April 2027

The Iwate University Student Exchange Program (IU-SEP)
Application Guidebook 2027

<<What is IU-SEP？>>

IU-SEP is a student exchange program to accept students for a one semester or two semester's period from universities that have a student exchange agreement with Iwate University.

This program provides 4 programs. Please note that if the IU-SEP is adopted by a scholarship program from Japan Student Services Organizations (JASSO), this program may be subject to change.

1. Iwate Area Studies Program (Humanities course)
2. Iwate Science and Engineering Research Program
   (Science and Engineering course (*including Product Design and Information Design course))
3. Iwate Agricultural Research Program (Agricultural Science course)
4. Open Study Program (Free Choice course)

<<Requirement for Application>>

To apply for IU-SEP, applicants must:

1. not be of Japanese Nationality.
2. be registered as a full time regular student as an undergraduate or a graduate (MA or PhD) at one of the universities that has a student exchange agreement with Iwate University. In addition, applicants must maintain their regular student status at their home university throughout the period they are enrolled at Iwate University. They also must return to their university after completing the program at Iwate University, and continue their study at their home university. However, students who graduate from their home university during their study at Iwate University and proceed to the graduate school of the home university will be eligible to apply.
3. have a good academic standing and good personal records at their home university.
4. have clear objectives and plans, and good outcomes can be expected from their study and research.
5. Applicants must possess sufficient proficiency in Japanese or English to understand courses and instructions.

*Applicants to the Iwate Science and Engineering Research Program (Science and Engineering Course, including the Product Design and Information Design Course) must meet one of the following requirements:

A. Demonstrate English proficiency at approximately CEFR B1 level; or

B. Possess Japanese proficiency approximately equivalent to JLPT N2 level.

*Applicants to the Iwate Agricultural Research Program (Agricultural Course) must meet one of the following requirements:

A. Have obtained a TOEFL iBT score of 46 or higher; or

B. Have passed JLPT N2 or above; or

C. Have passed an interview conducted online by the prospective academic supervisor. Please note that an interview may still be required even if the applicant meets the TOEFL iBT or JLPT requirements.

6. be able to obtain a college student visa to enter Japan.
7. be recommended by the President or a head of a department of their home university.

<<Capacity>>

The number of exchange students from one university cannot be more than the number determined by each agreement.

Students who are eligible for this program may differ depending on the courses. If the participants would like to choose a non-eligible program course, they have to ask the staff of home institutions.

<<School Year>>

1. The term of this program is either one semester or two semesters.
2. Spring Semester : April 1 to Mid-August (Course Period: Early April to Early August)
   Fall Semester: October 1 to Mid-February (Course Period: October to Mid-February)

Classes are not held on Saturdays, Sundays and Japanese national holidays. There are summer, winter and spring vacations when the students study by themselves.

<<Application Deadline>>

Enrollment commencing April 2027: November 30, 2026

<<Guidance and Support>>

Each student will have an academic supervisor. These supervisors and teachers at the Global Education Center will give them guidance and support not only for college life but also for life in Iwate. Students will also have a student tutor who supports their study and everyday life.

<<Evaluation, Credits & Diploma>>

1. Exchange students who earned credits will receive a transcript issued to prove their completion of courses, course scores, and acquirement of credits. To those who completed each program, a certificate of completion will be issued.
2. Credits students earned at Iwate University can be transferred to their home institutions. Some credits, however, may have to be confirmed with the home institutions' supervisors before being accepted.

<<Courses after arriving in Japan >>

Each course has a list of “Subjects taken by the exchange students in the past”. This list of subjects is a sample / reference for your class registration. However, Iwate University was reorganized in April 2025. Due to this, the courses offered also changed significantly, so please check the courses you will actually be able to take when registering after arriving in Japan. With the exception of Japanese language courses and some courses offered in English, most lectures at Iwate University are conducted in Japanese, so a high level of Japanese language proficiency is required.

<<Outline of the Program Course>>

1. Iwate Area Studies Program (Humanities course)

While improving their Japanese language skills at Iwate University, participants will deepen their understanding of their areas of interest such as Japanese history, culture, society, arts and environment centered on Iwate area.

The participants will understand Japan, notably Iwate, and its culture through activities such as visiting the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami disaster areas, World Heritage Site Hiraizumi, and such.

