**Sep 1 - Sep 20**, 2025
Application Period	**Sep 1 - Nov 1,** 2025
Arrival Date	**April 1**, 2026
Semester Dates	**April 9 - July 29**, 2026 (Final Exam: July 23 - 29, 2026)

Fall Semester 2026

Nomination Period*	**Feb 1 - Feb 20**, 2026
Application Period	**Feb 1 - Apr 1**, 2026
Arrival Date	**Aug 25**, 2026 (Orientation: Aug 25 - 31, 2026)
Semester Dates	**Sep 2 - Dec 23**, 2026 (Final Exam: Dec 17 - 23, 2026) **Winter Program 2027:** **Jan 5 - Mar 4**, 2027 (Final Exam: Feb 26 - Mar 4, 2027) "Winter Program" is an OPTIONAL, intensive study period available for students enrolled in the fall semester. There is no tuition charge and it does not count in the exchange balance.

***Nomination Period**: We understand that some of our partners may not complete their student selection process by the nomination deadlines. In that case, please inform us of the expected number of nominees and the expected nomination submission date by the nomination deadline and we will secure spaces for your students.

Application Procedure

Eligibility	Students who wish to study at AIU for one or two semesters must meet all of the requirements (**Enrollment Status**, **GPA**, **English Proficiency**) listed on the following webpage. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/eligibility/ [Note of Caution about Enrollment Status] Students must have completed at least two semesters at their home university (with grades shown on the submitted official academic transcript) by the application deadline. **Students in a 3-year program, a Master's program, and/or transfer students, please refer to our Eligibility page for requirements. If there is any uncertainty regarding a student's eligibility, the home university must contact us BEFORE submitting the nomination.*
How to Apply	Our application procedure consists of three steps: **Step 1: Online Nomination Form** *submitted by students' home institutions. **Step 2: Online Application Form** *submitted by nominated students. **Step 3: Application Documents Submission** by Email. Application information is available at the following webpage: https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/how-to-apply/
[Step 1] Online Nomination Form	Home institutions submit the **Online Nomination Form** to AIU during the nomination period. AIU will then send students and their home institution a username and password for each student to access our Online Application Portal. For more information, please refer to the following webpage. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/how-to-apply/#nomination
[Step 2] Online Application Form	After receiving their username and password, students will complete the AIU Online Application Form in the Online Application Portal. For more information, please refer to the following webpage. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/how-to-apply/#application
[Step 3] Application Documents Submission	After completing the Online Application Form, please scan all application documents and email them to international@gl.aiu.ac.jp. When submitting your application documents, please: ● Scan each document as its own separate file (do not send all the documents together as one data file). ● Attach the files directly to the email (do not share a link to your documents). ● Send all files in a single email. ● Use a computer instead of a smartphone or tablet when sending files, as mobile devices may not allow you to attach all files in a single email due to file size limitations. ● All documents must be in English. Required documents are available at the following webpage: https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/how-to-apply/#documents

Academic Information

Courses Offered to International Students	**All subject matter courses are taught in English and are available to international students.** *International students may NOT enroll in preparatory English language courses or certain courses that are required for and restricted to degree-seeking students only. Be sure to check the restrictions indicated in the Course Offerings available at the following link. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/course/
Course Registration	All new students register for courses after arrival at AIU. Please note that the course list students submit in their application forms is for our screening committee's reference, NOT for official course registration.
Tips on Course Selection	- We strongly recommend students to obtain approval for as many alternatives as possible prior to arriving at AIU, in case they cannot get into their first-choice approved courses. - Our class sizes are small in order to ensure maximum interaction, so the capacity of each course is limited. Please understand there is a chance students will not be able to get into their first-choice courses. Seats for courses that exceed capacity are determined by lottery and a waiting list system. - Students are NOT able to register for courses which overlap in the timetable. Course Offerings, Class Schedules, and Syllabi are updated in early June (for Fall semester) and in mid October (for Spring semester). If any further slight changes occur, these will be updated again in late August (for Fall semester) and in late March (for Spring semester). Please be sure to check the latest information on Class Schedules before course registration.
Attendance Policy	AIU's education model emphasizes student interaction in the classroom including group and pair work activities, so **attendance is mandatory**. Each instructor sets their own attendance policy and in some classes, a certain number of absences can result in an automatic failing grade.
Academic Transcript	An official academic transcript will be sent to the international office of the student's home institution by the Division of Student Records **within 2-3 weeks** after the end of final exams.
Grading System	https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/course/grading/
Credit System	**Number of Credits Required for Undergraduate Degree** **124 credits** **Standard Number of Credits per Semester (Undergraduate)** **15 credits** (most courses are 3 credits so students can expect to take 5 courses per semester) **Minimum / Maximum Credits per Semester** **12 credits*** (min.) / **18 credits** (max.) **Required by Japanese Immigration Law* **Class Hours** One class hour is **50 minutes**. (Students are expected to study on their own for two hours per every one class hour, working on preparation, research assignments or homework.) **Calculation of one credit** ● One credit for a lecture class requires **15 class hours** per semester ● One credit for an experimental, laboratory or an activity course requires **30 class hours** per semester ● One credit for a seminar requires **15-30 class hours** per semester

Housing and Dining Information

Guaranteed On-campus Housing	All international students are required to live in **guaranteed on-campus housing**. Over 80% of all AIU students live on our residential campus, and living here gives you easy access to student clubs and circles, campus events, and many kinds of community interaction opportunities.
Homestay	Not available
Housing Options	https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/housing/#details *Note regarding Komachi Hall: Students will share a room with first-year degree-seeking AIU students in Komachi Hall. The housing rules (Quiet Hours, no drinking, etc.) differ from other AIU residences.
Housing Fees	https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/housing/#rentandfees
Meal Fees	https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/dining/

Financial Matters

Cost of Living

https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/cost-of-living/

Payment Schedule

	Billing Date	Payment Date
Fall Semester	**July 1**	**July 31**
Winter Program	**Early December**	mid to late **December**
Spring Semester	**February 1**	**February 28**

* Invoices will be available in students' Online Application Portal.

