

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY - FALL 2022

COLGATE IN JAPAN

**Director:**

David Robinson,
Department of History and Asian Studies

Tentative Program Dates:

Late August to mid-December,
2022

Learn about the 2022-23 Colgate Study Groups and talk with Faculty Directors at the Study Group Fair at the Hall of Presidents on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, 4:00–5:00: <https://www.colgate.edu/academics/off-campus-study/campus-opportunities/virtual-study-group-fair>

For more information about the program:

Please contact Prof. Robinson at drobinson@colgate.edu

Information Sessions will be held on:

Wednesday, October 13 at 4pm in 107 Lawrence Hall and
Saturday, October 23 at 2pm in 107 Lawrence Hall

Colgate University's

Japan Study Group, established in 1972, is a fall semester program centered in Kyoto, Japan, intended to provide Colgate students with the opportunity for intensive language study and stimulate individual exploration of Japanese society and culture. Students will spend most of the four-month program living with host families, studying both in formal classroom settings and on field trips as well as at the grass roots level. The group will depart for Japan in late-August and will begin formal intensive language courses at a private language school in Kyoto. The program ends in early December.

Courses taken on this study group satisfy the Core Global Engagements requirement.



Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan, is a millennium-old city rich with traditions and historical monuments. Located near the metropolis of Osaka, it provides access to both traditional and modern Japan. The headquarters of Nintendo sits among sake breweries and family-run workshops specializing in traditional goods while above it spread the grounds of a serene Zen Buddhist monastery. Additional sites for the study group include both large cities such as Tokyo, Osaka and Himishi.

Housing and Meals:

Students live with host families who prepare breakfast and dinner daily. Host families are generally located in the outlying districts of the city where living space is less tight, and in some cases students may have long commutes to and from class. This, however, is the norm for a large proportion of urban Japanese.

Students will commute to class which ranges from walking distance to an hour by public transportation.

Director's and Language School Courses: Students normally enroll in two of the following language courses taught at the Kyoto Japanese Language School (KJLS), in addition to the two courses taught by the Director:

Intermediate Japanese II (JAPN 202Y): For those who have studied through JAPN 201 (Intermediate Japanese I) or equivalent before arriving in Japan. Classes meet 3.5 hours a day, four times a week for five weeks.

Intermediate Japanese III (JAPN 251Y): A continuation of 202Y. Classes meet 3.5 hours a day, four times a week for five weeks.

Advanced Japanese II (JAPN 302Y): For those who have studied through JAPN 301 (Advanced Japanese I). Classes meet for 3.5 hours a day, four times a week for five weeks.

Advanced Japanese III (JAPN 351Y): Continuation of 302Y. Classes meet 3.5 hours a day, four times a week for five weeks.

1) JAPN 481Y Topics in Japanese Cultures (Professor D. Robinson):

This course explores how people and social groups construct, modify, and debate the meaning of the past. As we know from recent events in the U.S., memory and memorialization of the past is inseparable from the present (for example what to with statues of Confederate generals or buildings named after people whose views we now find unacceptable). How we remember the past can define national, local, and individual identity. It can be weaponized to advance political and social interests. It can be used to separate “Us” and “Them.” It can sell products. We will consider, for instance, how people in Japan not only understand but actively use memories of “traditional Japan,” the Japanese colonial empire, World War Two, and the post-war boom years. The course includes lectures, discussions, and fieldwork in and around Kyoto. Texts and class discussion are mostly in English but some elementary knowledge of modern standard Japanese for everyday use is assumed. [This course counts as an elective for Japanese major, History major/minor, and Asian Studies major/minor (all pending approval).]

2) HIST 364 Kyoto as a Global City (Professor D. Robinson):

HIST 364 examines the history of Kyoto in global history. It will begin with consideration of Kyoto as Japan's capital until 1868 and its multifaceted ties to East Asia and beyond. The second half of the course will think about how Kyoto looks from the perspective of global history. We will look at Kyoto's cultural, political, military, economic, and ethnic ties to the world, with particular attention to developments of recent decades. We will make the most of time in the city to visit sites and talk with people, ranging from trade organizations involved in marketing Kyoto's history for international tourism to communities of Korean descendants whose status in Japan remains fraught even today nearly a century after their forefathers migrated

(many were relocated forcibly) to Japan, from organizations devoted to improving recent immigrants' conditions to “Japan-first” groups dedicated to the promotion of traditional values.

This course counts as an elective for Japanese major, History major/minor, and Asian Studies major/minor, and Core GE—all pending approval].

Independent Study:

One of the two courses above (JAPN 481Y or HIST 364) may be replaced by an independent study with permission of the director. Past independent projects have dealt with architecture, pilgrimage, US-Japan relations in Okinawa, Ainu folklore, English instruction in high schools.

Excursions:

Field trips include a wide range of short daytrips and week-long trips, and visits to urban and rural areas, in and outside of Kyoto. Major destinations include Tokyo, Osaka, Nara, Kobe, Himishi, and Mt. Kōya.

Prerequisites:

(1) Core 167 (Japan) or its equivalent must be completed no later than Spring 2022.

(2) Language Requirements: Japanese 121 and 122 (or the equivalent as approved by the director). Students who complete only Japanese 121 but who show evidence for willingness to explore Japanese culture with patience, diligence, openness, and respect may be considered for participation.

Passports and Visas

You must confirm that your passport will remain valid through July 2023. All students participating on the Study Group will be required to obtain long-stay student visas. With participation on this study group comes the responsibility of understanding and complying with the Japanese government's visa requirements. If you will not be traveling on a U.S. passport it is imperative that you contact an adviser in Off-Campus Study and International Student Services, 101 McGregory, to learn as much as you can about the regulations. For some students there are significant visa requirements to be met that take time, advanced planning, and may incur extra costs.

Calendar and Deadline

The study group application will open on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, and will close on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. All applications are on the Colgate University Off-Campus Study website and are submitted online at offcampusstudy.colgate.edu. Only finalists in the selection process will be interviewed. Interviews will be arranged by e-mail in November/December, and admissions decisions will take place late December/early January.