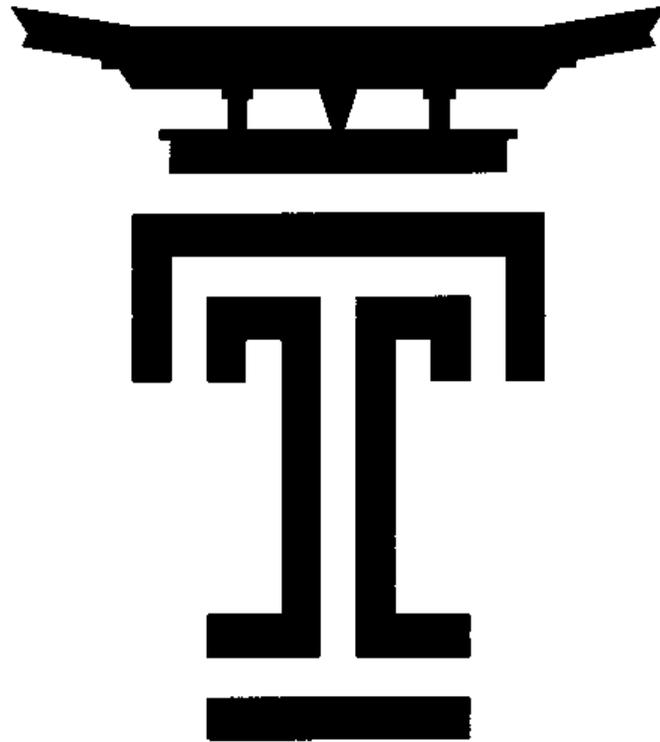


# TEMPLE LAW JAPAN



## PROGRAM MANUAL SPRING 2016



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## PREFACE

Dear Temple Japan Student,

We have attempted to make this orientation manual as comprehensive and up-to-date as possible. *Please read it carefully, and take it with you to Tokyo so that you can refer to it as needed.* You will receive detailed information on housing and course registration in a separate mailing. Information about the operation of the school, trips, recommended shops, restaurants, movie theatres, etc., will be given to you during the orientation session in Japan on January 9.

Please also check the following website for updates and further information:

- [www.law.temple.edu](http://www.law.temple.edu); select “Current Students”, and then “Tokyo” from the Study Abroad Program list. If some documents do not load properly, try clicking the Word icon to load it in Word format.

We recommend that you leave an additional copy of this manual with parents or family as it provides valuable information including, for instance, how to contact you at school, wire money, and send things, and it answers frequently asked questions that may concern your family.

Additional copies of this booklet will be sent to you upon request.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Temple University Beasley School of Law  
International Programs Office  
1719 N. Broad Street, Room 710  
Philadelphia, PA 19122 USA  
Tel: (215) 204-1448  
Fax: (215) 204-2282  
intl@law.temple.edu**

The address for the program in Japan is

**Temple University School of Law Japan Campus  
4-1-27 Mita, Minato-ku  
Tokyo 108-0073  
Japan  
Tel: 011-81-3-5441-9841  
Fax: 011-81-3-5765-2517**

**<http://www.tuj.ac.jp/law/index.html>  
tujlaw@tuj.temple.edu**

# **PREPARING FOR A SEMESTER IN JAPAN**

## **Handbook for Temple University Beasley School of Law, Spring Semester Abroad in Japan**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

This manual will assist you in preparing for a semester at Temple University Japan (TUJ). It highlights some of the important aspects of the pre-departure process and should aid you in assimilating into Japanese culture. As with all handbooks, it cannot cover everything. However, we do believe that this guide provides an overview that will help you not only before you leave the United States, but also during your stay in Japan.

Before going to Japan, you should read this manual as well as a good guidebook so that you familiarize yourself with all that Japan has to offer.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Farlistcity El in the Office of International Programs at (215) 204-1448 or by e-mail at [farlistcity.el@temple.edu](mailto:farlistcity.el@temple.edu). You may also contact Louis Thompson, Assistant Dean of Graduate and International Programs at [louis.thompson@temple.edu](mailto:louis.thompson@temple.edu) or (215) 204-1448; or Misako Goto-Hockersmith, Study Abroad Coordinator of the Law Program in Japan, at [mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu) or 011-81-3-5441-9841.

### **II. PRE-DEPARTURE NOTICES**

#### **A. Refund Policy for Cancellation or Withdrawal**

The Program may be canceled in the unlikely event that too few students enroll. It might also be cancelled or terminated due to natural disaster or security issues.

#### **Cancellation or Withdrawal Before the Program Commences**

If the Program is canceled or a student withdraws because changes are made in the course offerings or in other significant aspects of the program, or because the U.S. State Department issues a Travel Warning or Alert for Japan covering program dates, students will receive a full refund of all monies advanced within twenty days of the cancellation or withdrawal.

#### **Termination or Withdrawal during the Course of the Program**

If the Program is terminated or a student withdraws because changes are made in the course offerings or in other significant aspects of the program, or because the U.S. State Department issues a Travel Warning or Alert for Japan covering program dates, students will be refunded fees paid.

## **Withdrawal for Other Reasons**

If a student withdraws from the program for any other reason, application fees and the seat deposit will not be refunded. Tuition will be refunded only if the withdrawal occurs during the first week of classes; otherwise, it is nonrefundable.

## **B. Graduating Students**

If you expect to graduate at the end of your spring semester in Japan, do the following **BEFORE** you go to Japan.

- 1. Home School Materials.** Contact your school to make sure that you have completed all that you need to do to graduate (graduation forms, financial aid materials, etc.). Also, provide your school with your address at the TUJ campus. You will have a mailbox there (see II E below).
- 2. Grade Deadline.** Ask your school for the date by which it will need to receive your TUJ grades in order for you to graduate. Once you know the date, please complete the form entitled "GRADE DEADLINE INFORMATION".

***PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE REGISTERED IN ANY CLASSES UNTIL YOU RETURN THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL & GRADUATE PROGRAMS.***

- 3. Pass/Fail.** As TUJ grades one class (East-West Negotiations) on a pass-fail basis, check whether your school will accept a pass/fail grade. Note that, if you pass the course, Temple Law School will forward to your school with your other grades a certificate stating that had the course been graded, you would have received a "C or better."
- 4. Bar Examiners.** Contact the state Bar Examiners wherever intend to take the bar in order to arrange to get all the transcripts and so on that you need before you go. (Note: Some states, e.g., New Jersey, require fingerprints!)

You might be able to get an application to fill out before you go. While it is always possible in Japan to acquire transcripts and perform other tasks, planning ahead may avoid time delays, extra shipping costs, and potential late fees.

**Try to get your fingerprints and have necessary documents notarized while you are in the U.S.** To get fingerprints in Japan, you have to have a local notary to arrange fingerprint at a police department, and the arrangement can cost a few hundred dollars. You will also have to bring appropriate fingerprint cards to the police department. As for notarization of documents, only place that provides notarial services in Tokyo is the US Embassy. An appointment is required and the per-document fee is \$50.

**5. Bar Review Courses.** Consider arranging a bar review course before you leave.

**C. Second-Year Students**

**1. Financial Aid Applications and Summer- or Fall-2016 Registration.** Take care, if possible, of your 2016-2017 financial aid applications and registration before leaving for Japan. The deadlines may pass during your absence. If financial aid applications or registration materials are not available, you may need to leave instructions with someone and follow up via e-mail or telephone while in Japan. Temple students will NOT be disadvantaged by being in Japan for registration, but **must** watch Temple e-mail for announcements and deadlines relating to Financial Aid and Career Planning deadlines.

**2. Grade Deadline.** Ask your school the date by which it will need to receive your TUJ grades. Once you have learned the date, please complete the form entitled "GRADE DEADLINE INFORMATION".

***PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE REGISTERED IN ANY CLASSES UNTIL YOU RETURN THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL & GRADUATE PROGRAMS.***

**3. Pass/Fail.** As TUJ grades one class (East-West Negotiations) on a pass-fail basis, check whether your school will accept a pass/fail grade.

**Note:** If you pass the course, Temple Law School will forward to your school with your other grades a certificate stating that had the course been graded, you would have received a "C or better."

**D. Importing Personal Medication**

Before bringing any prescription medication, over-the-counter drugs and medical devices into Japan, read very carefully the information at

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health-medical/pharmaceuticals/01.html> and at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-medimport.html>.

Japanese customs officers at the ports of entry and police rigorously enforce the drug laws.

**Prescription medication from outside Japan is generally not allowed.** If you need to bring medical drugs, quasi-drugs, cosmetics, or medical devices to Japan, Japanese Customs might ask you to prove that the items are prescribed. The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo advises that you bring a copy of your doctor's prescription and a letter stating the purpose of the drug or device.

Also, if you can get your prescriptions written in terms of their chemical composition (generic) rather than in their brand names, Japanese doctors and pharmacists will understand what you need.

Some U.S. **over-the-counter medicine and some medical devices are not allowed.** Even

commonly prescribed medical drugs in the United States may be illegal drugs in Japan. Some products that you regularly use, such as sanitary tampons or hair tonics, may be classified as medical devices, or quasi-drugs, which you can bring into Japan only in restricted quantities. Make sure that you do not bring more than the quantity allowed. Please check before you pack them.

**Some prescriptions and medical devices may even require an import license.** Please see the links above as well as those immediately following:

“Import Clearance Procedures for Personal Import” - Japan Customs  
[http://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer\\_e/customsanswer\\_e.htm#syogaku](http://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/customsanswer_e.htm#syogaku)

“Q&A for those who bring medicines into Japan” - Kanto-Shinetsu Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare  
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health-medical/pharmaceuticals/dl/qa1.pdf>

**WARNING:**

***Birth control pills and injections are not readily available in Japan.***

**E. Mail**

Contact the U.S. postal service and file a change of address form to have your mail forwarded to Japan. However, forwarding mail internationally can be erratic and problem-creating. To guard against the possibility of delayed mail, directly contact and notify credit card companies, bill collecting companies, friends, families, and other contacts about your new address.

You are probably better off having a family member or friend receive your mail in the United States and send you only the most important items. Each student is issued a mailbox in the Law Program office at TUJ. Have mail sent or forwarded to the following address:

*[Your Name]*  
*c/o Temple University Law Program in Japan*  
***(Make sure to write “Law Program.”)***  
*4-1-27 Mita*  
*Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0073 JAPAN*

Please include only your own name as the recipient. Do not address the package to any law staff members.

In addition, please be aware that any packages sent to you in Japan may be subject to Japanese custom duties. Package delivery companies might either hold on to packages until you pay any tariffs due, or seek payment of the tariff invoice after delivery.

### III. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

#### REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: VALID PASSPORT AND VISA

Entering Japan on a Student Visa involves two or three sequential steps (depending upon whether you have a valid passport): obtaining a passport, a certificate of eligibility, and a student visa. All steps can involve considerable processing time.

**Timing is crucial, so please start the process as early as you can and adhere to all deadlines.**

#### A. Passport

In order to apply for a Japanese student visa, you must have a valid passport with sufficient space for a visa (at least one empty, blank visa page). US passports use the rear pages for amendments, and are not acceptable as blank visa page.

#### B. Japanese Visa

##### 1. Student Visas

Students studying in Japan for more than 90 days **MUST**, as required by the Japanese government, **obtain a student visa before departing the United States**. Law Program students are eligible, upon completion of the necessary formalities, to receive a 6-month student visa. The 6-month student visa allows you to stay in Japan during the spring semester as far as you are registered for and attending classes at Temple Law School Japan; however, after the spring semester, you must leave Japan within 30 days after April 30, the last day of the spring semester, unless you intend to take a summer course at Temple Law School Japan and extend your visa for the summer semester.

Please note: Japan has very strict drug laws, and the Japanese Immigration Bureau will reject visa applications from and deny entry into Japan by anyone convicted of and penalized for violating any law or regulation of Japan or another country relating to controlled substances.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR A STUDENT VISA YET, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Once the Beasley School sends you the Certificate of Eligibility; submit (1) that Certificate, (2) an Application Form for a Student Visa, (3) valid passport, (4) one passport-sized photograph, and (5) proof of residence to the nearest Japanese consulate.

*Philadelphia residents obtain their visas through the New York consulate*

For a list of other Japanese consulates in the U.S., see the back of this manual, or access the list at <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/consulate-guide.html>.

Note that not all consulates issue visas. Check with the individual consulate.

Even if you take the required materials to the consulate, it is most unlikely to issue a visa on that occasion. Rather, it will ask you to return for the materials or have them mailed to you.

**ADVICE:**

*If you are mailing your passport, always mail it **via express or registered mail.***

For foreign nationals who have a valid passport and resident card, a re-entry permit is no longer required for travel that is shorter than 1 year.

If you plan to travel to other countries, you must determine whether those countries impose any additional visa or entry requirements.

We will separately provide more information on the residency and re-entry permit systems.

## **2. Spouse and Child Visas**

Spouses and children accompanying a student to Japan may be eligible for, but are not automatically guaranteed, a dependent visa. Temple University cannot assist spouses and children in obtaining a dependent visa.

However, spouses and children may enter Japan for 90 days on a tourist visa. If they wish to stay longer than 90 days, they must temporarily leave Japan (by traveling to Korea, Guam, Saipan, Hong Kong, etc.), and then get another tourist visa at the place of entry when they return.

Or, they may apply to change their visa status from Tourist to Dependent at the Tokyo regional immigration office. The process generally takes one month. Once your spouse or child has obtained a dependent visa, he or she is considered a resident of Japan who is required to register for Japanese National Health Insurance (see page 12). If you plan to have your spouse or child apply for a dependent visa, be sure to bring a copy of your marriage certificate or birth certificate.

A spouse might secure employment before visiting Japan (i.e. teaching English, etc.) and obtain visa sponsorship before entering Japan through such employment opportunities. **Temple University cannot assist students and their spouses in obtaining work visas.**

**A spouse on a dependent visa may apply for a work permit even if he or she has not obtained a job in Japan yet.**

**Students who have a Japanese Spouse:** If you have a Japanese spouse who will accompany you to Japan, we recommend that you obtain a spouse visa for yourself instead of a student visa. For more information on obtaining a spouse visa for yourself, please contact your nearest Japanese consulate.

