

Fall 2026 APU-AIU Domestic Exchange Program Recruiting Information

As you prepare to submit your application, please note that important information is provided in this application guidelines document.

Students who wish to apply are required to carefully read the guidelines and ensure that they fully understand the contents before submitting their application.

If you have any questions, please limit your inquiries to matters that are not addressed in the application guidelines or the online application form.

For comments from students who participated in the domestic exchange program in the Fall 2025 semester (excerpt), please refer to page 10.



1. Outline of Domestic Exchange Program

This program allows a certain number of students to enroll at Akita International University (AIU) as exchange students for either one semester or one academic year, during which they take courses offered by the host university.

[Host Universities]

- Akita International University(AIU: Akita City, Akita)

2. Host Colleges

- Akita International University
Faculty of International Liberal Arts (Akita City, Akita)

3. Exchange Period

➢ 1 semester or 1 year

*There is no possibility to extend your exchange period after participation is approved by APU officially.

*If you have participated in any domestic exchange program (1semester/1-year exchange program) in the past, you are not able to apply.

4. Number of students to be accepted

- 10 (total of 1 year and 1 semester)

*There are often questions about the acceptance rate, but the rate varies depending on the recruitment period. We cannot provide detailed numbers.

Regardless of the maximum number of applicants accepted, decisions are made comprehensively based on the application reasons, academic performance, interviews, and other factors.

5. Application Requirements

- Students in their 3rd to 6th semesters at the time of application (They will be in their 4th to 7th semesters at the time of dispatch.)
- Students in their final semester are not eligible to apply.
- Third-year transfer students are not eligible to apply.
- Second-year transfer students may apply starting from their 4th semester.
- Students who have previously participated in this program are not eligible to apply.

Credit Requirement:

Applicants must have earned at least 14 credits per semester up to the previous semester.

- Example: For students in their 5th semester at the time of application:
4 (completed semesters) × 14 credits = **at least 56 credits required**

- **Academic Performance:**

- Cumulative GPA of **2.50 or higher**

- **Language Requirements:**

TOEFL score of 500 (TOEFL ITP is acceptable), TOEFL IBT 61, IELTS 6.0 or higher

6. Tuition and other fees

Participants must pay Tuition Fees at APU. Billing and payment dates will remain as present.

The tuition fee for the host university will be waived. Participants are responsible for their own accommodation, associated costs, and other fees. Additional expenses (such as textbooks) will be borne by the student.

7. Accommodation

Information as of April 2026. The contents or fee totals below may change.

Participants will be housed in either “Sakura Village” or “Tsubaki Village” (Dormitory). Akita International University will decide which accommodation you will stay at.

*Sakura Village is a dormitory built in March 2013. It is comprised of units made up of 3 rooms with a shared kitchen, bathroom, and toilet.

*Tsubaki Village is a dormitory built in March 2022. It is comprised of units made up of 12 rooms with a shared kitchen, bathroom, and toilet.

*Depending on the room availability in the above dormitories, it is possible a different dormitory will be selected.

Accommodation fees

Fall Semester (4.5months:2026/8/25 - 2026/12/24)		
	Sakura Village	Tsubaki Village
	Room charge Second half of August: 24,000 yen September and October: 48,000 yen/month November and December: 50,000 yen/month	Room charge Second half of August: 24,000 yen September and October: 48,000 yen/month November and December: 50,000 yen/month
Rent (Utility fees are included)	220,000JPY	220,000JPY
Meal Plan for 2weeks	23,400JPY	23,400JPY
Room Cleaning Charge	10,000JPY	12,000JPY
Bedding and Linens	11,025JPY	11,025JPY
Activity Fees	15,000JPY	15,000JPY
TOTAL	279,425JPY	281,425JPY

*The above figures are based on the Spring Semester 2026 and subject to change.

[Meal Plans (Semester based)]

During the first 2 weeks (including the orientation period), you are required to purchase a 2-week cafeteria meal plan; after 2 weeks, if you wish to continue a meal plan, you can purchase the following ones.

- 1 3 meals a day (Breakfast, lunch and dinner) on weekdays only (excluding holidays): Approx. 120,000 JPY
- 2 2 meals a day (lunch and dinner) weekdays only (excluding national holidays) ... about 88,000 JPY
- 3 3 meals a day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) on weekends and holidays only ... about 50,000 JPY

*Please note that there may be cases where meals cannot be provided on special occasion days.

*You may also buy food with cash or a prepaid card at the cafeteria after the first 2 weeks without buying meal plan.

