

J.D. Spring Semester Abroad Program in Japan

For over 28 years, Temple University's international law program in Japan has offered law students a unique opportunity to study in Tokyo for an entire spring semester. The law program in Japan is designed to educate the next generation of lawyers to practice in the global marketplace and to provide aspiring lawyers with the opportunity to become intimately familiar with the international practice of law and legal community. The program also provides participants with an invaluable chance to experience Asia and an opportunity to become distinguished in a competitive legal market.

Global Legal Education

- Attend the only full-time J.D. semester abroad program in Japan accredited by the American Bar Association.
- Study an international law and business law curriculum.
- Take practical law courses taught by international lawyers.
- Interact closely with professors and classmates from diverse careers and cultural backgrounds.
- Take advantage of legal internship opportunities to gain hands-on experience in international law practice.
- Visit Japanese legal institutions, such as Fuchu Prison and the Supreme Court of Japan.
- Explore Tokyo, other parts of Japan, and other Asian countries.

Highly Rated Law School

Temple is a recognized leader in global legal education. Our law school consistently ranks among the top U.S. law schools in practical areas such as trial advocacy, legal research and writing, and international programs. Notably, Temple's overall ranking is No. 53, and the international programs rank No. 16 among all U.S. law schools.

Accreditation

Temple University School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) and is a member of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS). The semester abroad program in Japan is accredited by the ABA. Temple University Japan is designated as a foreign university under Japanese law.

Student Eligibility

The law program in Japan is open to 2L – 4E students in good academic and disciplinary standing at an ABA-accredited law school. About half of our J.D. students typically come from Temple; the remaining 50% come from other law schools. J.D. students also study with LL.M. and Certificate students coming from Japan and other countries, including China, South Korea, France, Switzerland, Brazil, United States, and Canada among many countries.

TEMPLE
UNIVERSITY
BEASLEY SCHOOL
OF LAW

*OVER 28 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
EDUCATING LAWYERS FOR REAL
WORLD INTERNATIONAL LAW
PRACTICE*



Visiting Students

Students from other law schools who expect to apply credits completed in Japan toward their home institution's J.D. degree are urged to confirm in advance that the course work will be accepted by their home institutions. Many ABA-accredited law schools readily accept Temple credits toward their J.D. degree. If any questions or concerns arise about the transfer of credit, Temple will be happy to discuss them with the student or their law school administration.

The law program in Japan is also open to post-J.D. students pursuing Temple's LL.M. in Transnational Law, which may be completed partially or entirely in Tokyo. Students who participate in the law program in Japan and receive admission to the LL.M. in Transnational Law program prior to graduation may apply a portion of their credit hours of international course work from their Japan studies towards the LL.M. degree. J.D. students who graduate from Temple Law School may apply up to 12 approved credit hours, while J.D. students who graduate from other law schools may apply up to 6 approved credit hours towards the Transnational LL.M. degree.

J.D. students who are interested in extending their study abroad at Temple Law Japan, with an approval from their law schools, may participate in our non-degree, 12-credit certificate program in the fall semester immediately before or the summer semester following the spring semester abroad with us. Temple Law Japan offers two certificate programs: The Certificate in U.S. Law and the Certificate in International Law.



Admissions

Applicants must have completed their first year of full-time legal studies or the equivalent (2L – 4E) and be in good academic and disciplinary standing at an ABA-accredited law school. Admissions are made on a rolling basis. Students are encouraged to apply early.



Apply Online: <http://lawgradintl.temple.edu>.

Spring 2023 Application Deadline: **October 15**.

Applicants must submit:

1. A completed application form
2. A resume
3. An official law school transcript sealed in an envelope issued by the applicant's law school. (Temple students exempted.)
4. A letter from the applicant's law school indicating the applicant's academic and disciplinary good standing. (Temple students exempted.)
5. A \$50 non-refundable application fee. (Temple students exempted.)

**The transcript and letter of good standing must be submitted by mail to:

Graduate and International Programs at Temple Law School in Philadelphia.