### 3. Employment Permission

Japanese immigration law permits Law Program participants studying at Temple University Japan on valid student visas – who have submitted the requisite forms to Immigration upon or after arrival in Japan – to work up to 28 hours per week. Therefore, students may work in law-related or non-law jobs once the necessary formalities have been completed. However, **Temple University limits full-time students to 20 hours per week during the semester.**

Those students entering Japan on a Japanese-spouse visa who have obtained a work permit may typically work unlimited hours – again subject to the **university's 20-hours a week regulation.**

More information on work permit application will be provided separately.

Individuals on a tourist visa may **not** work.

Students intending to remain through the summer semester must either enroll in at least one law course during that semester at our Tokyo campus (mid-May through the first week of August) or procure a work visa through their employer. The Japanese Immigration authority's 28-hour-a-week regulation applies to the summer semester as well. Please note that as the Japan Program's summer semester is not ABA-accredited, any summer credits you earn at TUJ cannot be counted toward the J.D.

#### OPTIONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

##### C. **International Student Identity Card (Optional, but highly recommended)**

Consider buying the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) issued by STA. Membership enables you to buy basic insurance coverage for a variety of situations including medical/dental, trip cancellation or delay or interruption, and emergency assistance. With the card, you can also obtain student discounts on airfares and consumer goods worldwide. This card also constitutes the most effective international proof of student status.

You can apply for the card online at <http://www.statravel.com/>.

To obtain your card from STA, you must show your student ID and one other form of identification that indicates your date of birth (like your driver's license or passport). You will also need a passport-sized color or black and white photo. The card costs \$22.00 if you bring a photo or \$25.00 if you want STA to take a photo for you. For more information, please call STA's toll-free number: 1-800-781-4040.

STA Travel also has offices on campuses throughout the United States. For complete benefits of the ISIC, a list of STA Travel's offices, and information on purchasing the ISIC, please see the web site <http://www.statravel.com/>.

#### **D. Youth Hostel Pass**

Japan belongs to the International Youth Hostel Association and has an extensive network of the most inexpensive accommodations available. To use the hostels, you must be a member of Hostelling International/American Youth Hostel (and you might also need a “sheet-sleep sack” because, for sanitary reasons, youth hostels do not usually permit sleeping bags).

Obtain a hostelling pass from your local American Youth Hostel office, or online at <http://www.hiusa.org/>.

Philadelphia Office of Hostelling International American Youth Hostels:  
1210 Sansom Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 925-6004  
As its opening hours vary, call before you go.

The Youth Hostel Office, which is also a travel office, sells travel guides and other items, and conducts monthly travel seminars that focus on such logistical aspects of traveling as hostelling, traveling safely, and currency exchange.

#### **E. Japan Rail Pass**

The Japan Rail System offers a “Japan Rail Pass” only for tourists that is good for one, two or three weeks. However, if you enter Japan on a student visa, you are **NOT** eligible for that Pass (although you are eligible for other discounted tickets). **The Japan Rail Pass is good only for those traveling on tourist visas.**

Friends or family who visit you during your stay might consider purchasing one, but must do so from abroad.

Further information is available from the Japanese National Travel Organization (JNTO), which has a NYC office, at <http://www.jnto.go.jp/>. Additional information may also be found on the JR East Railway website at <http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/index.html>.

## IV. MEDICAL MATTERS

### A. Medical Insurance

#### 1. Japanese health insurance

Temple University Japan students who enter on TUJ-sponsored student visas are **required** to obtain Japanese National Health Insurance (NHI). For students, health insurance is generally very affordable (about \$10 per month) and covers about 70% of your medical expenses, so you don't have to worry about reimbursement.

Unfortunately, many English-speaking medical professionals in Tokyo have opted out of the Japanese health insurance system. Nevertheless, students have been able to find English-speaking professionals who accept Japanese health insurance. The list of English-speaking hospitals is available at the TUJ Law Program Office.

Information on NHI will be sent to all enrolling students in late fall. TUJ will provide detailed information on the insurance registration process once you arrive in Japan and determine your housing location.

**Japanese hospitals do not accept American or international health insurance.** Typically, most hospitals accept only cash. Some large hospitals now accept credit cards but generally, hospitals do not take personal checks for payment.

**WARNING:**

*Most insurance companies will require you to pay all costs at the time of treatment, and then to submit claim forms and receipts with a request for reimbursement.*

#### 2. U.S. or Foreign-Based Health Insurance with International Coverage

Temple University also **requires** all students studying abroad on Temple study abroad and exchange programs to buy into the HTH Worldwide student group health insurance plan. A flat fee of \$170 will appear on your tuition bill for each fall and/or spring semester you study abroad. For student staying over into the Tokyo summer semester, a flat fee of \$53 will appear on your tuition bill for summer study abroad.

As is the case with Japan, some host countries will also mandate study abroad students to purchase their national health insurance in addition to the Temple-mandated HTH Worldwide insurance, however national health insurance will only cover you while physically present in Japan. Should you travel outside of Japan between the start and end dates of the program, HTH will cover you internationally. The HTH coverage insures you will always have coverage abroad in the event of a medical emergency, even while traveling outside of the host country. The insurance company does pay benefits for some pre-existing conditions. A pamphlet of policy coverage and exclusion information will be

provided in your pre-departure materials. For specific information about coverage, you may contact:

HTH Worldwide  
One Radnor Corporate Center  
Suite 100  
Radnor, PA 19087, USA  
Phone: (610) 254-8700  
Fax: (610) 293-3529  
customerservice@hthworldwide.com

Japanese National Insurance likewise covers medical expenses when you are outside Japan; however, unlike its coverage within Japan, you must pay the full cost on site and request a reimbursement later. That process may take a long time.

If you already have your own U.S.-based or other foreign-based coverage, you may check your current policy to determine whether its coverage extends overseas, particularly if you have any condition that requires treatment while you are in Tokyo. Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans generally do not extend overseas; Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans generally do.

**ADVICE:**

*If you purchase additional insurance coverage specifically for the semester, check that the policy covers treatment for pre-existing conditions.*

*If you do supplement NHI and HTH coverage with other insurance, take a copy of your policy, proof of coverage, and claim forms with you to the facility where you will be treated.*

**3. International Student ID Card Offering Sickness/Accident Insurance**

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) issued by STA Travel (see p. 11) carries basic sickness/accident insurance coverage. Determine with your family whether you think this coverage is adequate.

If you incur expenses abroad, you will be required to pay for your expenses, submit receipts and claim forms, and then be reimbursed. If you need further coverage, you can purchase it from STA Travel for additional premiums.

**4. Health Insurance for Travelers**

Although TUJ is unfamiliar with its system, there is a company in Tokyo specialize in health insurance for the foreign community. You might contact the company for further details:

1. ***Viva Vida*** claims to be the only health and life insurance for foreigners living in Japan that is registered with the Japanese government. For more information, see <http://vivavida.net/en>.

**Travelers' Assistance Insurance.** These policies provide a 24-hour hotline that can supply the names of English-speaking physicians and hospitals, pay bills on the spot, and transfer you if your medical condition warrants it. Companies that provide such services include:

- Travelex Insurance <http://www.travelex-insurance.com>
- AIG Travel Guard <http://www.travelguard.com/>

#### **B. English-Speaking Medical Professionals**

Some English-speaking medical professionals trained in the U.S. practice medicine or dentistry in Tokyo. Although the U.S. Embassy does not endorse the abilities of any of these professionals, it does maintain a list of some of these medical professionals at <http://tokyo.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-7119.html>. Law students who have visited the medical and dental professionals listed on this site appear to have been satisfied with the quality of care.

#### **C. Importing Personal Medication**

See Section II. Special Pre-departure Notices above.

**ADVICE:**

***IF you develop a serious or chronic medical condition in Japan, please inform the Law program at TUJ and your family right away.***

#### **D. Glasses**

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, take along an extra pair if possible. Also, be sure to have your prescription with you in case you need it later. Have a check-up before you leave to avoid possible problems abroad. Contact lens solution is readily available in Japan, but is more expensive than in the United States.

#### **E. Vaccinations**

Although Japan does not require particular immunizations, you should ensure that your standard immunizations are current.

Travel to countries *other than Japan* may require additional immunizations. For information about specific diseases and destinations, see <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm>.

## V. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### A. Financial Aid

**TEMPLE STUDENTS** who receive financial aid will be able to get their refund advances to cover living expenses in December. Tuition and fees will be paid from your expected aid. Please direct any questions concerning financial aid to Rukiya Harris in the Law School Financial Aid office.

**NON-TEMPLE STUDENTS** must consult with their school's financial aid office early in the fall semester to plan their spring aid package. Most schools will allow Japan Semester students to base their aid on Temple's Japan Semester budget. Please address consortium agreements and financial aid questions to:

Temple University Beasley School of Law  
Office of Financial Aid  
Barrack Hall, Suite 101  
1719 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
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Please note that your school may either remit to Temple sufficient financial aid funds to cover tuition and fees, or disburse all the funds to you. If your school disburses all the funds to you, it is your responsibility to pay your tuition and fees – **in dollars to Temple University in Philadelphia** – by mid-January in order to avoid late fees. We will send billing instructions and payment methods to all enrolled students in November – December.

#### **WARNING:**

***Tuition and fees cannot be paid at or to TUJ.***

***We recommend that all students try to have their schools deposit financial aid funds directly to the students' accounts.***

### B. MONEY

#### **General Overview:**

Japan is still a cash-based society, so anticipate spending cash in most places. Many places do not accept credit cards or traveler's checks. Most banks will not cash personal checks.

To cover living expenses, students should have sufficient funds in their own or their family's bank accounts in the United States, and they should bring to Japan a bank card linked to aCirrus, PLUS, Maestro, MasterCard, Visa or American Express network so that they can withdraw money from ATMs. ATMs at airports, post offices, and Seven-Eleven convenience stores generally take any of the above international cash/credit cards.

Getting cash after 7:00 p.m. can be difficult, so if you are outside of Tokyo and are going out for the evening, have at least 10,000 yen on you.

### **1. Cash/Currency**

Currency of Japan is yen (¥/JPY), and the U.S. dollar – JPY exchange rate as of November 16, 2015 is \$1 = ¥123.18.

You can check the current exchange rate at a currency conversion site such as below:

<http://www.xe.com/>

#### **Arriving in Japan**

Have at least **50,000 yen** (a little more than \$400) in **cash**. **Plan to bring more if you need to pay a deposit for your housing immediately after your arrival or be prepared to withdraw a lump sum of cash.**

Narita International Airport has many currency exchange booths where you can exchange dollars for yen. At U.S. airports the exchange rates are **not** as favorable as they are in Japan--where the rate might be even better at Tokyo banks than at Narita.

#### **Getting Cash in Japan**

Perhaps the easiest way to obtain cash is to withdraw it at a Post Office ATM from your U.S. bank account. As Post Office ATMs are bilingual, they are easy to use. However, Post Offices open only between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A few post office ATMs are available on Saturday mornings.

ATMs at 7-11 stores accept most foreign bank ATM cards and are open 24 hours a day, however they only permit withdrawals in multiples of 10,000 yen and may charge a transaction fee. ATMs at other convenience stores are usually open anytime, but may not accept foreign ATM cards and usually charge a transaction fee.

Most bank ATMs are not open 24 hours a day nor do they commonly accept foreign bank ATM cards. Most bank ATMs are open only to 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and national holidays. Some banks do have bilingual ATMs.

If you do open a bank account in Japan, apply for a cash card so you can access your account after hours through the ATMs located in the lobbies of most banks.

ATMs have some drawbacks:

Both your bank and the bank operating the ATM may charge expensive fees for each transaction (typically a combined \$5.00). A student who attended the Japan program in 2015 told us that a CapitalOne 360 Debit Card does not charge any

international fees for withdrawing from an ATM in Japan. Check with your bank about its fees for international withdrawals.

**Also, your U.S. bank might limit the amount that you can withdrawal daily (e.g. \$200.00-\$500.00 per day).** Check with your bank for further details about these matters.

**ADVICE:**

***Ask your bank to consider waiving foreign transaction fees for using ATMs. Tell it that you will live in Tokyo for five months.***

***Ask your bank to raise the daily limit on withdrawals if that limit is low.***

***Make sure that your debit card has a MasterCard or Visa feature.***

***Link your credit card account to your checking or saving account in your bank so that you can get a cash advance if necessary. American Express, for instance, will do so.***

## **2. Credit Cards**

Do not expect to be able to use your credit card in most places, especially if you travel outside Tokyo. Department stores, brand-name clothing stores, electronics stores, supermarket chains, and other larger shops in Tokyo will accept credit cards, but many local grocery stores, drug stores, and eateries will not.

While using credit cards to obtain cash may be efficient, you should check with your credit card company regarding fees, exchange rates, and maximum withdrawals against your cards.

If you are considering to get a new credit card, below websites may give you helpful tips to choose a suitable one for your semester abroad in Japan.

Nerdwallet – Find the Best No Foreign Transaction Fee Credit Cards

<http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/top-credit-cards/no-foreign-transaction-fee-credit-card/>

The New York Times – Money Tips for Globe-Trotters:

[http://travel.nytimes.com/2012/06/10/travel/money-tips-for-globe-trotters.html?\\_r=0](http://travel.nytimes.com/2012/06/10/travel/money-tips-for-globe-trotters.html?_r=0)

**WARNING:**

***You will generally NOT be able to use your credit card to pay utility bills (regardless of where you live), hospital bills (although some large hospitals accept credit card payments), or grocery items.***

**ADVICE:**

*Notify each of your credit card issuers in advance that you will be staying and using the credit card in Japan. Also, ensure that your credit (and debit) cards do not expire while you are in Japan.*

**3. Traveler's Checks**

Many places in Japan and elsewhere no longer accept traveler's checks. Japan Post Bank and some branches of Japan Post still buy traveler's checks but they do not accept checks issued by any financial institutions other than American Express. If you plan to bring traveler's checks, make sure you can cash them in Japan.

*yen and then to the currency of your destination country).*

**4. Personal Checks**

The system of writing personal checks is not practiced in Japan.

You cannot use your U.S. personal checks for cash (except *perhaps* at an American Express office with an American Express Card) or to pay local bills.

