

Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK) – 2026 Inbound Application Guidelines

1. Program Guidelines

Okayama University implements the Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK) with its partner universities under formal Agreements of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”).

EPOK students may choose from a wide range of courses taught in English in addition to Japanese language courses. As of March 2025, Okayama University accepts students nominated from 63 partner universities in 24 countries, including those from the EPOK-ASEAN (AUN) network.

For the full list of EPOK partner universities (as of March 2025), please see:

<https://intl.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/inbound/programs/epok/partner/>

2. Admission Requirements

Students eligible to participate in EPOK (hereinafter referred to as “EPOK students”) are, in principle, non-Japanese nationals enrolled as undergraduate students at a partner university who have completed at least one year of study at the time of application, have an excellent academic record (GPA of 2.0/4.0 or higher), and have been nominated by their home institution.

In addition, applicants who are not native speakers of English must submit proof of English proficiency through one of the following standardized test scores:

- **TOEFL:** 500 (PBT) or 61 (iBT) or higher
- **IELTS:** Overall Band Score of 5.5 or higher

The following regionally recognized English proficiency tests are also accepted:

- **MUET:** Band 4 or higher
- **GEPT:** High-Intermediate level or above
- **DAAD:** Minimum of ★★★★★ in each skill area

3. Admission Period and Duration

The admission period for EPOK students shall, in principle, be one of the following:

Category	Semester Structure	Period of Stay
Spring Semester	1st Term + 2nd Term	April 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026
Fall Semester	3rd Term + 4th Term	October 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Full Year ①	Spring + Fall Semesters	April 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027
Full Year ②	Fall Semester + Following Spring Semester	October 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027

Note: Students who have previously enrolled at Okayama University may be accepted again. However, the total period of enrollment under EPOK shall not exceed one academic year.

4. Number of Students Accepted

The number of students accepted from each partner university shall, in principle, be based on the maximum number specified in the relevant student exchange agreement.

5. Student Status

EPOK students are admitted as Special Auditing Students affiliated with the Institute of Global Human Resource Development.

Note: A Special Auditing Student is a non-degree student accepted under a student exchange agreement for the purpose of study only, and not for obtaining a regular academic degree.

6. Application Procedures

Applicants wishing to enroll as EPOK students must first be selected by their home institution and then complete the online application procedure by the deadlines specified below (all deadlines are 5:00 p.m. JST).

Admission Period	Application Deadline
Spring Admission	November 15 of the year prior to arrival in Japan
Fall Admission	May 15 of the year of arrival in Japan

7. Screening

Applicants who complete the submission of all required documents by the application deadline will be reviewed by the EPOK Admissions Screening Committee at Okayama University, which will make the final decision regarding acceptance.

8. Courses and Required Study Hours

EPOK provides a variety of recommended courses taught in English, including *Studies of Japan* and the *EPOK Research Project*. Students may also enroll in Japanese language courses offered through the Japanese Language Program at Okayama University.

Students with advanced proficiency in Japanese may be permitted to take liberal arts courses or faculty-offered courses conducted in Japanese. In principle, enrollment in these courses requires proof of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Level N1 proficiency.

In accordance with visa requirements, all exchange students must register for at least 10 hours of coursework per week during their period of study in Japan.

For the 2025 *EPOK Course Catalogue* (as of July 2025), please refer to the following link:

<https://intl.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/inbound/programs/epok/curriculum/>

9. Certificates

Students who participate in the exchange program and complete the prescribed coursework will receive an academic transcript along with a *Certificate of Attendance*.

In addition, students who fulfill the designated completion requirements will be awarded a separate *EPOK Certificate of Study in Japan*.

10. Housing

In principle, EPOK students will be assigned accommodation in *Okayama University International Student Shared Housing* (or *International Student Share House*).

However, in cases involving special circumstances such as health reasons, students may apply for consideration of alternative housing arrangements.

11. Expenses

Tuition fees at Okayama University are waived for EPOK students.

However, students are responsible for covering all other expenses, including living costs such as dormitory fees, and all travel-related expenses. The main self-funded expenses include:

- Travel expenses
- Dormitory fees
- Food expenses
- Textbooks and other study materials
- National Health Insurance fees
- Membership fees for Okayama University Co-op “Student Comprehensive Mutual Aid (Seikyo Kyosai)” (including life mutual aid insurance)

For details on estimated expenses, please refer to the following link:

<https://intl.okayama-u.ac.jp/master/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Money-and-bank.pdf>

12. Contacts

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