

Okayama University
2023 Exchange Program (EPOK) Inbound Application Guideline

Impact of the Global Pandemic on the EPOK Inbound Program

- 1) Under the circumstances in which foreign students are able to enter Japan due to the relaxation of Japan's border control measures, travel schedules and study methods shall in principle, be the same as those before COVID, and the students shall come to Japan to participate in the program.
- 2) Students may be restricted from traveling or from entering Japan per Japanese national policies and those of the students' respective nations.

1. Program Guidelines

Exchange Program (EPOK)

Okayama University conducts the Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK) with partner universities based on an Agreement of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”). EPOK students choose from a variety of courses conducted in English and take Japanese language courses. Okayama University accepts students nominated from 58 partner universities (including EPOK-ASEAN(AUN) partner universities) in 21 countries in 2022.

*See the list of EPOK partner universities (as of May 2022) here:

<https://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/ouic/epok/puise.html>

2. EPOK Candidates

EPOK candidates must be enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at partner universities at the time of application and throughout the exchange period. Candidates must have successfully completed their first year at the partner universities. Candidates should be in good academic standing and must be nominated by the partner universities. Minimum GPA 2.0

Candidates from non-English speaking countries must provide a copy of a document that demonstrates a good command of the English language. EPOK only accepts following internationally acknowledged qualifications: as follows TOEFL (500PBT / 61 iBT), IELTS (5.5 overall), TOEIC (580).

Please note that EPOK does not accept any domestic qualifications except the following test: MUET(4), GEPT (High-Intermediate)

3. Duration of Exchange

The period of exchange must occur within one academic year as shown in the schedule below:

Spring Only (Term 1, Term 2)	April 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023
Fall Only (Term 3, Term 4)	October 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024
Full Year	April 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024 or October 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024

4. Number of Exchange Students

Partner universities may send no more than the maximum number of students approved in the Agreement for participation in EPOK.

5. Student Status

EPOK students are non-degree students* at the Institute for Global Human Resource Development of Okayama University.

*Exchange students (special auditing students) under student exchange agreements, who are non-degree students.

6. Application and Deadline

EPOK student candidates who are nominated by the partner universities must apply online. The application deadline is November 15th, 17:00(JST) of the previous year for the Spring, and May 15th, 17:00 (JST) of the same year for the Fall.

7. Selection of Exchange Students

Applications of students nominated by partner universities will be reviewed for acceptance by the Okayama University EPOK selection committee. Application should be submitted before above deadline via EPOK on-line apply site.

8. Academic Courses and Enrollment

The available courses include the EPOK recommended classes conducted in English (e.g. “Study of Japan” or “EPOK Research Project”) as well as Japanese language courses. A variety of courses taught in Japanese offered in other faculties may be available to those who have sufficient command of Japanese.

Due to immigration regulations, all exchange students must maintain a minimum course load of 10 class contact hours per week during their participation in the program.

Details about the course list and instruction for registration should be available in the end of February 2023.

The updated syllabus as of July 2022 can be found here:*

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

9. Certificate

Students who successfully complete EPOK will be issued a certificate of program completion.

10. Accommodation

EPOK exchange students will be provided with on-campus accommodation, generally at the International Student Shared House. If requested due to health or other personal reasons, other university housing may be arranged.

11. Fees and Other Expenses

Okayama University will waive the tuition fee for EPOK exchange students. Students are responsible for all other expenses including accommodation, food, miscellaneous living costs, textbooks, insurance, and all travel expenses.

Expected expenses are listed here:

<https://intl.okayama-u.ac.jp/master/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Money-and-bank.pdf>

12. Contacts

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