Cashing personal checks made payable to you and drawn on an American bank is almost impossible. So **do not** have family members send you checks or money orders of any kind. Instead, ask them to deposit the checks into your U.S. bank account.

You can deposit checks into an account. But overseas checks can take one to two months to clear and incur a large processing fee which can range from steep to exorbitant. If you have an American Express, Visa or MasterCard credit card, check with the issuing bank to see if you can cash checks in their offices abroad.

**ADVICE:**

*Take your Checkbook, a supply of deposit slips, and bank-by-mail forms and envelopes to Japan just in case you need to pay bills in the United States (such as your spring semester tuition and fees), or have to deposit loan or refund checks into your U.S. bank account from Tokyo.*

**5. Banking**

Most major banks open only from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. A few banks, open some branches on Saturdays, Sundays, Japanese national holidays, or non-regular business hours but they do not handle cash at the window during the irregular business days and hours. Cash transactions can be made through ATMs only and the irregular-business-hours transaction fees will be charged.

You could choose to open a bank account in a Japanese bank after you arrive; however, some banks might require that you intend to stay in Japan for at least six months. If you would like to open a bank account in Japan, please consult the Japan Program Office at TUJ.

When you need to receive or send money between the U.S. and Japan, check the following options.

International Postal Money Order: [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

Western Union Money Transfer: [www.westernunion.co.jp/en/index.php](http://www.westernunion.co.jp/en/index.php)

PayPal: [www.paypal.com/](http://www.paypal.com/)

#### **6. When you Need Money Immediately**

In an emergency, the easiest and quickest way to access money is to have someone deposit money in a U.S. bank account, and then withdraw the money through an ATM.

### **C. Cost of Living in Tokyo**

Stories about the high cost of living in Tokyo while partially true are also deceiving as Japan is currently in a prolonged deflationary cycle. Because of inflated prices for purchasing real estate, Tokyo is consistently ranked high on the cost of living scale. But other items are relatively affordable, depending, of course, on your lifestyle and habits. Eating at fancy restaurants and spending several nights a week on the Tokyo bar scene can be really expensive (but there is no tipping).

An affordable student life is possible. A cup of coffee may cost you \$4.00, but Japanese cafes, like those in many parts of Europe, are, in effect, renting you high cost space when they sell you a cup of coffee. Once you purchase your initial cup, you may stay for hours without being bothered to buy anything else. Some foods, including certain seafood, fresh fruit, and imported items, are very expensive. Food prices are generally higher than in the U.S., but you should quickly learn to buy items on sale in the supermarkets.

Eating out in Japan offers all ranges of cuisine and prices, from cheap to very expensive. Portions are typically smaller than those found in U.S. restaurants. Convenience stores such as 7-11 and Lawson sell sandwiches for 250 yen and Japanese “bento” boxes for about 500 yen. ***The exchange rate is currently around ¥123.18yen/\$1.00 meaning that sandwiches are about \$2.00 and bento \$4.00.*** Neighborhood restaurants sell noodle dishes (soba, udon, ramen) for 400 to 1000 yen and set meals for 500 to 1,500 yen. Neighborhood “pubs” serve all sorts of side order dishes at reasonable prices. Western restaurants often have luncheon specials for around 1000 yen. McDonalds and other American fast food establishments sell relatively affordable meals. (e.g., a Big Mac set meal is 650 yen). TGI Fridays is fairly affordable as well. Of course, a more elaborate evening meal in either a Japanese or Western restaurant may cost 2,500 to 4,500 yen, not including drinks. As soon as the initial impulse to do everything immediately passes, and you settle into a routine, you will learn how to budget

and spend less money. Once you do so, you will discover that Tokyo can be affordable even on a law student's budget.

Students who are careful with their money (and avoid spending binges at Japanese bars) report that they spend an average of 1,500 – 2,500 yen per day on food. Here are some sample prices. With some searching, bargain prices can be found as well. (Note: as a general rule, the farther away from campus you live, the cheaper the cost of living—including food--becomes).

- Large apple: 150 yen
- 1.5 liter Coke: 220 yen
- Newspaper: 120-180 yen
- Int'l stamp: 110 yen
- Snickers bar: 105 yen
- 1 liter 100% orange juice: 180 yen
- Doritos (grab bag size): 108 yen
- Movie: 1,800 yen
- Can soda: 120 yen
- ½ Loaf of bread: 150 yen
- Small can of tuna: 90 yen
- Taxi: 730 yen for first 2 km

(Check the current dollar/yen exchange rate at <http://www.xe.com/> or in the Foreign Exchange section of your local newspaper or on the Internet at <http://www.japantimes.com>)

#### **D. Exchange Rate Fluctuations**

The dollar/yen exchange rate has fluctuated quite wildly over the past two years. A strong dollar will provide you with extra spending money in Japan. We encourage you to start watching the exchange rate several months before you go to Japan to understand the process and to gauge when you might want to exchange your currency.

#### **E. Employment / Paid Internships**

With a work permit (see the Employment Permission section, page 11), you may work in a paid internship, tutoring or other non-legal job.

In spring semester 2015, about 80% of the students seeking legal positions found some type of opportunity. Many of these internships were unpaid or limited in duration/hours. About 50% of the positions paid 1,000 yen per hour or more with the number of working hours varying depending on the firm. Moreover, 7 or 8 students did supplement their income by tutoring.

For more information about internships, please refer to the Japan Internship Guide which you have received via e-mail from the Japan Program Office.

#### **WARNING:**

***You are not guaranteed an internship. Please do not count upon income from a legal internship to support your stay and defray the cost of living in Tokyo.***

## **VI. LIFE IN TOKYO**

### **A. General Information**

One of the safest and most exciting cities in the world, Tokyo is the largest urban agglomeration in the world. Twelve million people live within a 30-mile radius of the Imperial Palace located in the center of the city. Administratively, the city of Tokyo incorporates 23 wards, 26 smaller cities, five towns, and eight villages. It sprawls 55 miles east to west, and 15 miles north to south. The 23 wards alone enclose an area of 227 square miles.

The Central Business District (CBD) of Tokyo is defined by three central wards: Chuo, Chiyoda, and Minato. Every working day over two million commuters report to work within the CBD. Japan Railway's Yamanote Line forms a loop around the center of Tokyo and connects a number of important commercial and entertainment centers such as Shinjuku, Shinagawa, Ueno, and Ikebukuro. The Yamanote loop connects 29 stations, and it takes a little over one hour to complete. Tokyo is one of the most important financial marketplaces in the world. From the Central Business District and surrounding sub-districts, billions of dollars are transferred electronically every day.

Tokyo is truly a city of contrasts. It is a city of astonishingly beautiful detail, yet it houses some of the most unattractive buildings in the world. It is a city of exquisite politeness, where taxi doors open automatically for you when you get in and out. On the other hand, it is also a place where a businessman on the subway will race an elderly woman for a seat. Overall, our students find Tokyo to be a remarkably dynamic and culturally rich place to live. During your stay, don't lose the opportunity to explore the many wonderful and varied landscapes filled with both modern and traditional arts, cultures, and lifestyles.

The government of Tokyo has compiled an online "Guide for Foreign Residents" available at [http://www.tokyo-icc.jp/guide\\_eng/index.html](http://www.tokyo-icc.jp/guide_eng/index.html)  
Another good online guide is <http://www.japan-guide.com>.

### **B. U.S. Restaurant Chains and Foodstuffs in Tokyo**

If you get a little homesick and crave a bite of U.S. food, your choices range from McDonald's, Subway, and Kentucky Fried Chicken to Tony Roma's Ribs, Outback Steakhouse, Wolfgang Puck's, and TGI Fridays.

If you miss U.S. foodstuffs and snacks, some stores do carry some American goods, and a membership at Costco may come in handy (although you may want to divide the large quantities among a number of people).

### **C. Living Conditions in Tokyo**

#### **1. Fast Facts**

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government website contains the following statistics about

Tokyo:

**Population and Area (2012):**

Population .....	13.216million
Population density (person/km <sup>2</sup> ).....	6,038
Households.....	6.699million
Area.....	2,186.96 km <sup>2</sup>
Foreign residents (registered).....	390,000

Tokyo is the 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest but most densely populated of the 47 prefectures, and has the largest population.

**2. Climate**

The climate of Japan is temperate and resembles that of the east coast of the United States—except for the subtropical southern islands of Okinawa and the northern island of Hokkaido where snow covers the ground for several months in winter.

In Tokyo, the average January temperature is 40 degrees F. Winter is gray and chilly with very little snowfall (at most once or twice and it melts almost immediately). Temperatures rarely fall below freezing.

The average annual rainfall is 55 inches. Most of the rainfall occurs during the rainy season in June and July and in the typhoon season during September and October. The humidity is remarkably high between June and September, averaging about 75 percent. *In preparing to pack for Tokyo’s climate, keep in mind that many apartments and houses do not have central heating or air conditioning.* Residents of Japan often use space heaters, individual room heating units, electric blankets, carpets, and layered clothing.

**3. Personal Safety**

You are in far less danger of incurring any harm in Tokyo than in any major U.S. city. Nonetheless, Tokyo is a large city and so not completely exempt from problems common to all large cities. Don’t carry what you do not need, or more than you can afford to lose. Be alert on buses and in crowds. Aside from the money and cell phones that students sometimes lose during bar visits with new acquaintances, we feel fully confident in assuring all participants and their families that life in Tokyo will be unfettered and normal, that students will be able to participate in all activities the city and the country offers, and that they can do so with confidence about their personal security.

**4. Public Health Conditions**

Public health standards throughout Japan are generally high. On March 11, 2011, a 9.0

magnitude earthquake occurred off the east coast of Japan, triggering a tsunami that caused deaths and widespread damage to infrastructure in the east coast of the Tohoku region. Damage to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant caused by the earthquake and tsunami resulted in a leak of radioactive materials from the facility. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), “the risk of exposure to radiation and the risk of contamination from radioactive materials are thought to be low, especially for anyone staying at least 50 miles from the nuclear power plant.” Tokyo is roughly 150 miles away from Fukushima.

The Department of State recently released its new "Smart Traveler" app for U.S. travelers going abroad. The app is compatible with the iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad (requires iOS 4.0 or later). The Smart Traveler app provides easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more. Travelers can also set up customized “e-itineraries” to keep track of arrival and departure dates and to make notes about upcoming trips. Additionally, the app provides a link for travelers to enroll in the State Department's free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) so that the State Department can better assist them in an emergency. More information about the Smart Traveler app can be found at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) and <http://travel.state.gov>.

The U.S. Embassy Health and Safety Information Webpage offers helpful information from U.S. and Japanese government agencies that you can use to support your continued safety and well being. <http://japan2.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-health.html>

## **5. Food**

As Japan has many types of food, from sushi to ramen to tempura, you will find that eating is very different and perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of Japanese culture. Keep an open mind; try everything. In addition to Japanese food, a variety of other Asian, as well as European, American and African, cuisines is readily available.

Japanese, being contextual, offer eating utensils to match the cuisine. Hence, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean foods are eaten with chopsticks, European foods with knife and fork, and curries with a spoon. You'll quickly get the hang of it.

## **6. Electricity**

You can use American electronic equipment in Japan without using a voltage converter or transformer. The voltage in Japan is 100 volt whereas in the U.S. it is 110 volt, so your equipment will have a little less power, but you will rarely notice the difference.

Power outlets in Japan are almost always the same as the two-pin ungrounded outlets in the U.S. For further information, see <http://electricaloutlet.org/type-a>. If your laptop has a three-prong plug, you will need to get a three-prong to two-prong plug adapter.

## **7. Laundry**

You may or may not have access to washers and dryers at your residence. Like the United States, Japan also has laundromats or coin laundries. Dry cleaning is available, but generally expensive.

## **8. Shopping**

You can find almost anything anywhere in Tokyo, though it may come at a price. Department stores will get you anything you want, at premium prices, of course. They are a world unto themselves, with hundreds of little boutiques contained all under one roof.

Department stores also contain supermarkets in their basements where an extensive variety of fresh produce, baked goods, meat and poultry, and imported goods can be found. The bottom line is that you should not have too much trouble finding anything that you need, or anything you can get in the U.S.

Stores usually open around 10:00 a.m. and close around 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Recently, some stores have been extending their hours to 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. Local shopping districts (“shotengai”) provide similar variety at lower cost and lots more atmosphere.

Tokyo has also experienced a boom of “100 yen shops” where you can find an unbelievable variety of things for your kitchen, home, office, or leisure for 100 yen (or about \$0.85).

Groceries can be found in a variety of places. In addition to department stores, some neighborhoods have traditional American-style grocery stores. Other neighborhoods rely on smaller specialty stores in the shotengai for produce, fish, meat, and canned and other goods. Wherever you will be, 24-hour convenience stores such as 7-11 and Lawsons sell all the necessities as well as a variety of meals at reasonable prices.

## **9. Nightlife and Entertainment**

Everyone has their own favorite way of spending their free time, and Tokyo has something for everyone. Metropolis, a free weekly English magazine, lists events round Tokyo as well as bar/restaurant reviews of the week.

An English language publication, the *Tokyo Journal*, has a comprehensive monthly listing of what’s going on in Tokyo. It costs 600 yen and can be bought in English language bookstores. It is also available in the TUJ library or on the Internet at <http://www.tokyojournal.com/>

Tokyo has four English language newspapers that are also a good source of current entertainment reviews and listings.

## 10. Mail and Stamps

A letter mailed inside Japan costs 82 yen. International Mail starts at 110 yen for a basic letter, and delivery to the U.S. takes 3-10 business days.

## 11. Telephones

### a. Coin-operated phones & calling cards

Telephones come in both coin-operated and prepaid card-operated varieties. They operate on both copper 10-yen coins and silver 100-yen pieces. The green and grey public phones accept the magnetically charged prepaid telephone cards that hold from 500 yen up to 1000 yen in credit. (If you purchase the 1000-yen, you will receive extra credits).

Some of the green and grey public phones are marked with the symbol of the world and say International Telephone on them. Although expensive, these phone cards do provide a good way to contact friends and family back home. It could also use AT&T calling cards. Many Japanese companies are now providing prepaid phone cards, which are much cheaper than AT&T cards. Depending on the service, it may be possible to call home for as little as 10 yen per minute.