(1) Eligible students

Liberal arts undergraduate students (2nd year and up) and graduate (MA) students, coming from the following university

[China] Ningbo University (Faculty of Foreign Languages), Qufu National University, Northwest University, Tsinghua University (School of Humanities), Yangzhou University (College of Liberal Arts), Yunnan Minzu University (School of Foreign Languages and South Asian and Southeast Asian Studies)
[Taiwan] National Kaohsiung Normal University
[Korea] Myongji University, Kunsan National University
[Thailand] Siam University, Panyapiwat Institute of Management
[USA] The University of Texas Austin, North Central College, Earhram University
[Canada] Saint Mary's University
[France] University Bordeaux Montaigne
[Russia] St. Petersburg State University of Culture
[Indonesia] Airlangga University

(2) Period 1 to 2 semesters

(3) Number of Credits per Year 12 to 48 credits (6 to 24 credits per semester)

*A minimum of 6 subjects is required to take for a student visa.
*Number of credits varies depending on subjects.

(4) Curriculum

Area	Name of Courses	Credits	Course Category
Japanese	Japanese Language Courses (Elementary to Advanced)	Minimum 3	International Education Courses General Education Courses
Culture	Iwate Studies A / B (taught in English; TOEFL iBT 75 or above) Japanese Affairs A / B (Intermediate II-level Japanese required) Multi-cultural Communication A / B (Intermediate II-level Japanese required) *These subjects are not compulsory for students at elementary Japanese level.	Minimum 2	
Elective Courses	Select subjects that focus on history, culture, society, art, and environment under International Education Courses, Specialized Courses, and General Education Courses. *Refer to "Subjects taken by the exchange students in the past"	Minimum 2	International Education Courses General Education Courses Specialized Courses
Select subjects from General Education Courses and Specialized Courses, depending on the students' abilities, interests, and preferences.			General Education Courses Specialized Courses

2. Iwate Science and Engineering Research Program (Science and Engineering course)

The program promotes engineering research activities (including product design and information design activities) at a graduate level. It will provide the participants with the opportunities to acquire quality knowledge of their specialties, understanding of morality and to develop skills to discover and solve problems. This program aims to nurture scholars and specialists of excellence who contribute to the advancement of cutting-edge technologies in the local as well as international communities.

(1) Eligible students

Engineering graduate students (MA), as well as Arts and Industrial Design undergraduate students (2nd year and up) and graduate (MA) students, coming from the following universities.

*Undergraduate students may also be accepted, but please note that many classes are offered in Japanese, and a high level of language proficiency is required.

Particularly for undergraduate students who choose the Product Design and Information Design Course, a high level of Japanese proficiency is required, as they are expected to take the same courses as Japanese students. Please note that applicants are required to have Japanese language proficiency of JLPT N2 level or higher as a general benchmark.

For graduate students who choose the Product Design and Information Design Course, Japanese language proficiency may be waived if they possess a high level of English proficiency, with CEFR B1 level or above serving as a general benchmark.

[China] Northwest A&F University, Henan Polytechnic University, Shandong University of Art and Design
[Mongolia] University of the Humanities, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, New Mongol Institute of Technology
[Thailand] King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (Faculty of Engineering), Kasetsart University (Faculty of Science), Silpakorn University
[Canada] University of Saskatchewan
[Sweden] Linnaeus University
[Korea] Chungnam National University, Hanbat National University
[Malaysia] Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah
[Taiwan] National Chiayi University, National Kaohsiung Normal University
[Vietnam] Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology

(2) Period 1 to 2 semesters

(3) Number of Credits per Year 12 to 48 credits (6 to 24 credits per semester)
*A minimum of 6 subjects is required to take for a student visa.
*Number of credits varies depending on subjects.

(4) Curriculum

Area	Name of Courses	Credits	Course Category
Language	Academic English Japanese Language Courses	Minimum 1	International Education Courses