*You may cook for yourself in the Sakura Village and Tsubaki Village. In that case, you need to prepare cooking utensils

[Bedding and Linens]

Provided: Futon mattress, comforter, blanket, pillow, linens (including changing the bed linens once a week)

[Room Facilities]

Air conditioning, bed, desk, chair, shelf, closet, desk lamp, shared fridge and IH cooker, microwave

[Miscellaneous]

- Free wired and wireless internet connection is available.
- 24h Laundromat is in the building. *Laundry charge will be incurred.

8. Scholarships

As a basic rule for APU tuition reduction plans or scholarships, your tuition reduction

or scholarship will be revoked if your grades cannot meet the screening criteria for two consecutive semesters.

The university will evaluate your APU grades after your credits are transferred from your host university.

After finishing the exchange program, please apply for credit transfer as soon as possible.

Please make inquiries at the Student Office for more information about scholarships.

9. Courses Registration and Credits

● Akita International University:

- EAP (English for Academic Purposes) subjects will not be offered for exchange students. Some other courses have a limit for registration or a prerequisite. Please see the class schedule and course syllabus for more information.
- Exchange students are able to register for courses regardless of the year level.
- All subjects are taught in English. Only a small number of classes are taught in Japanese.
- The capacity of the course or classroom is limited.
(AIU students have priority in registration for the courses. APU students may not be able to register in those courses.)

10. Credit Transfer

Credit Transfer Policy

- Credits earned at the host university will not be recognized as specific APU courses; in principle, they will be recognized under specific category fields.
- Please refer to your own curriculum and your college's credit transfer policy for details.
- Further details regarding credit transfer will be explained during the orientation after nomination.

Credit Transfer Policy
2017 Curriculum - APM
2017 Curriculum - APS
2023 Curriculum - APM
2023 Curriculum - APS
2023 Curriculum - ST

Number of Transferable Credits

- There is no limit on the number of courses you may register for at AIU.
- However, the number of credits that can be recognized by APU is limited to

the maximum course registration limit per semester at APU.

- Please plan your course registration carefully, taking into consideration a reasonable workload. (Refer to the list of limits below.)
- The maximum total number of transferable credits during enrollment is 60 credits.

This includes not only credits earned at AIU, but also all other recognized credits such as:

- Pre-enrollment credit transfer
- Overseas exchange programs
- Summer/Winter programs
- In principle, courses completed at the host university are eligible for credit transfer; however, courses such as physical education and arts are not eligible for transfer.

The maximum number of credits students can register each semester at APU:

1 st semester	2 nd semester	3 rd semester	4 th semester	5 th semester	6 th semester	8 th semester	8 th semester
18Credits	18Credits	20Credits	20Credits	20Credits	20Credits	24Credits	24Credits
		Available for Application Period (between 3-6 semesters)					
			Available for Study Abroad Time (between 4-7 semesters)				

Question from A, a 5th-Semester Student

Q. So, does this mean that I can register for and earn 24 credits at AIU in the spring semester, but only 20 of those credits will be recognized at APU?

A. Yes, that is correct. However, all 24 credits will be listed on your official transcript from AIU. The maximum number of credits that can be transferred at APU will be in accordance with the course registration credit limit set for your assigned semester.





Q. So, if I study at AIU for one year and earn 24 credits in the first semester and 16 credits in the second semester, that would not be recognized as a total of 40 credits at APU. Instead, since the first semester corresponds to my 5th semester at APU, only 20 credits will be recognized, and in the second semester (6th semester) 16 credits will be recognized, making a total of 36 credits that I can bring back. Is that correct?



A. Yes, that is correct. Incidentally, if you are a 6th-semester student and study at AIU for one year, in the first semester (your 6th semester) up to 20 credits can be recognized, and in the following semester (your 7th semester) up to 24 credits can be transferred.

Question from B, a 6th-Semester Student

Q. I have already received 40 credits through other programs. If I study at AIU in my 7th semester, will all 24 credits (the maximum course registration limit) be recognized?



A. The maximum number of credits that can be recognized during enrollment is 60 credits. For students in their 7th semester, up to 24 credits can normally be recognized. However, since 40 credits have already been recognized, only up to 20 additional credits can be recognized due to the overall limit.

Q. In the case that only 20 out of the 24 credits can be transferred, will I be able to decide which courses I want to transfer?



A. Yes, absolutely! You can choose which courses to be transferred, and our staff will confirm this with you before the credit transfer is processed.



[Grades]

Transferred subjects will appear as “T” (Transfer) on your grade report. “T” grades do not count towards GPA.

