

Okayama University
2024 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 67 partner universities (including EPOK-ASEAN(AUN) partner universities) in 24 countries in 2023.

*See the list of EPOK partner universities here:

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

2. EPOK Candidates

As a general rule, 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 (Minimum **GPA 2.0 / 4.0 scale**) 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 following internationally acknowledged qualifications: as follows **TOEFL (500PBT / 61 iBT), IELTS (5.5 overall)** .

Please note that EPOK does not accept any domestic qualifications except the following test: MUET(4), GEPT (High-Intermediate), DAAD (★★★★ or above in each skill).

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, 2024 to August 31, 2024
Fall Only (Term 3, Term 4)	October 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025
Full Year	April 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025 or October 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

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.

Students who have sufficient command of Japanese may be able to take general education courses and undergraduate courses offered in Japanese under certain conditions.

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

The updated syllabus as of June 2023 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/2023/03/Money-and-bank.pdf>

12. Contacts

EPOK Coordinator: Junko Obayashi, Associate Professor,
Institute for Global Human Resource Development
E-mail: j_obayashi@okayama-u.ac.jp Tel: +81-86-251-8935

EPOK Inbound administrative office: Ryosuke Yamasaki, Clerical Staff,
International Student Division, Okayama University International Affairs Department
E-mail: epok-inbound1@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp Tel: +81-86-251-8547