Due to the wide-spread cell phones, it has become hard to find public phones these days. However, there are a few in the neighborhood of TUJ. If you need to use one, ask the TUJ Law staff where to find it.

### b. Mobile phones

The major Japanese mobile service providers are Docomo, AU, and SoftBank. Cell phones can be purchased at cell phone shops and major electronic stores; however, Japanese mobile phones are not sold alone. Buying a phone means making a monthly contract, which is usually a month-to-month over a 24-month period.

Some new mobile service providers such as GTN Mobile serve foreigners living in Japan, and they typically do not require a two-year contract.

GTN Mobile <https://gtn-mobile.com/en/about/>

Prepaid phones are another option for students staying in Japan less than one year. SoftBank currently offers prepaid phone services starting at around 5,000 yen. You can buy credit to use for outgoing calls and e-mail at cell phone shops, convenience stores, and online.

In addition, some students who attended the Japan program in 2015 brought prepaid SIM cards. If considering this option, make sure to check if your device will work on this service.

### c. Internet phone

Internet phone technology improves every year. There are a number of internet phone programs, such as **Google Voice** and **iCall**, that permit you to make phone calls for free or for a considerably low rate.

**Skype** is one of the most popular internet phone providers. It offers free PC to PC communication, low rates to call from your PC to a phone, and is considered to have among the highest quality offerings for internet phone providers. In addition to a computer with speaker and microphone (or headset), you will need a good internet connection. You will also need to download Skype software, which is available for free. If you wish to maintain a U.S. based phone line so that your friends and family may call you at a local rate, you can purchase a phone number through Skype for any area code in the United States. See [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) for more information.

## 12. Transportation

*Before going to Japan, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with maps of the Tokyo train and subway systems. Doing so will help you in getting around Tokyo and in locating an apartment once you arrive.*

For English-language subway maps, see the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's website: [http://www.kotsu.metro.tokyo.jp/english/subway\\_map.html](http://www.kotsu.metro.tokyo.jp/english/subway_map.html).

For the map of Tokyo Metro, another major subway system in Tokyo: <http://www.tokyometro.jp/en/subwaymap/index.html>

For maps of the train system in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, see the JR East site: [http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/info/map\\_a401.pdf](http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/info/map_a401.pdf).

Getting around in Tokyo is extremely easy as Japan has one of the best public transportation systems in the world. It is extremely reliable, clean, and efficient. The minimum fare is 160 yen on subways and 130 yen on trains. As the stations in Tokyo all have signs in English, you will quickly learn to use the trains and subways to get anywhere you need to go.

The bus system complements the trains and subways, but can be subject to delays caused by the heavy Tokyo traffic. Using it can be more challenging as it has few signs in English; however, English route maps are available.

Public transportation does not run between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The last train on some lines leaves a little after midnight.

Taxis can be expensive, especially after midnight, but if four people share they can often be a relatively cheap means

### 13. Business Hours in Japan

Japanese and American business hours are much the same. Banks are open from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. weekdays. Stores are generally open from 10:00 a.m. to 7-8 p.m. seven days a week.

### 14. Internet Cafes

For computer and Internet use after-hours or convenient to your apartment, Tokyo has abundant Internet cafes that range from 300-500 yen per hour. Wireless internet access is also growing in popularity. Students desiring late night Internet access have found Internet Cafes to be a great source for research and staying close to family and friends.

### 15. Suggested Resources on Japan

You will probably want to begin reading about Japan. The Internet is a great source of information. Links to various websites are provided above.

The website operated by the Tokyo Government at [http://www.tokyo-icc.jp/guide\\_eng/index.html](http://www.tokyo-icc.jp/guide_eng/index.html) contains some very useful information.

We recommend students take a good travel / tourist guide such as those found at major bookstores: Frommer's, Fodor's, Let's Go, Lonely Planet, etc.

In addition, the following recommendations have been suggested by Dr. Barbara Thornbury, Temple University Department of Critical Languages.

- *Gateway to Japan*, June Kinoshita and Nicholas Palevsky (Kodansha International, 1990). Generally regarded as the best guidebook covering all of Japan.
- *Tokyo: A Bilingual Atlas* (distributed by Kodansha International)  
Compact, easy to use, and very informative.
- *Japan: In the Land of the Brokenhearted*, Michael Shapiro (Henry Holt & Co., 1989). The American author went to Japan because his wife, a New York Times correspondent, was assigned there. Mr. Shapiro writes in an interesting way about trying to learn Japanese -- and about baseball, Lafcadio Hearn, missionaries, people who refused to be fingerprinted for their alien registration cards, and American businessmen in Japan.
- *The Roads to Sata: A 2,000-Mile Walk Through Japan*, Alan Booth (Viking, 1985)  
In the mid-1970's, the author, an Englishman who had moved to Japan in 1970, walked from the northern tip of Hokkaido to the southern tip of Kyushu in order to learn about life outside of Tokyo. The book is an interesting account of the journey and of the people Mr. Booth met along the way.

The Law Program Office in Tokyo also has a small collection of guidebooks and other references for you to use.

## **VII. TEMPLE UNIVERSITY JAPAN**

### **A. Campus Location & Hours**

The Law Program is part of Temple University Japan (TUJ), which was founded in 1982 as a branch campus of Temple University. TUJ consists of Azabu Hall, Mita Hall, and the Azabu Annex. These facilities are located in the Minami Azabu/Mita area in south central Tokyo. The Law School is housed in Mita Hall.

The Azabu/Mita area is especially known for the number of embassies located there. Keio University and Meiji Gakuin University are both less than a 10-minute walk away. A number of convenient shops and Japanese-style eateries are located around the campus. The centrally located campus is within easy reach of a number of interesting Tokyo neighborhoods including Shibuya, an entertainment area popular with young adults, and Roppongi, the famous nightlife district.

The campus is accessible by public transportation from every part of the Tokyo metropolitan area. It is within walking distance of the Azabu-Juban, Shirokane Takanawa, and Mita subway stations and Tamachi train station.

*Because Mita Hall and Azabu Hall are located in office buildings, TUJ facilities have limited hours. Normal campus hours are 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. The library and computer center have more limited hours. TUJ buildings are closed on Sunday. The Law Program office hours are from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.. Monday through Friday.*

### **B. Facilities**

Both the administrative offices and classrooms for the law program are located in Mita Hall. Mita Hall includes class rooms, a lounge, study rooms, and a computer lab. Azabu Hall includes classrooms, a library, and a number of student facilities. Both halls are non-smoking.

#### **1. Computers**

At present, Mita Hall and Azabu Hall have the following computer equipment available for student use:

- over 80 Dell PCs;
- over 15 iMACs;
- Color Deskjet and Laser printers;
- Full Internet access (wireless access in Mita Hall and parts of Azabu Hall)
- E-mail service;

- Access to Lexis and Westlaw.

The Computer Center in Mita Hall is open during building hours. The Computer Center in Azabu Hall is generally open from **8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays**. Hours may be extended towards the end of the semester. *There is a charge for printing in all computer labs*. To store documents, you will need your own storage device.

**If you own a laptop, we encourage you to bring it with you.** Past students reported that having their own laptop provided added flexibility. Some students may be able to rent laptops at TUJ for 500 yen per day.

## 2. Smart rooms & wireless Internet

Mita Hall has several “smart rooms” equipped with laptop plug-ins and wireless Internet connections. When possible, law courses are held in these smart classrooms. Also, wireless Internet access is available throughout the building.

## 3. Library

Located in Azabu Hall, the TUJ Library provides access to over 55,000 books and periodical titles. While most journals are now accessed through on-line systems, the library maintains a browsing collection of about 200 magazine, journal and newspaper titles. Holdings of the TUJ library can be accessed through the Diamond catalog on the TU Portal. The Portal also provides access to over 40,000 full text on-line journals and thousands of e-books.

The law holdings of the TUJ library are designed to provide support for the courses offered at the Japan campus and as an introduction to the Japanese and U.S. legal systems. The library attempts to acquire all book materials published in English relating to Japanese law as well as general materials related to our curriculum. The TUJ library staff can access the holdings of the Beasley School of Law Library in Philadelphia when student or faculty members need material for their research.

The library’s general collection provides law students with a full range of materials related to Japanese language and culture, history, psychology, art, religion, and business. A video and DVD collection of several thousand documentary and feature films contains several hundred Japanese language films with English subtitles. Besides providing general reference services to visiting students, a multi-cultural, bilingual staff of librarians can facilitate inter-library loans in Japan and provide letters of introduction to other law-related libraries in the Tokyo area.

#### 4. Housing

TUJ does not have any residence halls for its professional or graduate students. You must find your own housing in Tokyo. Do not expect to find American-size apartments in Tokyo at affordable prices. Housing arrangements will be smaller than you may be accustomed to, but quite suitable for a semester. As with any locale, short-term furnished housing can be difficult to locate.

To assist your housing search during your first week or so in Japan, the Law Program Office is available to arrange short-term housing near the school for about 6,000 yen per night (on room availability basis). If you are interested in the short-term housing, please e-mail [tujlaw@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:tujlaw@tuj.temple.edu).

Before you leave for Japan, the Law Program Office will send you a housing guide. It contains alternative housing opportunities as well as a list of apartments used by law students over the past few years. If you have time, we encourage you to begin your internet search earlier or to contact English-speaking realtors before you go to Japan. *Those students who started their housing searches before arriving in Japan benefited immensely from the advance preparations. These students either found accommodations or narrowed down the areas/prices where they wanted to live.*

Several housing options are available to students attending the Tokyo Program:

- “Guest House
- Short-term unfurnished apartment
- Short-term furnished apartment
- Home stay

##### a. *Guest/Share Houses*

This particularly easy and often affordable option is geared to foreign students and other foreigners in Japan (and young Japanese) for a short period. Some of our students have enjoyed the guest/share houses due to their convenience and proximity, and to the contacts and friendships they have made with others from various parts of the world. However, other students have stayed away from these arrangements in search of more privacy. In selecting a guest/share house make sure to view the room and arrangements before signing any contract because some guest/sharehouses are cleaner and newer than others.

You can find out more about several “gaijin” houses on the following, non-exhaustive list of internet websites.

- <http://tokyosharehouse.com/eng/>
- <http://www.borderless-house.com/>
- <http://www.fontana-apt.co.jp/>
- <http://www.sakura-house.com/>
- <http://www.jafnet.co.jp/plaza/>

**b. Short-term furnished apartments**

With some diligence and dedicated searching, past students have located affordable short-term furnished apartments. While some housing companies provide fully-furnished apartments, you should note that the Japanese definition of “furnished” typically means a futon/futon bed, refrigerator, range, air conditioner/heating unit, small basic desk, and possibly a television. If you need additional furnishings, you might acquire household items at a reasonable cost from foreigners leaving Tokyo. A good example of the items/prices typically for sale from the foreign community can be found at <http://metropolis.co.jp/> in the Classifieds Section as well as <http://classifieds.japantoday.com/>.

In searching for a short-term furnished apartment, you might want to avoid locations that require hefty “reikin”, “shikikin” and real estate payments (*see explanation below*). These payments, also known as “key money”, can total from 2-5 months of your rent and, unlike security deposits, **will not be refunded** when your lease terminates.

Although apartments that do not require “key money” are harder to find, some may be available. If you pursue this option, begin your internet search early or contact English-speaking realtors before you arrive in Japan. Here are some links to possible leads for an apartment search. This list is not exhaustive.

- <http://classifieds.japantoday.com/>
- <http://www.sakura-house.com/>
- <http://www.jafnet.co.jp/plaza/>
- <http://newsonjapan.com/html/linkbase/Business/Property/index>
- <http://www.fontana-apt.co.jp/>
- <http://www.gaijinpot.com/apartments/>

TUJ Law Program Office will soon send you a housing search guide with more information on English-speaking realtors.

**c. Short-term unfurnished apartments**

Although unfurnished apartments are not as common as furnished ones, they may expand your housing options. You can buy furniture and appliances cheaply from foreigners departing Tokyo, and you can resell when you leave Japan.

**d. Home stays**

Some students arrange their own home stays with Japanese families. These stays have proven quite affordable and personally satisfying for home-stay participants. If you are

interested, consult homestay websites or guidebooks available in travel bookstores that provide information on arranging home stays.

## 5. General tips in locating & securing housing

- a. **Distance.** As Temple's campus lies in a very convenient and affluent area of Tokyo near many foreign embassies, housing prices are relatively high. Nevertheless, to avoid commuting time and expense, many students search for housing near campus in such areas as Azabu, Shirokane, Takanawa, Mita, Tamachi, Hiroo, Roppongi, and Shinagawa.

However, you can save money on housing by living on the outskirts of Tokyo or in less convenient areas. Some students have been willing to commute an hour or more by train or subway. Because classes typically take place in the afternoon and evening, these students have often been able to sit and study on the trains. However, keep in mind that while you may pay less in rent, you will incur commuting costs. With your student ID card, you should be able to secure a half-price commuter pass between your residence and the University.

- b. **Pairing up.** Some students have elected to get more bang for their housing dollar (oops, yen) by sharing larger apartments or houses. Some years ago, five students actually found an entire furnished house to rent for the semester. That same year, over 20 students paired up and shared 2-bedroom furnished apartments in a building within walking distance of the University. While finding so many furnished units in the same building was unusual, it shows that such things are possible.
- c. **Directions.** When selecting a place to live, focus on the available transportation routes to campus. The route you choose can greatly affect the convenience and cost of reaching campus.

To access Mita Hall, the closest train line is the JR Yamanote line, and the closest subway lines are the Asakusa, Mita, and Namboku Lines.

To access Azabu Hall, the nearest subway lines are the Namboku, Oedo line, and Mita lines.