Address: 1719 N. Broad Street, Room 710, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Phone: (215) 204-1448

Student Visa

All non-Japanese students who intend to participate in our spring semester abroad program in Japan and who do not have a residence, diplomatic, dependent, or spousal visa must have a valid passport and acquire a Japanese Student Visa through Temple University, Japan Campus (TUJ). The Japan program will provide all program applicants with visa application instructions and support. **The deadline for visa applications is October 31. Please fill out the visa application form on the Japan Study Abroad online application site and upload all other required documents, the earlier the better.**

[Visa Application Portal](#)

Academic Calendar & Scheduling

Temple runs all its programs based on the U.S. academic calendar. There are three semesters per academic year, and each course lasts one semester. The academic calendar is usually as follows:

- Fall semester:** 13 weeks from September to December (exams in early-December)
- Spring semester:** 13 weeks from January to April (exams in late April)
- Summer semester:** 11 weeks from May to July (exams in early August)

Academic Calendar Spring 2023

- Friday, January 13 – Friday, April 28
- Mandatory Orientation: Friday, January 13
- First Day of Classes: Monday, January 16
- Spring Break: Monday, March 6 – Saturday, March 11
- Last Day of Classes: Friday, April 21
- Final Exams: Monday, April 24 – Friday, April 28



Course Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to provide students with practical knowledge of international law and business law. Below are the tentative course offerings to J.D. students for spring 2023.

Spring 2023 Courses

- Advising Multinational Companies on Global Legal Issues (2 cr.)
- East-West Negotiations (3 cr.) (meets skills requirement)
- Global Citizenship Writing Seminar (3 cr.) (meets writing or research requirement)
- Immigration Law (3 cr.)
- International Commercial Arbitration and Mediation (2 cr.)
- International Contract Drafting (3 cr.) (meets skills requirement)
- Introduction to Japanese Law (3 cr.)
- Professional Responsibility (3 cr.)
- Guided Research (2 or 3 cr.) (meets writing or research requirement)

Non-Credit Courses

- U.S. Bar Exam Study Course (no additional cost to 3L-4E J.D. students)
- Japanese Language and Cultural Activity Course (spring only, \$300 fee)

U.S. law courses or Bar exam related courses

- Immigration Law
- Professional Responsibility (3 cr.)
- U.S. Bar Exam Study Course (non-credit)

Practical or Skills related Courses

- East/West Negotiations (3 cr.)
- International Contract Drafting (3 cr.)

International & Comparative Courses

- Advising Multinational Companies on Global Legal Issues (2 cr.)
- Global Citizenship (3 cr.)
- International Commercial Arbitration and Mediation (2 cr.)
- Introduction to Japanese Law (3 cr.)

Writing and Research Courses

- Global Citizenship (3 cr.)
- Guided Research (1-3 cr.)

Class Schedule

Courses at our Japan campus are offered mainly once a week on weekdays, 6:45 pm – 9:30 pm. This schedule is to accommodate the majority of our local students who are working professionals, and it also allows J.D. students to intern or work during the daytime. We offer some daytime and Saturday classes as well. For more information and to see an example of our course offerings: <https://www.tuj.ac.jp/law/academics/schedules>

Tuition & Costs

Students are billed for tuition and fees before departing. These costs are paid in dollars to Temple University in Philadelphia. Students paying full-time tuition may take up to 15 credits. Students taking fewer than 10 credits pay on a per-credit basis. Non-credit Japanese language class with cultural activities, which will not appear on the student's transcript, may be taken for an additional \$300. A \$200 non-refundable seat deposit is required by the October 15 deadline, and will be applied toward tuition. Tuition is not refundable after the first week of classes.

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST \$27,997

(includes personal expenses, tuition and program fees, and the optional Japanese language course fee, and subject to approval by the Temple University Board of Trustees)

Regular Tuition: \$12,938

Student Activities Fee: \$336

Estimated Budget for Personal Expenses

Expense Category	Budget
Housing & Utilities	\$5,855*
Food/Personal Expenses	\$5,855
Airfare	\$1,400**
Books & Supplies	\$900
Daily Commuting	\$364
Japanese National Health Insurance (mandatory)	\$47
Total	\$14,421

Optional Japanese language and cultural activity course: \$300

Rate: 110 yen = one U.S. dollar

* Based on the cost for four months of an average studio apartment near the University. Students can find more affordable housing – studio apartments, shared housing, and “guest houses” – outside central Tokyo, but daily commuting costs and traveling time will increase.

** We have been using \$1,400 because the average commercial airline ticket cost about that amount in the past years. However, airfares are fluctuating due to the current travel restrictions and fewer passenger flights available.