*The full amount needs to be paid to the AIU bank account by wire transfer.

Money Matters

Cash

Bring enough cash to cover your **first 5 - 6 weeks** in Japan and be sure to exchange currency to Japanese Yen before arriving in Akita. There is NO currency exchange place at Akita Airport, JR Akita Station, on campus or nearby the campus.

- It will take a few weeks to open a bank account to become able to receive international wire transfers.

Credit Cards

- Students are strongly recommended to bring a valid credit card to Japan (Visa, MasterCard, Diner's Club, American Express).
- Many major banks, hotels, restaurants, etc. accept credit cards, but the majority of local retailers, restaurants, etc. do not accept credit cards.
- Students should verify that their credit card contracts allow them to use their cards in Japan before arrival.

Arrival Information

Access to the University	The AIU campus is approximately a **10-minute** drive from Akita Airport and a **30-minute** drive from the JR Akita Train station. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/access/
Arrival Date and Time	All students must arrive on campus during the designated date and times (no exceptions) in order to complete necessary paperwork related to residence registration, mandatory insurances, etc. that will need to be done on the date of arrival. If students cannot find a flight that arrives in Akita during that time, they must arrive the night before and come to campus during the designated date and time. Accepted students will be informed of the designated date and times of arrival at the time of the application results announcement.
Pick-up Service	As public transportation is very limited in Akita, we ask that students use AIU's free pick-up bus service from Akita Airport or JR Akita Train Station at the designated times on the arrival date. For more information, please refer to the following webpage. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/transportation-and-hotel/
Things to Know About Living at AIU, in Akita and Japan	There are a few things that may surprise international students upon arriving in Japan, Akita, and AIU. Please familiarize yourself with the rules, etiquette, and daily life in Akita and at AIU to be well-prepared. For more details, please refer to the following webpage. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/living/

Visa Information

Student Visa Application Procedure	It is the student's responsibility to enter Japan with the appropriate Student Visa to start their studies at AIU. Students must be familiar with the information described in the webpage below: https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/visa/
Work Permit	International students may engage in part time work after obtaining a work permit **at their airport of arrival**. Instructions for applying for a **work permit** will be provided by email at least one month before the semester begins. Please also refer to the webpage: https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/permit/

Medical Preparation

Medical Information Form	All admitted students are required to submit a completed Medical Information Form, which is available in their Online Application Portal after acceptance. The Medical Information Form consists of three parts. Part I is to be completed online by students. After completing the online part (Part I), they must bring Part I and Part II to their physician who understands their mental and physical condition for completion, have their parent, guardian, or next-of-kin complete Part III, then submit ALL THREE PARTS TOGETHER by email. Students and their home university coordinator are asked to go over the Medical Information Form together before submission. Home universities should also know about any conditions students have so that we can work together to provide support in case of an emergency.
Support on AIU Campus	**"Health and Medical Care Room", "Counseling Room"** There is a "Health and Medical Care Room" and a "Counseling Room" on campus. Please note that there is no medical doctor stationed on campus. For more information, please refer to the following webpage. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/health/ **"Reasonable Accommodations"** If students require any Academic and/or Physical Support (such as housing considerations) while at AIU, applications must be submitted by the specified deadline. For more information, please refer to the following webpage https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/campuslife/support/ or contact the Study Support and Student Wellbeing Coordinator (studentwellbeing@gl.aiu.ac.jp).
Bringing Medications	Students who intend to bring medications or continue using medications in Japan should prepare to bring all required medicines with them, as it may be difficult or impossible to acquire the same medicines in Japan. However, it is illegal to bring some prescription and over-the-counter medicines commonly used in the United States or other countries to Japan, including certain inhalers and certain allergy and sinus medications. For more information on how to bring medications to Japan, please refer to the following webpage. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/health-and-medical-care/
Hospitals and Clinics Situation in Akita	There is little medical support available in English at clinics and hospitals in Akita. Students must ensure that they can access any necessary ongoing medical services during their stay in Akita prior to traveling to Japan. In general AIU does not provide hospital escort or interpretation services. Please refer to the following webpage for some common misconceptions regarding medical preparation. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/health-and-medical-care/
Overseas Travel Insurance	International students are required to purchase overseas travel insurance before departure. Please read the detailed information on the following web page: http://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/semester-year-programs/insurance/

Special Programs

AIU's Special Program participants experience unique aspects of Japanese language and culture, enhancing their understanding of Japan with coursework not available anywhere else.

Summer Program	A six-week intensive Japanese language course for absolute beginner to beginner level students. The program also offers Japanese cultural experiences and field trips to famous destinations in Akita. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/summer-program/
Japanese Language and Cultural Immersion Program: Advanced (J-CIP:A)	A six-week advanced Japanese language and rural Japanese studies course taught entirely in Japanese. Program participants also participate in the set-up and execution of a winter festival. Developed with The Australian National University under the Top Global University Project. https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/short-term/special-programs/japanese-language-and-cultural-immersion-program-advanced-j-cipa/