[Maximum Transferable Credits before graduating APU] T (Transfer) credit : 60 credits

For example, ...

Overseas Exchange programs, subjects taken before enrolling into APU, Summer, winter Programs.

- Credit Transfer Process

After AIU course registration

- Conduct a **Tentative Credit Transfer Review (TCTR)**.
Students submit the application form and syllabi; APU reviews them.



After AIU course registration (if you change courses)

- **Resubmit** for the added/changed courses.
Newly added courses also require a TCTR.



At AIU

Grades are released at AIU



At APU

- Based on the AIU grades, APU carries out the **official credit recognition**.



Timing of Credit Transfer Posting:

Credits will be reflected on your APU transcript right before the Priority Registration Period C in the semester following your return to APU.

11. 3rd and 4th Year Seminars

If you wish to take a distance-learning seminar, please refer to [APU Academic Information website](#), under your college's section titled "Seminar Courses (Zemi)" within either the 2017 Curriculum or 2023 Curriculum, as applicable to your enrollment.

If you have any questions, please contact the Academic Office (Seminar Course Coordinator) at (seminar1@apu.ac.jp).

12. Recruitment and Screening Schedule

Flow	Schedule	Notice
Application Period	April 20-April 29	Student Portal
Notification of Screening Results and Interview Date	May 8	Student Portal
Interview Date	APM: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 (Periods 4 & 5) ST : Wednesday, May 13, 2026 (Periods 4 & 5) APS: Friday, May 15, 2026 (Periods 4 & 5)	In Person*
Announcement of Internal selection	June 10	Student Portal

*The schedule may be subject to change due to the availability of interviewers. In such cases, successful candidates from the document screening will be notified separately.

Guidance session schedules will be announced at the time of acceptance announcement (Guidance Sessions, guidance before dispatch)

*Details will be notified to eligible applicants in due course.

13. Application and screening procedures

● Screening by application documents and interview:
Selection will be conducted based on applicant's comprehensive ability (language ability, essay, GPA and interview).

● Application Process:
Please complete the following steps by the deadline. Missing a step is considered an incomplete application and will not be accepted.

Please submit your application via the [APU Domestic Exchange Program website](#).

- ① Carefully read through the Application Guidelines.
- ② Submit the following during the application period (the form will be available during the designated time):
[Online Application](#) via the Application Survey

• [Financial Support Agreement \(PDF\)](#) ← Click to download

Please have your financial sponsor download and print the Financial Support Agreement from the link above, and sign it by hand.

Afterward, you (the applicant) must also sign the form, and then upload it through

the Application Survey.
Please name the file as:
“FinancialSupport_StudentID_FullName”

• Please upload one of the following scores:
TOEFL score of 500 (TOEFL ITP is acceptable), TOEFL iBT 61, or IELTS 6.0 or higher.

• Fill in the courses you wish to take.
How to search for your desired courses (within the Application Form):
Please list the courses you would like to take in as much detail as possible.

※How to Search for Desired Courses



For the latest course information, please visit
[Academic Information](https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/academic/#course-offerings) (<https://web.aiu.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/academic/#course-offerings>) and refer to the **Class Schedule** and **Course Offerings** for the appropriate semester.

APU students may refer to **AY2025 Course Offerings (2008 and 2021 Curriculum)** until the list of AY2026 Course Offerings become available on the [Course Offerings](#) page in late October.

Useful website: [AIU Website](#)

[Voices from Students Who Participated in Domestic Exchange Programs in the Fall Semester 2025]

College of International Liberal Arts One-Semester

Regarding advice based on my experience, to be honest, I was very excited to challenge myself before departure, so I did not have many concerns at that time. However, I did face some difficulties when I first arrived in Akita. As I was the only domestic exchange student from APU to AIU, there were moments of confusion, especially during the first week.

For example, during the orientation, there were no specific materials prepared for domestic exchange students. Most of the handouts were intended for international exchange students, which sometimes made the information unclear for my situation. In such cases, I found it very helpful to actively ask questions, confirm details directly with the office, and communicate with other students.

Additionally, for students who are interested in taking Japanese language classes at AIU, there is a placement test. However, this test is mainly intended for international exchange students, and I was not aware of this at first. I took the test, but later heard from the Japanese Language Office that they had not received any information about my intention to enroll in Japanese classes beforehand. Therefore, I am unsure whether future domestic exchange students who wish to take Japanese

classes should take the placement test, especially since similar classes are also available at APU.

14. Contact

Outreach and Research Office 2nd floor, A building

Contact: Ms. Ono and Ms. Yoshioka

apudsep@apu.ac.jp