Financial needs will vary depending on the student's spending habits. The projected budget above, while not extravagant, is designed to permit students to obtain a financial aid package they might reasonably need while studying in Tokyo. The figure for each category of expense is the most that we estimate students will need to spend on that category.

Financial Aid

Temple Law Students

If you are eligible for financial aid, you may use this aid and existing scholarships for the Japan study abroad program. In applying for aid, use the projected “Financial Aid Program Budget” for the J.D. Semester-Abroad Program, which you can find at http://www.law.temple.edu/study_abroad/japan.

Non-Temple Law Students

If you are a student from a law school other than Temple who is earning credit toward a degree, you can apply your financial aid through a consortium agreement with your home institution. Some existing scholarships may also apply. In order to complete your financial aid paperwork on time, submit your application for admission to the program as early as possible in the fall semester. After being admitted to the Program, you should contact your school’s Financial Aid Office, and then contact Temple’s Financial Aid Office, by phone at (215) 204-8943 or via e-mail at lwfinaid@temple.edu, to facilitate the process.

Cancellations

Cancellation or Withdrawal Before the Program Commences

If Temple cancels the program before it begins, we will immediately notify admitted students by email and post a cancellation notice on the Temple Law website. We may cancel the program in the unlikely event that too few students enroll or if other issues arise. The decision to cancel will be in Temple’s sole discretion. Events that could necessitate cancellation include, but are not limited to pandemic, natural disaster, act of terror, war or civil unrest, or restrictions on travel issued because of COVID-19 or for another reason, or because of any serious security concerns affecting travel to the program or safety at the program. If Temple cancels the program before it begins, all tuition advanced to Temple will be returned to the student as soon as practicable.

Students who voluntarily drop all their courses on or before the first day of classes will be issued a 100% tuition refund; however, students may be responsible for various fees and costs associated with travel, orientation, or other non-refundable program, travel, and housing fees and costs.

Cancellation or Withdrawal during the Program

If Temple cancels the program after the program begins, Temple will notify all participating students by email. No refund will be issued if the students are able to complete the courses online or by other alternative delivery method such that they can receive academic credit. If Temple cancels the program and does not offer an alternative delivery method to complete the remaining coursework, students may be eligible for a partial, prorated refund. Likewise, if Temple cancels or reschedules a particular course, registered students may be eligible for a partial, prorated refund corresponding to any curricular change in the event students are unable to receive the same or similar academic credit for the curricular change.

If a student voluntarily withdraws from the program or an individual course after the first day of classes, or if a student is administratively withdrawn due to attendance or disciplinary issues, the student will not qualify for any refund, except as provided by the university’s policies related to medical and excused withdrawals.

PLEASE NOTE: Temple will not be responsible for any costs you may incur, including housing, airfare and any cancellation or change fees, in the event the program is rescheduled, modified, or canceled by Temple.

Housing



Temple University, Japan Campus does not provide student housing for law students. However, the Japan program will provide, during the fall Semester before departing to Japan, information on how to search for housing including a list of English-speaking housing services. In the past, students have found their own housing fairly easily after arriving in Japan (or before arriving) through such housing services. For students who stay in Japan less than one year, a monthly-based furnished apartment or a share house will be the most convenient housing option.

Internships/Part-Time Employment/Mentorship Program



Upon application to and approval by the Immigration Office here in Tokyo, students may work in Japan on a student visa in a legal or non-legal (English teaching, business, etc.) position. The law program offers an internship program, and J.D. students who wish to obtain a spring internship may apply for paid or unpaid internship positions through the program. We set up interviews with law firms, corporations, and non-profit or non-governmental organizations. In past years, students attending the Japan program obtained some type of internship (either paid or unpaid); however, hiring decisions are fully up to the employers and internships are not guaranteed. We also offer professional development opportunities for students to network with legal professionals in Tokyo, attend job talks and presentations by legal recruiters, and participate *TUJ Law's Connect Mentorship Program*, which pairs students with program alumni.

Extracurricular Activities

Spending a full semester abroad gives you time to explore Tokyo and the rest of Japan. In addition to a challenging academic experience, each year students participate in many extracurricular activities. Field trips are an integral part of the Law Program and reinforce the international law experience. In past years, the Law Program planned visits and activities:

- Welcome student and faculty mixer
- Career talks and business seminars/conferences
- Visits to legal institutions
- Cultural activities
- Local neighborhood or hiking tours
- End of semester party



Connect with us!

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