

**Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies**  
**Fall 2022 COVID Planning Protocols**  
**(As of August 31, 2022)**

Below please find information and links to resources about how COVID-19 might impact your upcoming study abroad experience so that you can remain informed as the situation evolves. Please note that these planning protocols are still being finalized and may be modified at any time prior to your departure or while you are in-country.

**Vaccination Requirement**

- All students participating in the program are required to fully comply with the [Columbia vaccine mandate](#) without exceptions. It is required that you receive a booster, if you are eligible, prior to the program start date. This will assure that students are positioned to meet any local guidelines that may evolve once onsite regarding proof of vaccination and booster to access facilities. It is not guaranteed that you can receive a booster overseas.

**Flights, arrival and orientation**

- All travelers inbound to Japan, regardless of age, must receive a negative COVID-19 test (RT-PCR, LAMP, TMA, TRC, Smart Amp, NEAR, Next-generation sequence, or CLEIA) within 72 hours of departure of the international leg of their trip. The test must be conducted by either a nasopharyngeal swab, saliva sample, or a combination of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs. Nasal swab tests (limited to nucleic acid amplification test) are also accepted as valid specimens for the pre-departure test. Domestic travel prior to the international flight is NOT counted within the 72 hours. These tests must be presented in the prescribed format and must comply with very strict requirements, as described on the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare's website. Failure to complete the prescribed form as required by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare may result in being denied entry to Japan.
- Upon arrival in Japan, travelers will be required to complete documentation including a Written Pledge, will be required to download and register themselves on the [MySOS app](#), and will complete a mandatory quarantine questionnaire. If a traveler does not have a smartphone, most international airports offer an option for travelers to rent one upon arrival.
- Effective June 1, eligible travelers from the United States to Japan, regardless of their vaccination status, will no longer require COVID-19 testing and quarantine upon arrival. Pre-travel testing within 72 hours of departure, as described above, is still required. Travelers from countries other than the United States, or who have spent time in other countries in the 14 days prior to travel to Japan, may be subject to on-arrival COVID-19 testing and quarantine. For detailed information about on-arrival covid-19 test and quarantine period after entry into Japan, please visit [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html)

- From June 1, 2022 based on the Japan's New Border Measures, on-arrival test, self-quarantine period and place of accommodation after entry into Japan may be changed according to the grouping ("Red", "Yellow" and "Blue" categories) of the countries/regions in which the entrants stayed within 14 days before the day of return to Japan or the day of application for landing on Japan and whether they obtain a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate. Please visit the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan's website](#) for further information.
- Foreign nationals who have stayed in any of the following countries/regions listed in the chart below within 14 days prior to the application for landing are denied to enter Japan: Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kyrgyz, Moldova, Afghanistan, Iraq, Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Central Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
- Students are responsible for checking the most up to date entry requirements via their airline, the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan website](#), [ISOS COVID Trip Planner](#) and other relevant sources.

### **Student Accommodation**

- Host families will not be an option for Fal 2022. Students will be placed in a single apartment or a dormitory.
- If students need to self-isolate or quarantine while the program is in session, they will be able to do so in their single apartment or their single room in their dorm. Meals can be cooked in apartments and breakfast and dinner are provided in dorms. KCJS staff will support students via phone, email, text, etc. as needed.

### **Daily life and public transportation in Kyoto**

- Students are strongly urged to continue to take personal health measures to protect themselves, including social distancing, wearing masks, hand washing/using hand sanitizer and avoiding crowded areas with poor ventilation.
- Normal services are available throughout Kyoto, including grocery stores, schools/universities and religious services. Local transportation is running on normal schedules. Most retail shops and restaurants are open.
- Face masks are almost universally worn in public, especially in urban areas, indoors and on public transportation. U.S. citizens should be aware that failure to adhere to mask-wearing norms reflects poorly on foreign residents. Foreign residents found to disregard quarantine instructions may have their residency status canceled and face deportation.