For maps of the subway systems, see

[http://www.kotsu.metro.tokyo.jp/english/subway\\_map.html](http://www.kotsu.metro.tokyo.jp/english/subway_map.html) or  
<http://www.tokyometro.jp/en/subwaymap/index.html>

For maps of the train system in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, see the JR East site:

[http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/info/map\\_a401.pdf](http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/info/map_a401.pdf)

- d. **Concluding a Rent Contract.** The Tokyo Metropolitan Government provides visitors to Japan with the following advice about concluding a lease:

The contract is an important document for establishing any rights/duties between the landlord and the tenant. Once a contract has been concluded, it cannot be terminated without consultation between the two parties, even if one party is dissatisfied. You should not sign the contract unless you have fully understood and consented to its contents. The real estate agent is obliged by law to be present when the contract is finalized; sign/seal the contract on behalf of the real estate agency itself; and issue contract documents to both the landlord and the tenant.

The following standard documents may be necessary when concluding a contract:

(1) Foreign resident registration card

(2) Income statement \*\*

Tenants *may* be asked to provide documents verifying their income to confirm whether they are capable of paying the rent. It is a good idea to ask your intended place of employment to issue documentation verifying your employment, expected income, and other relevant information.

(3) Guarantors \*\*

In Japan, parties typically arrange a joint surety (guarantor) when finalizing rental contracts. You will need to consider whether to ask a superior at work or a friend to provide that guarantee, or whether you should make other arrangements (guarantee insurance, proxy contract) can be made.

*\*\* Note: In renting an apartment, you can often avoid the income statement and guarantor requirement by explaining to the real estate agent/landlord that you are studying at a law school to become a lawyer. Lawyers are highly respected in Japan, and saying so can go a long way in gaining credibility. Most of the real estate agencies included in the housing resource guide provided by TUJ Law Program Office do not require a guarantor.*

Fees associated with finalizing a rent contract include:

(1) Rent

As a rule, monthly rent is paid by the last day of the month for the following month. For this reason, both the rent for the month in which the contract is finalized and rent for the following month must typically be paid when finalizing a contract.

(2) Management fee/Common service fee

In addition to rent, you may have to pay separately for the costs of lighting, cleaning, and other common utilities that serve the entire housing complex. This amount will vary depending on the housing. You should confirm these costs.

(3) Refundable deposit (Shikikin)

Tenants generally pay a refundable deposit to the landlord as collateral against failure to pay rent or damage caused by the tenant to the building or fixtures. This deposit typically amounts to two or three months' rent.

(4) Key money (Reikin)

Key money is a lump sum payment by the tenant to the landlord upon finalizing the rental contract and is not refundable. Foreigners are not used to this Japanese custom and have difficulty accepting it. Key money is roughly equivalent to one or two months rent in Tokyo and surrounding areas.

\*\*Note: With some perseverance, it is possible to find apartments not requiring reikin or accepting reduced shikikin. Guest/Share houses do not generally require reikin. Most of the real estate agencies included in the housing resource guide provided by TUJ Law Program Office do not require reikin.

(5) Mediator's handling fee (real estate agent's commission)

This fee is paid to the real estate agent. As payment for helping a person arrange a rental contract, real estate agents can claim a maximum commission of one month's rent. As a rule, the landlord and tenant contribute equally to this payment. In many cases, however, the commission is paid in full by the tenant. (In such cases, the real estate agent will seek to have both parties agree about this arrangement before they sign the contract.)

C. Academic Matters

1. **Academic Calendar**

January 9, 2016 (Sat.) .....	Orientation ( <b>attendance required</b> )
January 11, 2016 (Mon.).....	First day of classes
February 29 – March 4, 2016 (Mon. – Fri).....	Spring Break
April 15, 2016 (Fri.).....	Last day of classes
April 18, 2016 (Mon.).....	First day of exams
April 30, 2016 (Fri.).....	Last day of exams

2. **Exams**

Temple University Japan offers computer-based exams. You may choose either to type your answers on the computer or handwrite in bluebooks.

All efforts are made to ensure that final exams are graded and that grades are submitted to students' home law schools by each school's grade deadline. The Office of International Programs in Philadelphia coordinates with Temple's Law School Registrar to *send official transcripts to students' home law schools provided that students have submitted signed home law school approval/transcript release forms (in this packet)*. Once official

transcripts are issued to home law schools, unofficial transcripts are sent to Law Program participants.

Law Program students are bound by Temple University School of Law's honor code and standards of conduct, as published in the Wise Guide and updated from time to time. *A copy of the 2015-2016 Study Abroad Wise Guide will be sent to Law Program students in November - December. All students must sign and return the accompanying Verification of Receipt and Acceptance of Terms in order to attend classes at TUJ.*

### **3. Attendance Policy, Drop / Add, Course Withdrawals**

You must attend a minimum of 80% of the regularly scheduled class hours to be considered in regular attendance for a course. Faculty members may impose more stringent attendance requirements for a particular course by giving enrolled students reasonable advance notice of their specific attendance policies.

The drop/add schedule adjustment period runs the first two weeks of classes. If you drop a course after that period, you will receive a W on their transcripts.

If you fail to regularly attend classes, you will be prohibited from taking the exam and receive the grade of FA (failure for absence) for that course.

### **4. Class Schedule**

Classes meet Monday through Thursday pursuant to requirements established by the American Bar Association. Courses are typically scheduled between 3:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. to accommodate field trips, non-credit internships, and fellow Japanese professional students. Japanese language classes are usually held after 12:30 p.m. Make-up classes may occasionally be held on Saturday mornings.

A schedule of classes will be posted online at [www.tuj.ac.jp/law](http://www.tuj.ac.jp/law) when it becomes available.

### **5. Books**

You must either buy your textbooks before you depart the United States or order them through the Temple University Japan Law Program Office for pick-up in Tokyo. You will receive a book list as soon as it is available.

Although the Law Program option may be slightly more expensive, it is very convenient. To avail of this option, you **must pay for all books in CASH in the Law Program offices**. You will receive a price list in November/December.

You can order textbooks for Temple Law courses on the internet, though with any Internet book distributor, delivery can be delayed or cancelled.

Temple Law School is not affiliated with any bookseller and neither endorses nor guarantees the services of any book company, bookstore, or book distributor. However, some prominent online booksellers include:

<http://www.amazon.com>

(Ships directly to Japan. Sells used textbooks. Cost/timing of international shipping is located at [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/browse/-/596200/ref=br\\_bx\\_c\\_2\\_2/002-1748487-8796019](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/browse/-/596200/ref=br_bx_c_2_2/002-1748487-8796019))

<http://www.amazon.co.jp>

(Division of amazon.com based in Japan. Generally free shipping within Japan though price of textbooks may be higher than amazon.com)

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

(Ships directly to Japan. Sells used textbooks. Cost/timing of international shipping is located at [http://www.barnesandnoble.com/help/po\\_shipping\\_options.asp?userid=2UQBD4CD6V#4](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/help/po_shipping_options.asp?userid=2UQBD4CD6V#4) )

You should also be able to contact the publisher of each textbook (either through the Internet or telephone) to obtain the books. All these sources will deliver your books to Japan for a fee. Amazon.co.jp may deliver for free.

## **6. Access to Temple Records Online via TuPortal**

All J.D. students going to the Tokyo program will be issued a Temple Student Identification Number (TU ID), and will be registered for spring classes through the Office of International Programs in Philadelphia during the fall. (Note: Japan Semester students can not register online.) Once you receive a registration confirmation and TU ID, you can establish a Temple e-mail address and password.

Your Temple e-mail username and password can be used to access TuPortal to view your registration, view and pay your bill, and view your grades at the end of the semester. Once you set up a Temple e-mail address, record your username and password in a secure place. Neither the International Programs Office nor the TUJ Law Program office can access or reset your username or password. Students who need their codes reset must contact Computer Services in Philadelphia. The easiest method is to send an e-mail to [help@temple.edu](mailto:help@temple.edu).

## **VIII. LOOKING FOR AN INTERNSHIP**

During their studies in Japan, some students find working in part-time internships rewarding; others decide not to actively pursue internships because they want to focus on studying and spending time seeing Japan, experiencing Asia, and networking.

We recognize that many students who attend the Law Program do so hoping that they can generate professional contacts and enhance career prospects. *We cannot guarantee that*

*anyone will get a law-related job in Tokyo.* Whether internships (paying or non-paying) are available depends largely upon the employers and their needs.

Nonetheless, the Law Program makes every effort to help students secure law-related opportunities, both paying and non-paying, during their stay in Tokyo. Before each spring semester, the Program solicits and secures internships with various international firms, companies, and organizations in Tokyo, and it introduces suitable student candidates to legal employers for potential internships during the semester. Last year, about 80% of the law students seeking legal internships were able to secure them through either the program or their own efforts, although most internships were unpaid or limited in duration and scope.

Law students are free to use their own contacts or resources to secure an internship before arriving in Japan. They may also find good leads in Martindale-Hubbell and other internet legal and job search websites.

**However, because many of the large international and U.S. firms in Tokyo generally prefer that law students submit their resumes through Temple's Law Program, we ask that you NOT contact prospective employers about spring internships until you have first consulted with the Japan Program Office to confirm that students may contact the employer directly.** Of course, if you do already have a personal connection with a prospective employer in Tokyo, you should use that connection.

If you have questions about this arrangement, please feel free to contact Misako Goto-Hockersmith at [mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu).

Most law courses are held during the late afternoon or evening hours, in part, to enable students to participate in these enriching opportunities.

## **IX. PACKING AND SHIPPING TO JAPAN**

Japanese tend to dress more formally and neatly than does the average U.S. student. Whether at work, school, recreation, or shopping, the Japanese pay particular attention to their appearance. Even though most Japanese youths wish to look American, the typical "college look" of old jeans, an untucked t-shirt, worn shoes, no socks, and other extremely casual dress is generally not seen for everyday casual wear in Japan. In general, plan to wear outfits that are dressier than those characteristic of a law student in the U.S.

Take most of the clothing you will need with you, especially suits. Female students who do not have a pants suit should bring a pair of slacks in addition to a skirt suit. While you can buy casual clothes relatively inexpensively, more formal clothing tends to be expensive and limited in the range of sizes. You will be required to dress professionally on occasions such as Tokyo legal community's social event, visits to the Fuchu Prison and the Supreme Courte of Japan.

A suggested packing list will be enclosed in the second packet in November - December, but remember: the first rule of packing is "less is definitely better." You will have to handle your

own luggage (note: You can ship your luggage from the airport to your apartment for about \$25/suitcase to avoid struggling with several pieces of luggage). Storage space is extremely limited in typical apartments. You know best what you consider essential.

Here are some suggestions from former Japan Semester students:

**Rule One.** Pack things that are easy to take care of: permanent press, hand-washable, and Drip-dry clothing. Dry cleaning is costly in Tokyo. As the level of humidity in Tokyo is high year-round, natural fibers are more comfortable than synthetics.

**Rule Two.** Pack things that are comfortable. Include at least one good pair of walking shoes, and also make sure that the shoes that you take are ones that you can put on and take off with minimal effort as you must remove shoes off before entering homes, some tourist sights and some commercial establishments.

**Rule Three.** Pack – or send – all the clothes you will need for your stay. New clothes can be an unwelcome expense when you are on a tight budget.

**Rule Four.** Plan your clothing in layers. A coat with a zip out lining may be more convenient than a bulky coat as you can better adapt it to temperature and weather changes. Most Japanese homes/buildings do not have central heating, and they tend to keep indoor temperatures kept lower than in the U.S.; Japanese also compensate by wearing layers of clothing indoors.

If at all possible, limit your luggage to the two pieces plus carry-on allowed by commercial airlines. You will almost certainly be charged a fee for excess baggage. As baggage rules are in constant flux, you must check with individual airlines for their most current rules.

If you have a lot of luggage, consider carrying your winter clothes and having spring clothes sent to you. For shipping, you have several alternatives.

**By Parcel Post (U.S. Postal Service)** – As there are limits on size, dimensions and weight of the package, contact your local post office for detailed information. Parcels can be insured. Be sure to label the package “used clothing” or “used personal effects” so that customs charges won’t be levied. In good times, an air mail package may arrive in Tokyo in one or two weeks.

**By Express Courier Services** - DHL and Federal Express services are expensive but may be worth considering depending on what you are sending and whether time is critical.

If you do send things, please note the following general guidelines:

1. Clearly mark the customs declaration to indicate that the items are old, used and personal belongings of the addressee.
2. Do not send anything in advance of your arriving in Tokyo. The school closes for the

- Christmas-New Year holiday season. No one will be available to receive shipments or negotiate for you if there are problems.
3. Insure anything of value. Also, get everything in writing and keep copies. If your family mails things to you after your departure, they should send you a copy of all invoices, receipts, etc., and keep the original copies themselves.
  4. Be prepared to pay customs and handling fees in Japan for any packages.

## X. GETTING TO JAPAN

### A. Transportation

#### 1. Discount Airfares

You may purchase your ticket to Japan through your local travel agency, the internet, or various airline companies. However, several wholesalers sell airline tickets at a considerable discount, **particularly if you book your ticket in advance**. These wholesalers buy tickets on the airlines in bulk, and then pass their savings to their customers. While the significant savings are attractive, the disadvantage of these tickets is that you cannot change the departure date without incurring a cancellation charge up to the full price of the ticket. Typically, the return date can be changed for a fee of \$100.00 per ticket. Check with the individual wholesaler regarding its cancellation and change policies and charges. Here are some larger wholesalers that students have typically used:

- Gateway Travel      1-800-222-1626      <http://www.gatewaylax.com/>
- I.A.C.E. Travel      1-800-872-4223      <http://www.iace-usa.com>
- Amnet Travel      1-800-401-9650      [www.Amnet-USA.com/](http://www.Amnet-USA.com/)
- JTB Travel      <http://www.jtbusa.com/> (If the telephone is answered in Japanese, please feel free to start conversing in English as the travel agent will switch.)

#### 2. Travel Reservation Notes

When making your travel arrangements, please note the following guidelines:

- a. **Do not plan to leave the U.S. before January 1.** We cannot predict when the Japanese Immigration officials will send the Certificates of Eligibility enabling students to obtain their visas, and students making plans to leave for Tokyo before January 1 risk having to change their travel plans at great cost. Also, airfares tend to be cheaper after about January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- b. If you are considering traveling to other Asian countries before or after your semester, we suggest you purchase these flights as part of your transpacific fare. To do so will be considerably less expensive than to buy tickets in Tokyo.

