

NAGOYA
ZOKEI
UNIVERSITY

Student Exchange Program

2027



About Us

Nagoya Zokei University is an art and design institution located in central Japan. In 2022, we relocated to a new campus designed by architect Riken Yamamoto. Conveniently situated near the heart of Nagoya, this urban campus serves as an ideal hub for exploring not only the city of Nagoya, but also the region of central Japan and beyond.

We offer undergraduate and graduate programs that allow our students to pursue studies in a broad range of creative fields. Beginning in Spring 2026, incoming exchange students can take part in a special curriculum designed to allow them to deepen their creative skills while discovering Japan and its culture.



Academics

Exchange students studying at Nagoya Zokei University during the **2027–2028** academic year will take part in a customized program that will allow them to discover Japanese art, design and culture from the perspective of their own specialized field. This curriculum is **centered on fieldwork**, taking advantage of Nagoya's convenient location.

Completing one semester as a exchange student will require a total workload of **650 to 850 hours**. These hours include class time, study, work on your creative projects and field trips. Your home institution will decide how many credits this corresponds to.

Curriculum

The exchange program is broken down into four main areas of study.

1. Specialized Studio Practice

In this **required** class, you will work on a project from **your own specialized field**. The details of each project will vary depending on the field, but you will be expected to produce a work, or a collection of works, inspired by your experience in Japan. Participants must chose from one of the following fields:

- Fine art / contemporary art
- Japanese painting
- Architecture
- Product design / lifestyle design
- Digital media

Students are expected to have sufficient experience in a related field to carry out their creative projects.

2. Theory and Language

Exchange students must take a single **required theory class**, taught in English, that will give them cultural perspectives on their experiences in Japan. Furthermore, students must take an introductory class in **spoken Japanese**. Students who are already fluent in Japanese may take an advanced Japanese language class instead.



3. Elective Studio Practice

Students may take one or two elective studio practice classes. Unlike the required studio practice, these are introductory-level classes meant to expand students' skill sets and perspectives. Classes open to exchange students in 2027–2028 are:

- Japanese painting
- Ceramics
- Character design and illustration
- Manga storyboarding
- Sketching
- Drawing (figure and still-life)
- Photography



4. Fieldwork

Exchange students will participate in several fieldwork trips. About seven or eight different locations will be visited. Four of these are day trips that will be taken on weekends. The other three fieldworks will be more intensive explorations of three contrasting areas outside Nagoya.

Language of Instruction

Regular classes at Nagoya Zokei University are taught in Japanese. However, we have developed a special curriculum for short-term international students that allows you to study primarily in English. This includes courses conducted entirely in English, as well as selected Japanese-taught courses that provide additional support so non-speakers can follow along.

Of course, some knowledge of Japanese is always useful. Exchange students who hold an N2 or N1 qualification on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) may also register for regular Japanese-taught classes to earn extra credits.

Academic Calendar

Exchange students may only stay for a single semester:

Spring: Early April to late July / early august.

Fall: Mid-September to early January.

Precise dates will be communicated to your home institution later this year.



Tuition

Exchange students do not need to pay any tuition to Nagoya Zokei University. Instead, tuition is paid to your home institution. Students are expected to pay for some required art supplies and textbooks, as well as some of the expenses incurred during field trips, such as meals.



Accommodation

Nagoya Zokei University can provide exchange students with off-campus lodging. You should expect to pay approximately ¥60,000 to ¥80,000 per month for rent, including utilities and internet.



Insurance

Exchange students must register for the National Health Insurance which covers 70% of medical costs.

Applications

In order to participate in the exchange program at Nagoya Zokei University, you must be **nominated by your home institution**.

Since places are limited, we cannot guarantee that all students who have been nominated will be accepted in the program. For the 2026-2027 academic year, we will accept **up to 5 exchange students** per semester, from all our partner institutions.

Along with your official nomination, you must also submit a portfolio and fill out our Exchange Student Application Form. You can obtain this form from your home institution during the nomination period.

Please ask your home institution for further details.

Important Dates

Spring 2027

October 5th 2026 : Nomination, portfolio and application form submission deadline.

October 30st 2026 : Results announcement.

Fall 2027–2028

April 26th 2027 : Nomination, portfolio and application form submission deadline.

May 14th 2027 : Results announcement.

Contact Information

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