- In restaurants, on public transportation and in other closed spaces, people avoid talking in a loud voice, especially when not wearing a mask, e.g. during meals.
- Many shops, restaurants and other places will ask visitors to use hand sanitizer when entering. Most establishments have hand sanitizer available at their entrances.
- Many sightseeing spots and other establishments will also take your body temperature at the entrance (by scanning the forehead or wrist) and ask people with a temperature above 37.5 degrees Celsius (99.5 degrees Fahrenheit) to refrain from entering.

### **Program activities, Doshisha University protocols and personal travel**

- Please note that the pandemic causes restrictions with respect to events and activities involving larger groups of people, such as sports games, concerts, club life, etc. Access to various cultural activities and events is curtailed, restricted, regulated via online tickets only, etc. The program expects all staff and participants to act responsibly and in accordance with clearly announced regulations and policies with respect to the pandemic, both on- and off-campus. Any extracurricular activities, including the KCJS Community Involvement Project (CIP), will be contingent upon COVID-19 restrictions and considerations in Kyoto.
- Doshisha University's COVID protocols can be found here: [https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/en/information/covid19\\_guideline.html](https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/en/information/covid19_guideline.html)
- Outside visitors are prohibited from entering the campus if they are unwell or have symptoms such as fever and cough. Doshisha University provides information about whether or not individuals are allowed on campus: <https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/en/news/2022/0204/news-detail-1269.html>
- Use of elevators on the Doshisha campus shall be limited to those with disabilities, those who are pregnant and platform trolleys only.
- Masks are required in KCJS classes and offices and indoors on the Doshisha campus if talking is involved and if at least 2 meters physical distance cannot be maintained. In a class where the instructor can keep a physical distance of at least 2 meters from the students, the instructor may give a lecture without a mask.
- In classrooms, students should be seated with one seat empty between them in principle.
- KCJS will follow local guidelines during any program activities taking place outside of the Doshisha campus.
- The fall weekend trip to Okayama will be suspended for Fall 2022. KCJS will consider alternative day trips and will announce details to students once they are finalized.
- Individuals eating in Doshisha's cafeterias are asked to refrain from talking in loud voices and to leave the cafeteria as soon as they finish their meals, keeping their stay to a minimum.

- Students will be allowed to travel outside of Kyoto (within Japan) during the semester as long as independent travel does not interfere with classes and scheduled program activities. Missing class or class activities because of travel plans is not permitted. Students must discuss and share their personal travel with the Resident Director (RD) including details such as itinerary and contact information. This is necessary in case there is an emergency and the student needs to be contacted.
- Students are strongly discouraged from traveling outside of Japan at this time. KCJS recommends that students remain in Kyoto, especially at the start of the semester, to become acclimated to the city. If students have extenuating circumstances which require travel outside of Japan, they should inform the Resident Director who will direct the student to ISOS and other resources to learn more about the local situation. The student would be required to add their travel to Columbia's ISOS MyTrips. We ask that students exercise caution and judgment for any travel outside of Japan as the national and global public health context and local conditions may quickly change. Students can review the [U.S. Department of State website](#) for COVID related risks and restrictions of their destination country.

### **COVID Testing & Protocols for Positive Cases**

- Students will be expected to do daily symptom self-monitoring and obligatory observing of pandemic risk mitigation policies.
- Students will be briefed during orientation by KCJS staff on COVID testing protocols and testing locations. The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo offers a list of testing facilities for various cities in Japan, including Kyoto, that have indicated they can conduct COVID-19 testing within the 72-hour turnaround time (<https://jp.usembassy.gov/services/pcr-testing-facilities-in-japan/>).
- Students can purchase at home antigen tests out of pocket at local drug stores. They cost approximately ¥2,000.
- If a doctor from the Kyoto Medical Association instructs a student to take a COVID test, there will be no cost to the student. If a student decides on their own to take a PCR test, the student would need to pay out of pocket approximately \$150 - \$300 USD depending on the clinic.
- Zurich health insurance, which students are covered under by Columbia University, would cover COVID PCR testing for symptomatic individuals. Individuals can call ISOS (+001-215-942-8478) to set up a testing appointment on their behalf, or they can pay for the test out of pocket and contact Global Travel at CU to submit the claim to get reimbursed through Zurich. Testing would not be covered by Zurich if it is required when entering or exiting Japan.
- Students who test positive must inform the Resident Director and isolate in place in program housing. Students can make meals in their apartments or have meals