- c. Remember that a Japan rail pass can only be used with a tourist visa. Your student visa should allow you to purchase student-rate tickets, which are different from the tourist rail pass.
- d. If you plan to stay in Tokyo through the summer, consider buying an open return ticket or something beyond a 183-day ticket. Several students who landed internships in Tokyo during the summer have had to purchase new return tickets because their tickets were going to expire.

## **B. Arriving in Tokyo**

Tokyo has two airports: **Narita Airport serves almost all of the international traffic** and Haneda Airport serves most domestic flights. When flying from the U.S. (unless you are flying Taiwan's China Airways), you will arrive in and depart Tokyo through Narita International Airport located 50 miles northeast of the city. After you have cleared immigration and customs and secured your luggage, you can get to downtown Tokyo by train or "limousine" bus.

Information on transportation into Tokyo and a map showing the location of the campus will be sent to you before departure.

## **XI. INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, SPOUSE OR RELATIVES**

### **Be sure to leave the following information with your family:**

1. The address and phone number of the Temple School of Law Office of International Programs in Philadelphia (see below) as this office can handle all questions regarding the Tokyo program.
2. The address and phone number of TUJ (see below). You will have a mailbox at TUJ and you can establish a Temple e-mail address after registration.
3. The address and phone number of your residence in Japan (or send these details from Tokyo as soon as you know them).
4. A copy of the numbers of your traveler's checks. Also, keep a record of these numbers with you (but not in the same place as your traveler's checks) so you can replace any lost or stolen checks.
5. Checking account, savings account, and social security numbers and copies of your passport and your credit cards. Do likewise for any other numbers or information you think might be needed during your absence. You never know when your family may need this information.

6. Names, addresses, E-mail addresses, fax and phone numbers of all important university contacts at your home institution: e.g., Financial Aid, Housing, Registration, etc.

Clear communication goes a long way to making the transition back to the U.S. smooth and uneventful!

7. Any documentation which only you can provide which might be needed in the U.S. while you are abroad. For instance, you might need copies of last year's tax forms for Financial Aid or your transcripts for job searches.

This type of planning is invaluable and could make a difference in meeting crucial deadlines. The time you spend anticipating such needs is very well spent!

8. A Power of Attorney. All students receiving financial aid should execute a power of attorney giving a trusted person authority to sign and deposit financial aid refund checks, and to handle any inquiries that may arise. Your school's financial aid office should be able to provide you with additional information in this regard.

## XII. IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

### 1. TEMPLE UNIVERSITY JAPAN:

*To send things to you:*      *Your name*  
**Temple University Law Program in Japan**  
(Make sure to write “Law Program.”)  
4-1-27 Mita  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0073 JAPAN

Remember to address any mail or packages to yourself and not to Law Office staff. Note that deliveries sent to you in Japan may be subject to additional customs duties.

Phone from U.S.:                    011-81-3-5441-9841 (inside Japan, 03-5441-9841)  
Fax from U.S.:                        011-81-3-5765-2517 (inside Japan, 03-5765-2517)

The university cannot accept telephone calls or take messages for students except in the event of a family emergency. Students can receive faxes, and can also send faxes for a fee.

#### *Contacts at TUJ:*

**Tina Saunders**  
Director & Professor of Law

**Masako Tanaka**  
Program Coordinator  
[masako.tanaka@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:masako.tanaka@tuj.temple.edu)

**Misako Goto-Hockersmith**  
Study Abroad Coordinator  
[mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu)

**TUJ Law Program Office**  
[tujlaw@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:tujlaw@tuj.temple.edu)

### 2. TEMPLE MAIN CAMPUS:

**Office of Graduate & International Programs**  
Temple University Beasley School of Law  
1719 N. Broad Street, Room 710  
Philadelphia PA 19122-6098  
Tel: (215) 204-1448  
Fax: (215) 204-2282

**Louis Thompson**  
Assistant Dean for  
Graduate & International Programs  
[louis.thompson@temple.edu](mailto:louis.thompson@temple.edu)

**Farlistcity El**  
Office Manager for  
Graduate & International Programs  
[farlistcity.el@temple.edu](mailto:farlistcity.el@temple.edu)

### **3.EMERGENCY NUMBERS:**

**Louis Thompson, Assistant Dean**  
Temple University School of Law  
1719 N. Broad Street, Room 710  
Philadelphia PA 19122-6098  
Office Tel: (215) 204-1448  
[louis.thompson@temple.edu](mailto:louis.thompson@temple.edu)

**Tina Saunders**  
**Director of the Japan Law Program**  
OR  
**Misako Goto-Hockersmith**  
**Law Program Study Abroad Coordinator**  
4-1-27 Mita  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0073 JAPAN  
Office Tel: 011 81-3-5441-9841  
(inside Japan 03-5441-9841)  
[mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:mghockersmith@tuj.temple.edu)

**United States Embassy in Tokyo**  
1-10-5 Akasaka  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420 JAPAN  
U.S. mail address: APO AP 96337-5004 USA  
Tel: (03) 3224-5000 (general switchboard)  
(03) 5354-4033 (visa information)  
Fax: (03) 3505-1862

### **4.OTHER MISCELLANEOUS NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES:**

**Japan National Tourism  
Organization**  
[www.jnto.go.jp](http://www.jnto.go.jp)  
<http://www.japantravelinfo.com/top/index.php>

**Medical Services**  
National Medical Clinic  
5-16-11-202 Minami Azabu  
Minato-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN  
Tel: 03-3473-2057  
<http://www.nmclinic.net/>

New York:  
11 West 42nd Street, 19th Floor New  
York, NY 10036  
Tel: (212) 757-5640

Los Angeles:  
340 E. 2nd Street, Little Tokyo Plaza,  
Suite 302 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213) 623-1952

## JAPANESE CONSULATES IN THE UNITED STATES

Visit <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/visa/map.htm>, and select a state on the map for direct access to individual Consular websites.

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>CONSULATE GENERAL ADDRESS</b>
<p><b><u>Embassy of Japan</u></b>                      [Area Served: District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia]</p>	2520 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington D.C., 20008-2869, U.S.A. Tel: (202) 238-6700, 238-6800 [Visa Section] Fax: (202) 328-2187, 328-2184 [Visa Section]
<p><b><u>Anchorage Consular Office of Japan</u></b>                      [Area Served: Alaska]</p>	3601 C Street, Suite 1300, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, U.S.A. Tel: (907) 562-8424 Fax: (907) 562-8434
<p><b><u>Atlanta Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>                      [Area Served: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia]</p>	Alliance Center Suite 1600, 3500 Lenox Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30326 U.S.A. Tel: (404) 240-4300 Fax: (404) 240-4311
<p><b><u>Boston Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>                      [Area Served: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont]</p>	Federal Reserve Plaza, 14th Floor, 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02210, U.S.A. Tel: (617) 973-9772 Fax: (617) 542-1329
<p><b><u>Chicago Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>                      [Area Served: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin]</p>	Olympia Centre, Suite 1100, 737 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611, U.S.A. Tel: (312) 280-0400 Fax: (312) 280-9568

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>CONSULATE GENERAL ADDRESS</b>
<p><b><u>Denver Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>            [Area Served: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming]</p>	<p>1225 17th Street, Suite 3000,            Denver, Colorado 80202, U.S.A.            Tel: (303) 534-1151            Fax: (303) 534-3393</p>
<p><b><u>Detroit Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>            [Area Served: Michigan and Ohio]</p>	<p>400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600,            Detroit, Michigan 48243, U.S.A.            Tel: (313) 567-0120            Fax: (313) 567-0274</p>
<p><b><u>Hagatna Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>            [Area Served: Guam and Northern Mariana Islands]</p>	<p>Suite 604, Guam ITC Building,            590 South Marine Drive,            Tamuning, Guam, 96911, U.S.A.            (P.O. Box AG, Hagatna, Guam 96932, U.S.A.)            Tel: (671) 646-1290, 646-5220            Fax: (671) 649-2620</p>
<p><b><u>Honolulu Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>            [Area Served: Hawaii and American Samoa]</p>	<p>1742 Nuuanu Avenue,            Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3294, U.S.A.            Tel: (808) 543-3111            Fax: (808) 543-3170</p>
<p><b><u>Houston Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>            [Area Served: Oklahoma and Texas]</p>	<p>2 Houston Center Building            909 Fannin Street, Suite 3000,            Houston, TX 77010, U.S.A.            Tel: (713) 652-2977            Fax: (713) 651-7822</p>
<p><b><u>Los Angeles Consulate-General of Japan</u></b>            [Area Served: Arizona and California (South)]</p>	<p>350 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1700,            Los Angeles, California 90071, U.S.A.            Tel: (213) 617-6700            Fax: (213) 617-6727</p>

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>CONSULATE GENERAL ADDRESS</b>
<p><b><u>Miami Consulate-General of Japan</u></b> [Area Served: Florida]</p>	<p>Brickell Bay View Centre, Suite 3200, 80 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33130, U.S.A. Tel: (305) 530-9090 Fax: (305) 530-0950</p>
<p><b><u>Nashville Consulate-General of Japan</u></b> [Area Served: Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee]</p>	<p>1801 West End Avenue, Suite 900, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, U.S.A. Tel: (615) 340-4300 Fax: (615) 340-4311</p>
<p><b><u>New York Consulate-General of Japan</u></b> [Area Served: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Puerto Rico and Virgin Island]</p>	<p>299 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10171, U.S.A. Tel: (212) 371-8222 Fax: (212) 319-6357</p>
<p><b><u>Portland Consulate-General of Japan</u></b> [Area Served: Idaho (South) and Oregon]</p>	<p>2700 Wells Fargo Center, 1300 S.W., 5th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201, U.S.A. Tel: (503) 221-1811 Fax: (503) 224-8936</p>
<p><b><u>San Francisco Consulate-General of Japan</u></b> [Area Served: California (North) and Nevada]</p>	<p>50 Fremont Street, Suite 2300, San Francisco, California 94105, U.S.A. Tel: (415) 777-3533 Fax: (415) 974-3660</p>
<p><b><u>Saipan Consular Office of Japan</u></b> [Area Served: Northern Mariana Islands]</p>	<p>2nd floor, Bank of Hawaii Bldg, Marina Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan, MP 96950, U.S.A (P.O.Box 500407 Main Post Office, Saipan, MP 96950-0407, U.S.A.) Tel: (670) 323-7201 Fax: (670) 323-8764</p>

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>CONSULATE GENERAL ADDRESS</b>
<b><u>Seattle Consulate-General of Japan</u></b> [Area Served: Idaho (North), Montana and Washington]	601 Union Street, Suite 500, Seattle, Washington 98101, U.S.A. Tel: (206) 682-9107 Fax: (206) 624-9097

U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Consular Affairs  
Washington, DC 20520

**Consular Information Sheet**

**Japan**

**LAST UPDATED: NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

**Quick Facts**

**PASSPORT VALIDITY:**

- Passports must be valid for the intended period of stay in Japan

**BLANK PASSPORT PAGES:**

- One page required for entry stamp

**TOURIST VISA REQUIRED:**

- Not required for stays less than 90 days

**VACCINATIONS:**

- None



**CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR ENTRY:**

- The import of local and foreign currency is unrestricted, subject to declaration of amounts equivalent to ¥1,000,000 or above.

**CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR EXIT:**

- The export of local and foreign currency is unrestricted.

## Embassies and Consulates

### **U.S. Embassy Tokyo**

1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku,

Tokyo 107-8420 Japan

Telephone: +(81) (3) 3224-5000

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(81) (3) 3224-5000

Fax: +(81) (3) 3224-5856

[Tokyoacs@state.gov](mailto:Tokyoacs@state.gov)

### **U.S. Consulate General Osaka-Kobe**

2-11-5, Nishitenma,

Kita-ku, Osaka 530-8543 Japan

Telephone: +(81) (6) 6315-5900

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(81) (3) 3224-5000

Fax: +(81) (6) 6315-5914

[AOK@state.gov](mailto:AOK@state.gov)

### **U.S. Consulate General Naha**

2-1-1 Toyama, Urasoe City, Okinawa

Japan

Telephone: 81-98-876-4211

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(81) (3) 3224-5000

Fax: 81-98-876-4243

[NahaACS@state.gov](mailto:NahaACS@state.gov)

### **U.S. Consulate General Sapporo**

Kita 1-jo Nishi 28-chome, Chuo-ku,

Sapporo 064-0821, Japan

Telephone: +(81) (11) 641-1115

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(81) (3) 3224-5000

Fax: +(81) (11) 643-1283

All assistance at the Consulate General Sapporo is by appointment only. Hours for appointments: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (except U.S. and Japanese holidays).

### **U.S. Consulate Fukuoka**

5-26 Ogori 2-chome, Chuo-ku,

Fukuoka 810-0052

Japan

Telephone: 81-92-751-9331

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(81) (3) 3224-5000

Fax: 81-92-713-9222

[FukuokaACS@state.gov](mailto:FukuokaACS@state.gov)

Routine services are provided by appointment only. During regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. except Japanese and American holidays).

### **U.S. Consulate Nagoya**

**Nagoya International Center Bldg. 6th floor,  
1-47-1 Nagono, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 450-0001**

**Japan**

**Telephone: +(81) (52) 581-4501**

**Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(81) (3) 3224-5000**

**Fax: +(81) (52) 581-3190**

Limited consular services for American citizens are available at Consulate Nagoya on an appointment basis.

[AOK@state.gov](mailto:AOK@state.gov)

### **Destination Description**

Japan is a stable, highly developed parliamentary democracy with a modern economy. Tourist facilities are widely available, except in coastal areas of Northeast Japan still recovering from the aftermath of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami. Please read the Department of State's [Fact Sheet on Japan](#) for additional general information.

### **Entry, Exit & Visa Requirements**

You must have a valid passport and an onward/return ticket for tourist/business "visa free" stays of up to 90 days. Your passports must be valid for the entire time you are staying in Japan. U.S. citizens cannot work on a 90-day "visa free" entry. As a general rule, "visa free" entry status may not be changed to another visa status without departing and then re-entering Japan with the appropriate visa, such as a spouse, work, or study visa. Japanese immigration officers may deny you entry if you appear to have no visible means of support.