Research	[For Both the "Science and Engineering Course" and the "Product Design and Information Design Course"] Iwate Science Research A/B (undergraduate) Advanced Research (graduate)	Minimum 2	Specialized Courses
Elective Courses	[Product Design and Information Design Course] (undergraduate) Creative Design Ⅰ (Spring Semester) Creative Design Ⅱ (Fall Semester) Information Design Ⅰ (Fall Semester) Information Design Ⅱ (Spring Semester) [The following courses are only for graduate students] 【Graduate Course for all fields】 Introduction to Soft Path Science and Engineering 【Graduate Course in Chemistry】 Advanced Organic Reaction Chemistry Advanced Synthetic Polymer Chemistry Advanced Chemistry of Functional Polymers Advanced Surface Chemistry Advanced Electrochemistry Advanced Energy Chemistry 【Graduate Course in Biological Sciences】 Seminar for Cell Signaling Cellular and Tissue Engineering Lecture for Neuroscience Lecture for Developmental Biology Lecture for Regenerative Medical Engineering Lecture for Medicinal Science 【Graduate Course in Mathematical Science and Physics】 Advanced Linear Algebra Advanced Applied Mathematics Advanced Course of Probability and Statistics Advanced Modern Physics Advanced Superconductor Materials I/II Advanced High Energy Physics 【Graduate Course in Materials Science and Engineering】 Advanced Science and Engineering of Electronic Functional Materials Advanced Evaluation of Functional Materials 【Graduate Course in Electrical, Electronic, and Communication Engineering】 Advanced Electronic Circuits Engineering Advanced Measurement System Engineering Advanced Communications System Engineering Advanced High Voltage Transient Phenomena	Minimum 2	Specialized Courses

Elective Courses	【Graduate Course in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering】 Aerospace Propulsion System Engineering Advanced Processing Systems Field Robotics 【Graduate Course in Computer Science and Intelligent System】 Advanced Computational Intelligence Advanced Image Recognition 【Graduate Course in Design and Media Technology】 Introduction to Design and Media Technology Product Design Collaborative Design Project (This is a group work class. Therefore, you must have sufficient language skills to be able to communicate in Japanese or English. Please consult with your supervisor before taking this class.) *Subjects other than the above may be accepted as elective courses. Please take them only after consulting with your major advisor.	Minimum 2	Specialized Courses
Optional Courses	Select subjects from International Education Courses and Specialized Courses, depending on the students' interest.		International Education Courses Specialized Courses

3. Iwate Agricultural Research Program (Agricultural Science course)

The program promotes agricultural science research activities at the graduate level. While improving their ability of Japanese and English skills according to their needs, participants conduct research in a practical manner in their specific field, such as manufacturing environment agriculture, agricultural chemistry, life science, forest science, applied aquatic science, socio-economic agriculture, agricultural engineering, animal Sciences and acquire quality knowledge of their specialties, understanding of morality, and develop skills to discover and solve problems.

(1) Eligible students

Agricultural Science Master's Students and Undergraduate Juniors and Seniors, coming from the following universities

[China] Jilin Agricultural University, Shanghai Ocean University,Ningbo University (College of Food Science and Engineering), Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University

[Germany] University of Applied Forest Sciences Rottenburg

[Korea] Chonnan National University

[Mongolia] National University of Mongolia

[Indonesia] IPB University

[Canada] University of Saskatchewan (College of Agriculture and Bioresources)

[Thailand] Suranaree University of Technology (Institute of Agricultural Technology), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (School of Bioresources and Technology)

(2) Period

1 to 2 semesters

(3) Number of Credits per Year

12 to 48 credits (6 to 24 credits per semester)

*A minimum of 6 subjects is required to take for a student visa.

(4) Curriculum (*1, *2)

Area	Course Category	Name of Courses	Credits		Remarks
Language	International Education Courses	Japanese Language Courses (Elementary to Advanced; undergraduate)	1	Minimum 1	*3
	Specialized Courses	English for Science (undergraduate)	2		*4
Research	International Education Courses	Agricultural Science Research (undergraduate)	1	Minimum 1	
		Agricultural Advanced Research1 (graduate)	1		
		Agricultural Advanced Research2 (graduate)	2		
		Agricultural Advanced Research3 (graduate)	3		

Elective Courses	Specialized Courses	Comprehensive Knowledge in Agricultural Sciences (undergraduate；Spring Semester)	2	Minimum 1	
		Introduction to Food and Agricultural Sciences (undergraduate；Fall Semester)			
		Introduction to Life Sciences (undergraduate；Fall Semester)			
		Introduction to Rural Environmental Sciences (undergraduate；Fall Semester)			
		Introduction to Animal Science and Fisheries Science (undergraduate；Fall Semester)			
Optional Courses	Select subjects from International Education Courses and Specialized Courses, depending on the students' interest.				