left at their door in the dorms. KCJS program staff will support and check in with students as needed via email/phone/text and connect them to local medical facilities if necessary. Students in isolation may leave their residence for medical treatment which will be covered by Japanese health insurance.

- Contact tracing: students are required to report to the Resident Director if they test positive for COVID. KCJS will report the case to the local health department and Doshisha University who will conduct contact tracing.
- Doshisha University, Kyoto University and Associated Kyoto Program students participating in the program must follow Doshisha University and KCJS COVID guidelines. Students from these institutions who test positive for COVID during the program must follow local contact tracing guidelines and inform their instructors and the KCJS Resident Director.
- Students will follow Doshisha University guidelines regarding returning to campus after their quarantine period ends. Students must provide proof of negative COVID test results to return to campus.
- UGE will notify a student's home school if the student tests positive for COVID as the isolation period will impact class attendance and program participation.

### **Academic Policies**

- Should general pandemic developments or an individual COVID infection interfere with completion of the courses, the program will make arrangements as the local environment allows, including moving courses online if needed, so that all students or the affected individual participant can continue his/her/their coursework and studies in order to complete the course(s). To prepare for this, all students should bring their own laptops to use.
- If pandemic-related developments, such as a renewed lockdown, impact the program in its entirety, arrangements will be made for all students to complete the semester via online instruction. The program will make every effort to enable participants to remain in Kyoto and complete the semester successfully on-site, most likely via online instruction. If the situation necessitates students' departure from Kyoto in order to return home, the KCJS will assist where it can but students will be responsible for organizing and paying for their own flight arrangements.

### **Health insurance and Healthcare**

- Students will be enrolled in the Japanese National Health Insurance Plan for the duration of the semester. This will help to lower up-front costs for medical care while students are in Japan (students are responsible for paying 30% of all medical bills). Please note the Japanese health insurance plan does not cover any consultations or ongoing treatment related to mental health, so it is important to develop a plan to care for your mental health before you leave the U.S.

- As part of the program, you will have health insurance for urgent and emergent illness and injury while abroad. This insurance is provided at no cost to you via [Zurich and coordinated through International SOS](#). Routine and preventive care is not included so you should maintain a health insurance policy that will provide coverage outside of your home country and/or the U.S.
- Students needing medical attention while in Kyoto will receive support and recommendations about local medical facilities from the KCJS Staff.
- For mental health support, students as Columbia University travelers are eligible to receive up to five emotional support sessions through International SOS, the 24/7 emergency assistance provider for individuals on Columbia Travel (<https://globaltravel.columbia.edu/content/what-international-sos-isos>).
- A small number of English-speaking counselors are available to KCJS students for in-person appointments. Telehealth appointments with English-speaking counselors outside of Kyoto are also available. KCJS staff can assist in scheduling appointments. Students should be prepared to cover the cost of counseling sessions or inquire with their U.S. based health insurance provider to find out if this is included in their plan. For students who are already working with a counselor in the United States, we recommend that you inquire before you leave about the possibility of continuing consultations online after you arrive in Japan.

## Refund and Withdrawal Policy

The full policy can be found on our website under the “Financial Considerations” tab:

<https://global.undergrad.columbia.edu/program/kcjs-semester>

## Resources:

- <https://jp.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>
- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Japan.html>
- <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-2/coronavirus-japan>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>
- [http://www.pref.kyoto.jp/kokusai/coronavirus\\_update.html](http://www.pref.kyoto.jp/kokusai/coronavirus_update.html)
- [https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/en/information/covid19\\_guideline.html](https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/en/information/covid19_guideline.html)