For more information about the Japanese visa waiver program for tourists, Japan's rules on work visas, special visas for taking depositions, and other visa issues, you should consult the Consular Section of the Embassy of Japan at 2520 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008, tel. (202) 238-6800, or the nearest Japanese consulate. Please visit the [Japanese Embassy's website](#) for location details. The U.S. Embassy and U.S. consulates in Japan cannot assist in obtaining visas for Japan.

All foreign nationals entering Japan are required to provide fingerprint scans and to be photographed at the port of entry. This requirement is in addition to any existing visa or passport requirements. There are some exceptions for this requirement, including diplomatic and official visa holders, minors, and individuals covered under SOFA Article IX.2. For further information about landing procedures, please visit the [Immigration Bureau of Japan's website](#).

If you are a U.S. citizen entering or transiting Japan, you should ensure that your passport and visa are valid and up to date before you leave the United States. Occasionally, airlines mistakenly board U.S. citizens coming to Japan even though

their passports have already expired. The U.S. Embassy and U.S. consulates cannot "vouch for" you without a valid passport, and passport services are not available at the airport. In some prior instances, travelers have been returned immediately to the United States, while in other cases, they have been issued limited "shore passes" and required to return the next day to Japanese Immigration for lengthy processing.

Many Asian countries require you to hold a passport valid for at least six months after you enter the country. Airlines in Japan will deny you boarding for transit if you don't have the required travel documents for an onward destination in Asia or if your passport is not valid for six months. For the entry requirements of the country you're traveling to, visit the [State Department's Country Specific Information](#) website.

Airlines in Japan will deny you boarding for onward flights to China if your passport does not have a valid Chinese visa. U.S. citizen travelers who are not legally resident in Japan have reported difficulties in obtaining a Chinese visa during a short stay in Japan. The U.S. Embassy and U.S. consulates in Japan cannot assist in obtaining Chinese visas. More information is available on the [Country Specific Information page for China](#). Entry requirements for Hong Kong are available on [this webpage](#) as well.

**Military/SOFA Travelers:** While active-duty U.S. military personnel may enter Japan under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with proper Department of Defense (DOD) identification and travel orders, all SOFA family members, civilian employees, and contractors must have valid passports to enter Japan. Military members with non-U.S. citizen family members seeking to have them accompany them to Japan should consult with their command and Japan Immigration for requirements, as entry to Japan may differ depending on nationality. The Embassy urges all U.S. citizens, including active duty military who are able to enter Japan on SOFA status, to obtain a regular "tourist" passport before leaving the United States to accommodate off-duty travel outside of Japan, as obtaining a passport in Japan can take several weeks. If your duties will include official travel, you should also obtain an official passport before coming to Japan to avoid delays of up to two months, as overseas applications for these passports must be referred to a special office in Washington, D.C., which increases the processing time. Please consult the [DOD Foreign Clearance Guide](#) before leaving the United States.

**Long-Term Residency Requirements:** Japan amended its [Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act](#) in 2009, and the changes took effect on July 9, 2012. Under the new system, residents were required to replace the old alien registration card with a new residence card no later than July 8, 2015. In addition, under the 2006 revision of the same law, if you are a long-term resident who obtained residence through your Japanese ancestry, you may have to provide evidence that you do not have a criminal record in your home country before you can renew residency status in Japan. As Japanese Immigration regulations are complex and changing, the Embassy recommends that you consult directly with your local

immigration office for specific guidance. You can obtain a Proof of no U.S. [criminal record](#) through the [FBI Identification Record Request](#).

The current residency system, instituted by the Japanese government on July 9, 2012, impacts the following groups:

- Foreign nationals with Permanent Resident status;
- Foreign nationals who have mid- to long-term residence in Japan based on familial relationships with Japanese citizens;
- Foreign nationals with "College Student" status; and
- Foreign nationals issued a working visa in various professional classifications such as Engineer, Specialist in Humanities/International Services, Research, Business Management, Designated Activities, etc.

**Please Note:** "Long-Term Resident" (teijusha) and "Permanent Resident" (eijusha) are different and therefore are subject to different requirements. As the changes in Japanese immigration and resident registration procedures and the affected groups described above are not a comprehensive listing, please check directly with the Japan Immigration Bureau or the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC). The Japanese government websites below have more information on these changes:

[Changes to the Basic Registration Law](#)  
[New Residency Management System](#)  
[Changes to Immigration Control Act](#)

For a renewal of visa status or a change in visa status, you should bring your Japanese health insurance card (social insurance or national health insurance) to immigration offices, in addition to your passport. Immigration officials will urge those applicants without a health insurance card to join the Japanese public health insurance system.

**HIV/AIDS Restrictions:** The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors or foreign residents of Japan. Information about [dual nationality](#) or the [prevention of international child abduction](#) can be found on our website. For further information about customs regulations, please read our [Customs Information page](#).

## **Safety and Security**

The Government of Japan maintains heightened security measures at key facilities and ports of entry as antiterrorism precautions. At times, these security measures may increase because of regional tensions. The Government of Japan is vigilant in tracking terrorist threat indicators and remains at a high state of alert. You can

contact local police substations (koban) and police emergency dispatchers (tel. 110) to report any suspicious activity.

Our offices in Japan communicate threat information through the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP), post current threat information on the [U.S. Embassy's American Citizens Services \(ACS\) webpage](#), and disseminate relevant information via Twitter ([@ACSTokyo](#)). If you reside in or visit Japan, we encourage you to enroll in [STEP](#), so that the Embassy can keep you up-to-date with important safety and security announcements.

To stay connected:

- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) so we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements.
- Follow the Bureau of Consular Affairs on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
- Bookmark the [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), which contains the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#) as well as the [Worldwide Caution](#).
- Follow the U.S. Embassy ACS Unit in Tokyo on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and visit the [Embassy's website](#).
- In the event of an emergency, contact us at 1-888-407-4747 toll-free within the United States and Canada, or via a regular toll line, 1-202-501-4444, from other countries.
- Take some time before traveling to consider your personal security and checking for useful tips for [traveling safely abroad](#).

**CRIME:** The general crime rate in Japan is well below the U.S. national average. Crimes against U.S. citizens in Japan usually involve personal disputes, theft, or vandalism. Violent crime is rare, but it does exist. Robberies committed after a victim has been drugged from a spiked drink are increasing (see below). Sexual assaults are not often reported, but they do occur, and females may be randomly targeted. Hate-related violent crimes rarely occur, although some U.S. citizens have reported being the target of discrimination because of their nationality or their race. U.S. citizens have reported incidents of pick pocketing in crowded shopping areas, on trains, and at airports. Every year, a number of U.S. citizens report their passports lost or stolen at international airports, especially passports that were carried in their pockets.

Some U.S. citizens report that Japanese police procedures appear to be less sensitive and responsive to a victim's concerns compared to the procedures in the United States, particularly in cases of domestic violence or sexual assault, or when both the victim and the perpetrator are foreigners. Few victim's assistance resources or battered women's shelters exist in major urban areas, and they are

generally unavailable in rural areas. Investigations of sexual assault crimes are often conducted without female police officers present, and police typically ask about the victim's sexual history and previous relationships. The quality of Japanese-English interpretation services can vary, and this has been a problem for some U.S. citizen victims.

Don't buy counterfeit or pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are such goods illegal in the United States, if you purchase them you may also be breaking local law.

### **Concerns Regarding Roppongi, Kabuki-cho and other Entertainment and Nightlife Districts in Tokyo:**

- Roppongi and Kabuki-cho are entertainment districts in Tokyo that cater to foreign clientele and are considered high-risk areas for crime, particularly misappropriation of credit card information in bars to make fraudulent credit card charges. Other high-risk areas for crime in the Tokyo area include Shibuya and Ikebukuro. However, you should use caution in all entertainment and nightlife districts throughout Japan. Incidents involving U.S. citizens in these areas include physical and sexual assaults, drug overdoses, theft of purses, wallets, cash and credit cards at bars or clubs, and drugs allegedly slipped into drinks.
- Drink spiking at bars and entertainment venues, especially in areas such as Roppongi and Kabuki-cho, near Shinjuku, has routinely led to robbery and has also resulted in physical and sexual assaults. In most drink-spiking reports, the victim unknowingly drinks a beverage that has been mixed with a drug that makes the victim unconscious or dazed for several hours, during which time the victim's credit card is stolen or used for large purchases. Some victims regain consciousness in the bar or club; other victims may awaken on the street or in other unknown locations. Several U.S. citizens have also reported being charged exorbitant bar tabs in some bars and clubs in Roppongi and Kabuki-cho and other entertainment and nightlife districts. Although firearms and brandishing knives in public are illegal in Japan, U.S. citizens have reported being threatened with gun or knife violence in such venues so that they will pay bar tabs or withdraw money. U.S. citizens have also reported of being beaten when they have refused to pay or hand over money. There have been recent reports of U.S. citizens being forcibly taken to ATMs and robbed, or made to withdraw funds after being unable to pay exorbitant bar tabs. Please be aware that Roppongi, Kabuki-cho, and other entertainment and nightlife districts have also been the scenes of violence between criminal syndicates.

We urge you to keep these incidents in mind and use caution in all entertainment areas and nightlife districts. If you believe that you are a victim of crime, you must file a police report at the nearest police station before you leave Japan. The Japanese police do not provide you a copy of the police report, but they issue a report number. You can provide this report number to your credit card company in order to confirm the incident with the police. The Japanese police cannot accept reports filed from overseas.

**VICTIMS OF CRIME:** If you or someone you know becomes the victim of a crime abroad, you should contact the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. We can:

- Replace a stolen passport.
- Help you find appropriate medical care if you are the victim of violent crimes such as assault or rape.
- Put you in contact with the appropriate police authorities, and if you want us to, we can contact family members or friends.
- Help you understand the local criminal justice process and direct you to local attorneys, although it is important to remember that local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.

The local equivalents to the "911" emergency line in Japan are 110 (police) or 119 (ambulance/fire).

Contacting Police, Fire and Ambulance Services: You can reach the police throughout Japan by dialing 110. Fire and ambulance services can be contacted by dialing 119. Note that English-speaking dispatchers may not be available. Please review advice on [how to call for help](#). If you need assistance, you should be able to describe your address/location in Japanese or find someone who can do so, since few police officers speak English.

Please see our [information for victims of crime](#), including possible victim compensation programs in the United States.

## **Local Laws & Special Circumstances**

**CRIMINAL PENALTIES:** While you are traveling in another country, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from our own. If you violate Japanese law, even unknowingly, you may be arrested, imprisoned, or deported. If you are arrested in Japan, even for a minor offense, you may be held in detention without bail for several months or more during the investigation and legal proceedings.

Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs, including marijuana and synthetic drugs, are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and fines. Japanese authorities aggressively pursue drug smugglers with sophisticated detection equipment, "sniffing" dogs, and other methods. When entering Japan, you and your luggage will be screened at ports of entry. Incoming and outgoing mail, as well as international packages sent via DHL or FedEx, is also checked carefully. In most drug cases, suspects are detained and barred from receiving visitors or corresponding with anyone other than a lawyer or a U.S.

consular officer until after the first hearing, which at times has not taken place for a year.

In Japan, you may be taken in for questioning if you don't have your passport or Japanese residence card to show your identity and visa status. You must carry your U.S. passport or Japanese Residence Card (Zairyu Kado) with you at all times so that if questioned by local officials, you can prove your identity, citizenship, and immigration status. Under Japanese law, the police may stop any person on the street at any time and demand to see identification. If you do not have with you either a passport or valid Japanese Residence Card, you are subject to arrest. It is illegal for you to work in Japan while in tourist or visa-waiver status.

Overstaying your visa or working illegally may lead to fines of several thousands of dollars, and in some cases, re-entry bans can be as long as ten years, or indefinitely for drug offenders. Japanese work visas are not transferable and are issued outside of Japan for a specific job with a specific employer at a specific place of employment. Japanese authorities do not allow foreigners to change their immigration status from visa-waiver status to work status while in Japan. If you violate your visa status in Japan, you may be subject to arrest, which can involve several weeks or months of incarceration, followed by conviction and imprisonment or deportation. If you are deported, you will have to pay, in most cases, the cost of deportation, including legal expenses and airfare. For additional information please see [Japan's Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act](#) and contact the Japanese Embassy or nearest Japanese consulate in the United States for more information.

Laws governing rape, sexual commerce, and other activity involving sexual relations do not apply to same-sex sexual activity. This definition leads to lower penalties for perpetrators of male rape and greater legal ambiguity surrounding same-sex prostitution.

If you break local laws in Japan, your U.S. passport won't help you avoid arrest or prosecution.

There are also some things that might be legal in the country you visit, but still illegal in the United States. You can be [prosecuted in the United States](#) for engaging in sexual conduct with children or for using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country regardless of the legality of these activities under that country's laws. Counterfeit and pirated goods are illegal in the United States, and if you purchase them in a foreign country, you may be breaking local law as well.

You must always carry identity documents with you while visiting Japan. In Japan, you may be taken in for questioning or arrested if you don't have your passport or Japanese residence card to show your identity and visa status. Driving under the influence of alcohol could also land you immediately in jail. The blood-alcohol limit in Japan is approximately 0.03%, less than the amount of alcohol in a single glass

of beer. Punishments can be up to 10,000 USD in fines and up to five years in prison.

Possession of a gun or ammunition is a crime in Japan. Possession of a knife with a locking blade, or a folding blade that is longer than 5.5 cm (a little more than two inches), is illegal in Japan. U.S. citizens and U.S. military personnel have been arrested and detained for more than 10 days for carrying pocket knives that are legal in the United States but illegal in Japan. The possession of lock-picking tools is illegal in Japan.

[A list of English-speaking lawyers](#) located throughout Japan is available on our [website](#).

**Arrest notifications in Japan:** Generally, when you are arrested in Japan, the police will ask if you would like the U.S. Embassy or a consulate to be notified of your arrest. To ensure that the United States is aware of your circumstances, request that the police and prison officials notify the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate as soon as you are arrested or detained overseas.

In accordance with the U.S.-Japan Consular Convention, U.S. consular officers are generally notified within 24 hours of the arrest of a U.S. citizen if the U.S. citizen requests consular notification.