*1 For specialized courses, refer to the following URL. https://uec.iwate-u.ac.jp/ia02/top/index.html

*2 Register more than 1 credit each from Language area, Research area and Elective Courses area. Subjects other than the above may be accepted as elective courses.

*3 You are to select classes depending on your result of a Japanese language placement test online. The list of Japanese classes are at; https://www.iwate-u.ac.jp/iuic/english/global-education/courses-offered/course-information-for-international-students-who-want-to-study-japanese.html

*4 Course period for this class may differ between courses. Please confirm with your supervisor.

4. Open Study Program (Free Choice course)

The participants take classes related to their major field of study, or research at a laboratory, as well as deepen exchanges with students of Iwate University.

This program does not have a specified curriculum. The participants will study or research at Iwate University in consultation with their supervisor at their home university and Iwate University. Therefore, it is possible for them, for example, to take only Japanese classes or conduct research at a laboratory. However, students have to study at least 10 hours (6 subjects) per week to meet student visa requirements.

(1) Eligible students

All exchange students from partner universities according to the student exchange agreement.

(2) Period

1 to 2 semesters

(3) Curriculum

① If aiming to earn credits

The participants are registered as "Special Auditing Student with Credit (特別聴講学生)". They mainly take classes under International Education Courses offered for exchange students. They may also take General Education Courses offered mainly for Japanese students and Specialized Courses of Iwate University. These courses are taught in Japanese and the participants need to have adequate Japanese proficiency. (Depending on the subjects, the participants need to get permission from the teachers to attend the classes.) Please note that credits earned during your exchange study at Iwate University may be recognized and transferred by your home university after your return, and may subsequently be awarded as credits toward your degree program at your home institution.

② If conducting laboratory research activities only

The participants are registered as "Special Research Student (特別研究学生)", and conduct research under the instruction of an academic supervisor at Iwate University for at least 10 hours per week.

Please note that Special Research Students are not awarded academic credits by Iwate University. However, research activities conducted at Iwate University may, upon the student's return, be recognized for credit by their home university, subject to the home university's credit recognition procedures.

In addition, the faculty member from whom the student wishes to receive research supervision at Iwate University must be working in a similar research area as the student from abroad and student's supervisor at home university.

<<Tuition and other expenses>>

The admission fees and tuition for the dispatched international students will not be collected by Iwate University. However, students have to pay their tuition to their home institutions. Also, students have to pay their personal costs, including travel expenses, accommodation fees, living expenses, and costs of learning materials such as textbooks, health insurance premiums, student union fees and other educational expenses.

After arriving in Japan, you will be required to take out insurance designated by Iwate University to cover your own injuries or illnesses, and damage to university facilities or other people. The insurance premium is 15,000 yen (annual). Please note that the coverage period will begin after you have completed the insurance procedure, so we recommend that you take out additional insurance before traveling to cover injuries, illnesses, accidents, etc. that may occur during your trip until you switch to the insurance designated by Iwate University.

<< About Laptop Computers for Exchange Students>>

Iwate University has required all students enrolled since the 2021 academic year to have their own laptop computer. Exchange students are also expected to use a computer for course registration, checking grades, submitting assignments, and other academic activities. Therefore, please prepare your own laptop for use during your exchange study at Iwate University.

<<Accommodations>>

International students can live in a dormitory called International House located on campus. It has a share house type room (a unit to share with 4 roommates).

Monthly rent：【Share room type 】33,000yen/month
【Single room type 】36,000yen/month

Monthly utilities (electricity, gas, and water): 5,000 yen/month

Facility handling charge：30,000yen (One time fee)

Internet access fee：24,200yen (Up to 12 months) / 11,000yen (Up to 6 months)

Bedding set rental fee：15,400yen (Up to 12 months) / 7,700yen (Up to 6 months)

Facilities: 【Share house type room】 desk, bed, air-conditioner, curtain, wardrobe, book shelf, laundry hook, kitchen drawer, wireless LAN

(Shared area) kitchen, toilet, coin-operated shower, refrigerator, microwave oven, dinning table, cupboard, kitchen drawer

<<Scholarship>>

Please be advised that JASSO scholarships will not be available for the 2027 academic year. Thank you for your understanding.

<<Application Procedure>>

For more information of IU-SEP and application procedure, please refer to Iwate University International Office's website.

All required documents for application are available at this website.

https://www.iwate-u.ac.jp/iuic/english/international-students/types-of-programs/student-exchange-program-iu-sep.html

<<Contact>>

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