

# R-STEP

## (Ryukoku Short-Term Experience Program)

### What is R-STEP about

R-STEP (Ryukoku Short-Term Experience Program) is a short-term program for international students with no prior Japanese language experience. Based in Kyoto, the program is conducted entirely in English and combines introductory Japanese language study with lectures on Japanese culture, society, and Buddhism in Japan, as well as fieldwork and cultural experience in the Kansai region.

#### **Application Period**

17th April – 8th May 2026

Applications will be accepted via Google Form.  
Please submit your application using the QR code on the right.



#### **Program Period**

9th July – 22nd July 2026

# Where you learn?

## Ryukoku University Fukakusa Campus, Kyoto

The program is set in Kyoto, Osaka, and Nara—cities where history, tradition, and modern life come together. Participants will visit the Gion Festival, one of Kyoto's most famous traditional events.

## Program Fee

### 280,000 JPY

The program fee cover accommodation and all field trips and cultural activities. Participants are responsible for round-trip airfare between their home country/region and Japan and personal transportation expenses within Japan.

## Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility is limited to students who are currently enrolled at Ryukoku University's partner institutions.





## Application

### 1. Application Period

**Friday, 17th April – Friday, 8th May 2026**

Please note that applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and registration will close upon reaching capacity. We encourage interested applicants to apply early to ensure availability.

### 2. To apply

Applicants can register from Google Form at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/H47VXHW95d8VbJja6>

If you do not have a Google account and are unable to access the application form, please contact us directly at [r-globe@ad.ryukoku.ac.jp] with the email subject line "R-STEP Application Inquiry".

### 3. Important Notice for Application

Accepted applicants will receive payment instructions by email.

Enrollment will be confirmed only upon completion of payment within one week. Applications will not be finalized if payment is not received by the deadline.

The program may be canceled or postponed if fewer than 10 participants enroll. If applications exceed capacity (20 participants), participants may be selected by lottery. Applications may close prior to the stated deadline once capacity is reached.

Flight arrangements can be made through the University's designated travel agency upon request.

# Program Overview

## Program Schedule

**Thursday, 9th July – Wednesday, 22nd July 2026**

Week	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul
1	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
AM	/	/	/	Check in	Orientation	Field Trip ☉	Free Day
PM					Campus Tour		
Week	13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul
2	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
AM	Buddhist Thought	Field Trip ☉	Japanese language	Field Trip ☉	Japanese Society I	Field Trip ☉	Free day
	Japanese Pop culture		Japanese Media & Arts		Japanese Society II		
PM	Japanese Language	Japanese language	Japanese language (Gion Festival)				
	Japanese Language	Japanese language	Japanese language (Gion Festival)				
Week	20-Jul	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul
3	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
AM	Field Trip ☉	Japanese Society III	Checkout	/	/	/	/
		Seminar					
PM		Japanese Religion					
	Final Presentation						

In addition to scheduled lectures and fieldwork, participants will have opportunities for cultural exchange with Japanese students. English guided tours will be provided during field trip.

## Arrival and Accommodation information

Participants must arrive at the Ryukoku University–designated accommodation between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Thursday July 9. Travel arrangements to the accommodation must be made independently. Participants who are unable to arrive by the check-in time are requested to enter Japan in advance and make their own accommodation arrangements, ensuring arrival at the accommodation during the specified time.

Program accommodations are provided from July 9 (Arrival Date) to July 22 (Departure Date). Accommodation outside this period must be arranged individually.

## Subjects Offered (All classes will be conducted in English)

1. Japanese Language
2. Buddhist Thought
3. Japanese Pop Culture
4. Japanese Society I II III
5. Japanese Media & Arts
6. Japanese Religions

## Precautions

- Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change.
- All transportation costs, activity expenses, and entrance fees for field trips are included in the program fee.



## Accommodation

Participants will stay at hotels near Kyoto Station or Ryukoku University. Rooms will be twin rooms, and roommates will be assigned based on the same gender.

## Contact Information

For any inquiries and more information, please feel free to email us:  
[r-globe@ad.ryukoku.ac.jp]

## Field Trip Partner

For the field trips conducted within the program, we will be implementing them in partnership with the following travel agency.

〈Travel planning and implementation for field trip〉

Happy Travel Co.,Ltd

Registered Travel Agency No. 1-2107, under the Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency

5th Floor, Nikkei Type Building, 9-3 Kandamitoshirocho, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo, 101-0053, Japan

<https://happytravel.jp/company.html>

<https://happytravel.jp/dog/guide/pg229.html>

## Voices from Past R-STEP Participants

[R-STEP Webpage](#)

[Youtube video for R-STEP 2025](#)



## About Ryukoku University

Originally established in 1639 within the precincts of [Nishi Hongwanji Temple](#), Ryukoku University is one of [the oldest institutions of higher education in Japan](#). With approximately 20,000 students enrolled on [three campuses](#), our comprehensive university now boasts [ten Faculties, ten Graduate Schools, several Research Centers and Institutes](#), and over three hundred inter-institutional agreements (243 MoU Partners and 134 Student Exchange Partners as of April, 2026) throughout the world.

Our founding philosophy is based in the spirit of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, so not only do we provide an environment which is completely unique from other universities, but our libraries house a plethora of valuable historical documents which cannot be found elsewhere [Ryukoku University Digital Archives](#) (in Japanese).

[History of Ryukoku University](#)  
[Exchange Program](#)