**Conditions at Prisons and Detention Facilities:** Japanese prisons and detention facilities maintain internal order through a regime of very strict discipline. U.S. citizen prisoners often complain of stark, austere living conditions and psychological isolation. No one arrested in Japan is allowed access to personal medication of any type, often causing health risks to those arrested with medical conditions, as substitute medication provided by prison medical officials is seldom the same in effect or strength as the personal medication. As a prisoner, you can become eligible for parole only after having served approximately 60-70% of your sentence. Early parole is not allowed for any reason -- humanitarian, medical, or otherwise. Access to interpreters is not always required under Japanese criminal law. Additional [information on arrests in Japan](#) is available on our embassy website. Japan acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons on June 1, 2003. Please see our information on [Prisoner Transfer Treaties](#).

## **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

**Customs Regulations:** Japan has strict laws regarding the importation and possession of firearms and other weapons. Persons bringing a firearm or sword into Japan (including target and trophy pistols, air guns, some pocket knives, and even Japanese-origin swords) may have these items confiscated by Japanese customs authorities and may be arrested, prosecuted, and deported or jailed. Some prescription medications, as well as some over-the-counter medications, cannot be imported into Japan. (Please see the "Confiscation of Prescription Drugs and other

Medication" section below.) Please contact the Japanese Embassy or nearest Japanese consulate in the United States, or [visit the Japanese Customs website](#) for specific information regarding import restrictions and customs requirements. Japanese customs authorities encourage the use of an Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission (ATA) Carnet in order to temporarily import professional equipment, commercial samples and/or goods for exhibitions and trade fairs into Japan. The ATA Carnet Headquarters is located at the [U.S. Council for International Business](#) (U.S. CIB), 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 issues and guarantees the ATA Carnet in the United States. For additional information, please call (212) 354-4480, or [email the U.S. CIB](#) for details.

**Confiscation of Prescription Drugs and Other Medication:** The Japanese government decides which medications may be imported legally into Japan. The Embassy and consulates of Japan in the United States have limited information available and do not have a comprehensive lists of specific medications or ingredients.

You can bring up to a two-month supply of allowable over-the-counter medications and up to a two-month supply of allowable vitamins into Japan duty-free. However, it is illegal to bring into Japan some over-the-counter medicines commonly used in the United States, including inhalers and some allergy and sinus medications. Specifically, products that contain stimulants (medicines that contain pseudoephedrine, such as Actifed, Sudafed, and Vicks inhalers) or codeine are prohibited. You can generally bring up to one month's supply of allowable prescription medicine into Japan. You must bring a copy of your doctor's prescription as well as a letter stating the purpose of the drug. However, some U.S. prescription medications, such as Adderall, cannot be imported into Japan, even when accompanied by a customs declaration and a copy of the prescription. You should not mail prescription medicines, including insulin and injectors, without obtaining an import certification called "Yakkan-Syoumei" from the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare. Please see more [information on importing medicines](#) into Japan.

Japanese physicians can often prescribe similar, but not identical, substitutes for medicines available in the United States. See the [list of English-speaking medical facilities](#) throughout Japan on our website. Some popular medications that are legal in the United States, such as Prozac and Viagra, are sold illegally in Japan on the black market. You risk arrest and imprisonment if you purchase such drugs illegally while in Japan.

If you plan to travel to Japan carrying prescription and non-prescription medications, you should consult the [Japanese Embassy or a Japanese consulate](#) in the United States before leaving the United States to confirm whether or not you will be allowed to bring the particular medication into Japan.

**Pets:** The Japanese [Animal Quarantine Service](#) (AQS) sets procedures for importing pets. At a minimum, the process will take seven to eight months, though

the process can take up to a year before a pet may enter Japan. Advance planning is critical. You can find more information about [importing a pet into Japan](#) or information about [exporting a pet from Japan](#) on our embassy website.

**Employment Issues:** U.S. citizens should not come to Japan to work without having the proper employment visa arranged ahead of time. Teaching English, even privately, and serving as hosts/hostesses are both considered "work" in Japan and are illegal without the proper visa.

Some U.S.-based employment agencies and Japanese employers do not fully discuss or correctly represent the true nature of employment terms and conditions. U.S. consular officers in Japan receive numerous complaints from U.S. citizens who come to Japan to work as English teachers, carpenters, models, actors, entertainers, exotic dancers, and bar hosts/hostesses. The complaints include contract violations, non-payment of salary for months at a time, sexual harassment, intimidation, and threats of arrest, deportation, and physical assault. A minimum requirement for effectively seeking the protection of Japanese labor law is a written and signed work contract. If there is no signed contract, Japanese authorities do not get involved on behalf of foreign workers. If you're coming to Japan to work, carefully review your contracts and the history and reputation of your Japanese employer before traveling to Japan. If you are asked to do something you find troubling, you should think about terminating your employment and returning to the United States. Complaints against U.S.-based employment agencies or recruiters may be directed to the [Better Business Bureau](#) or the Office of the Attorney General in that particular state.

**Living and Travel Expenses:** Japan's cost of living is one of the highest in the world. The use of credit/debit cards is not widespread, particularly outside major cities. While there are ATMs in Japan, most are not open 24 hours a day, and only a very limited number accept U.S.-issued cards. ATMs at major airports, foreign bank branches, Japanese post offices, 7-11 stores, and some convenience stores are more likely to accept foreign cards than are those at other locations. You should make sure that you have access to sufficient funds through credit cards, debit cards, or cash to carry out your travel, and you should know how to contact your banking or credit card establishments in an emergency.

[Western Union](#) money transfer service is available at [Travelex](#) offices in major cities. Paypal is available for international money transfer. For more information on this service, please [click here](#). Please see our website for [additional information on financial arrangements in Japan](#).

**English Help and Information Lines:** As a tourist or foreign resident in Japan, you can have access to valuable information, including professional counseling, through help and information telephone hotlines. [TELL](#) provides English-speaking counseling and referrals at 03-5774-0992. The [Japan Help Line](#) provides similar assistance nationwide at 0570-000-911 (domestic), 813-3435-8017 (international).

**Disaster Preparedness:** Japan is faced with the ever-present danger of deadly earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons. Japan is one of the most seismically active locations in the world; minor tremors are felt regularly throughout the islands. On March 11, 2011, an earthquake registering 9.0 on the Richter scale struck the northeastern coast of Japan and triggered tsunami waves that caused extensive damage to life and property and severely damaged the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Additional information on the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake is available on the [U.S. Embassy's American Citizens Services \(ACS\) webpage](#). While responsibility for caring for disaster victims, including foreigners, rests with the Japanese authorities, one of the first things you should do upon arriving in Japan is to learn about earthquake and disaster preparedness from hotel or local government officials. Self-preparedness information is available on the [U.S. Embassy's American Citizens Services \(ACS\) webpage](#) and on the [U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) home page](#).

**Radiation:** Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant: The Government of Japan continues to closely monitor the conditions at and around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. In addition, in September 2012, Japan established an independent organization to oversee the safety of its nuclear reactors, the [Nuclear Regulation Authority](#).

We recommend that U.S. citizens observe the evacuation orders and travel restrictions put into place by the Government of Japan for areas surrounding Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, as described by the Japanese government on the following [map](#) (Japanese version [map](#)). For a more detailed description of the differences in travel restrictions between the various zones [click here](#). Those considering travel to affected areas in Fukushima Prefecture should consult with local authorities to receive current guidance on expected levels of radiation and recommendations for reducing exposure to radiation in these areas. Additional information about radiation and its effects on human health may be found at the following websites:

[Radiation, Health and Food Safety Information Post-Fukushima](#)  
[CDC Radiation Emergency Japan 2011 Earthquake](#)  
[EPA Understanding Radiation: Overview](#)  
[Japan Secretariat: Great East Japan Earthquake](#)  
[U.S. Department of Defense: Operation Tomodachi Registry](#)

Please note that many of the coastal areas in the Fukushima, Iwate, and Miyagi Prefectures affected by the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster in 2011 are still undergoing significant reconstruction. If you wish to travel to these areas, you should exercise caution as you may experience disruption in travel or infrastructure. We recommend that you contact local authorities, or travel/accommodation service providers in advance.

**WOMEN TRAVELER INFORMATION:** If you are a woman traveling abroad, please review our travel tips for [Women Travelers](#).

**LGBT RIGHTS:** There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBT events in Japan. While in recent years, open members of Japan's LGBT community have made social strides including winning elections to public office, LGBT activists warned that Japan remains an unwelcome place for sexual minorities. Japanese scholars have described Japan as being on the whole "more tolerant of sexual minorities than other countries in Asia," but they say that same-sex sexual behavior remains stigmatized in Japanese society. While overt violence against members of the LGBT community is rare, scholars note that many LGBT Japanese opt to remain anonymous to avoid bullying, harassment, or professional repercussions, resulting in social isolation. For more detailed information about LGBT rights in Japan, you may review the [State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#). For further information on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) travel, please read our [LGBT Travel Information](#) page.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** While in Japan, individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what they are in the United States. Although Japan's accessibility laws mandate that new construction projects for public use include provisions for persons with disabilities, older buildings are not likely to have been retrofitted for accessibility. At major train stations, airports, and hotels, travelers with disabilities should encounter few accessibility problems. Accessibility at other public facilities continues to improve through the installation of elevators and wheelchair ramps. However, travelers should note that many smaller stations are inaccessible to those who cannot climb stairs. Most major urban hotels have wheelchair accessible rooms, while smaller "business hotels" and traditional Japanese-style inns may not accommodate wheelchair users. Information on travel in Japan for travelers with disabilities is available at Tesco Premium Search Co., Ltd. website "[the Travel Guide for Wheelchair Users](#)." U.S. citizen travelers in wheelchairs should be aware that wheelchairs must be no more than 120 centimeters in length/height and no more than 70 centimeters in width in order to be allowed in trains. Accessibility information regarding the East Japan Railway Company is also available at [the company's website](#). Reduced train fares for individuals with disabilities are not available for temporary visitors to Japan. If you do not speak Japanese, you may wish to ask your travel agent to make advance arrangements for your travel in Japan.

## Health

While medical care in Japan is good, English-speaking physicians and medical facilities that cater to U.S. citizens' expectations are expensive and not widespread. Japan has a national health insurance system which is available only to those foreigners with long-term visas for Japan. National health insurance does not pay for medical evacuation. Medical caregivers in Japan require payment in full

at the time of treatment or concrete proof of ability to pay before they will treat a foreigner who is not a member of the national health insurance plan.

U.S.-style and standard psychiatric care can be difficult to locate in major urban centers in Japan and generally is not available outside of Japan's major cities. Extended [psychiatric care for foreigners in Japan](#) is difficult to obtain at any price. U.S. prescriptions are not honored in Japan, so if you need ongoing prescription medicine, you should arrive with a sufficient supply for your stay in Japan or enough until you are able to see a local care provider. Certain medications, including some commonly prescribed for depression and Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), are not widely available. Please see the section above entitled, "Confiscation of Prescription Drugs and Other Medication," regarding the importation of medicine into Japan. Also see [information on importing medicines into Japan](#) and a [list of medical facilities in Japan](#) with English-speaking staff.

You can find detailed information on vaccinations and other health precautions, on the [Centers for Diseases Control \(CDC\) website](#). For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) website](#). The WHO website also contains additional health information for travelers, including [detailed country-specific health information](#).

## **Travel & Transportation**

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS:** While in a foreign country, you may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Japan is provided for general reference only, and it may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance. Driving in Japan is complicated and expensive. Traffic moves on the left side of the road. Those who cannot read the language will have trouble understanding road signs. Highway tolls can be very high. City traffic is often very congested. A 20-mile trip in the Tokyo area may take two hours. There is virtually no legal roadside or curbside parking; however, traffic is commonly blocked or partially blocked by those illegally parked curbside. In mountainous areas, roads are often closed during the winter, and cars should be equipped with tire chains. Roads in Japan are much narrower than those in the United States. Japanese compulsory insurance (JCI) is mandatory for all automobile owners and drivers in Japan. Most short-term visitors choose not to drive in Japan. Turning on red lights is generally not permitted.

Japanese law provides that all drivers in Japan are held liable in the event of an accident, and assesses fault in an accident on all parties. Japan has a national zero percent blood-alcohol-level standard for driving, and drivers stopped for driving under the influence of intoxicants will have their licenses confiscated. If you're found guilty of "drunken, speeding, or blatantly careless driving resulting in injury" you are subject to up to 15 years in prison.

All passengers are required to fasten their seat belts.

Please refer to our [Road Safety page](#) for more information. The National Police Agency (NPA) oversees the administration and enforcement of traffic laws in Japan. You can find further information in English on the [NPA's website](#).  
Emergency Assistance: Within Japan, please dial 110 for police, and 119 for ambulance. For roadside assistance, please contact the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) at 03-5730-0111 in Tokyo, 072-645-0111 in Osaka, 011-857-8139 in Sapporo, 092-841-5000 in Fukuoka, or 098-877-9163 in Okinawa.

For specific information concerning Japanese driving permits, vehicle inspection, road tax and mandatory insurance, please refer to the [Japan National Tourist Organization website](#) for locations in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, or San Francisco. In addition, information about roadside assistance, rules of the road, and obtaining a Japanese driver's license is available in English from the [Japan Automobile Federation \(JAF\) web site](#).

International Driving Permits (IDPs): An international driving permit (IDP) issued in the United States by the American Automobile Association (AAA) or the American Automobile Touring Alliance (AATA) is required of short-term visitors who drive in Japan. You must obtain an IDP issued in your country of residence prior to arriving in Japan. The U.S. Embassy or its consulates do not issue IDPs. IDPs issued via the Internet and/or by other organizations are not valid in Japan. "Residents" – the exact definition is unclear - must convert to or obtain a Japanese driver's license. Residents in Japan who use an international driver's license may be fined or arrested. In practice, the term "resident" involves more than simply visa status or length of stay in Japan and is determined by the police. In short, an international license is not a substitute for a valid Japanese license. See our [website for more information on driving in Japan](#).

Please refer to our [Road Safety page](#) for more information.

**AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT:** The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the government of Japan's Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of Japan's air carrier operations. Further information may be found on the [FAA's safety assessment page](#).

[Please see Fact Sheet for this country.](#)