

Okayama University
2021 Exchange Program (EPOK) Inbound Application Guideline

Impact of the Global Pandemic on the EPOK Inbound Program

- 1) Students may be restricted from traveling or from entering Japan per Japanese national policies and those of the students' respective nations.
- 2) Okayama University will offer online courses for those who cannot travel to Japan or for those who are urged to return to their home countries during the exchange period.

Program Guidelines

1. 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. As of 2021, Okayama University accepts students nominated from 46 partner universities in 16 countries.

*See the list of EPOK partner universities 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.

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 the following internationally acknowledged qualifications: TOEFL (500PBT / 61iBT), IELTS (5.5 overall), or TOEIC (580).

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, 2021 to August 31, 2021
Fall Only (Term 3, Term 4)	October 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022
Full Year	April 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022 or October 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022

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.

*Non-degree students are entitled to use and access such university facilities as the library, the health service center, and the information & technology center.

6. Application and Deadline

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

Note: For Spring 2021, the deadline has been extended to December 15, 2020.

7. Selection of Exchange Students

Applications of students nominated by partner universities will be reviewed for acceptance by the Okayama University EPOK selection committee.

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 a 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.

International students who cannot travel to Japan by April 1, 2021, should be able to enroll in the available online courses at Okayama University while they wait for approval to depart their country and/or to enter Japan. Details about the online course list and registration should be announced to the partner universities by the end of January 2021.

The updated syllabus as of XX/XX can be found here:*

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

* Not available as of 09/30/2020

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 Share 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://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/ouic/up_load_files/kokusai-pdf/Money_and_Bank.pdf

12. Contacts

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