Guidelines for
Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program
(HUSTEP)   2026-2027 Applicants

1. Overview

The Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP) is an undergraduate program designed for students to take a wide variety of classes offered in English in the fields of Culture and Society, Environment and Science and Technology.

Length of Study

1) One Year Course
Late September, 2026 – Mid-August, 2027
(11 months: equivalent to one Japanese academic year)

2) Half Year Course (Fall)
Late September, 2026 – Mid-February, 2027

3) Half Year Course (Spring)
Early April, 2027 – Mid- August, 2027
The accepted students are required to arrive in Sapporo in late September or the first week of April (see HUSTEP Calendar on pages 6-7 of HUSTEP brochure).

Program Completion Requirements
(All Courses)
All students are required to take a certain number of classes pertaining to their visa.
*Students must take a minimum of 10 hours of classes (equivalent to 7 classes) per week to meet visa requirement.

(One Year Course Only)
1) Participants are required to obtain at least 20 credits during their year in the program.
2) Participants are required to obtain at least 10 credits in each semester, and at least 8 of these credits should be from HUSTEP classes not including Independent Study.
3) Participants who complete the above requirements will receive a certificate of completion.

Number of Students Accepted
Approximately 50 students for each course

2. Information for Potential Applicants
Eligibility Requirements
To be eligible to apply for HUSTEP, a student must:
1. be enrolled in full-time undergraduate degree programs at an overseas university that has concluded a student exchange agreement with Hokkaido University.
2. be enrolled and pay tuition fees at his/her home university as a full-time student during the entire period of study in Japan.
3. have completed at least two years of undergraduate study at his/her own university prior to arrival in Japan.
4. have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale or equivalent.
5. be proficient in English. Non-native English speakers must have a score of at least TOEFL iBT 79 or IELTS 6.5.* (from January 2028 onward, we will employ new TOEFL iBT scoring and the minimum requirement will be 4.5 points).
6. be able to arrive by late September or the first week of April.

*A different internationally recognized English test result such as CEFR (at least C1) may be accepted. TOEIC and Duolingo are not accepted.
Notes:
There is a screening process and NOT all students who apply will be accepted.
*Japanese language ability is not required to participate in HUSTEP.

Those students whose main focus is studying Japanese language and are majoring in Japanese Studies should consider applying to the Japanese Language and Cultural Studies Program (JLCSP) instead of HUSTEP. Students who graduate from their home university before August 31, 2027 (Fall Semester course: February 28, 2027), are not eligible to apply.

There are a limited number of scholarships available so most students will have to cover their own costs. Although it varies by individual, the cost of living in Japan is about 100,000 yen per month. Thus, students should have enough money saved up to pay for the period of living costs or make other financial arrangements before coming to Japan. Students should be clear that

HUSTEP is strictly a study program.

Even if students receive a scholarship, the first payment will be made one month after the arrival. Students must bring money to pay for both the first month dormitory fee and living costs.

3. Admission Process

Step 1 Consult with an academic advisor at their home institution and receive approval.

Step 2 Obtain the necessary application link and forms from the office of international studies (or its equivalent) at their home institution.

Step 3 Complete the online application, with the help of the home institution's international office or equivalent. The home institution's international office also needs to upload some reference documents to the online application. (do not send applications directly to Hokkaido University).

*The HUSTEP's application is now done through an online platform. We use a system called TAO (The Admissions Office).

Application Deadline
One Year Course   February   6, 2026
Half Year Course (Fall)   February   6, 2026
Half Year Course (Spring)   October 23, 2026

*Half Year Course (Spring) applicants should submit their applications in October, not February.

Required Documents
The application package should include the following documents:

Documents to be submitted by applicants (students):
1) Completed HUSTEP online application (through TAO system)
2) Consent to Transfer and Process Personal Data
3) Digital ID Photo
4) TOEFL, IELTS or CEFR score certificate (non-native English speakers only)
5) HU (Hokkaido University) Study Plan
6) Certificate of Scholarship/Student Loan (if applicable)
Documents to be submitted by the home institution's international office:
7) Completed Certificate of Enrollment Form
8) Recommendation Letter from an academic supervisor
9) Official Transcript of academic record
10) University Grading System

JASSO Scholarship
To assist international exchange students, the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) offers the following scholarship to a limited number of students. The Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-Term Study in Japan) includes a monthly stipend as follows:

80,000 yen per month for five or eleven months.

Eligibility Requirements:

In addition to the HUSTEP Eligibility Requirements, students who meet the following

requirements are eligible to apply for this scholarship:

1) Applicants must, upon completion of the term of exchange, return to their home institutions to resume their studies or to be awarded their degrees. Students who graduate from their home universities before August 31, 2027 (February 28, 2027 for Fall semester course) are not eligible to apply.

2) Scholarship applicants must not receive any other scholarships exceeding 80,000 yen per month during the exchange.

3) Applicants who may have difficulty covering the costs of their studies in Japan on their own.

4) Applicants must be in Japan during exchange period to receive the scholarship.

*Please note that due to a limited number of scholarships offered, only a few students will be able to receive them.

Results

Applications will be carefully reviewed by the HUSTEP Selection Committee and applicants will be informed of the selection results through their home institution in early April, 2026 (in December, 2026for Spring course).
NOTE:
Further details about admission procedures will be provided to accepted students. Those students who do not complete the admission procedures by the required deadlines will not be eligible to participate in HUSTEP.

4. Information for Accepted Applicants
Immigration Procedures
Before coming to Japan, accepted students will need to obtain a student visa issued from the Japanese Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence. A certificate of eligibility and a letter of acceptance will be sent by Hokkaido University to the home university of students who are officially admitted to HUSTEP at least one month before the program starts.

This document will serve as proof of student status when applying at a Japanese Embassy or Consulate for a student visa. Applicants should follow the advice of the Japanese diplomatic office in their home country concerning the procedure for obtaining the visa.
NOTE:
Due to visa requirements, students are required to take at least 10 hours of classes (equivalent to 7 classes) per week. Further information about class registration will be provided at the arrival orientation.

Housing
HUSTEP students are required to stay in one of the university's dormitories. Most of the student dormitories are located on or near the university campus in the center of Sapporo. Furnished rooms in the university accommodations are provided for HUSTEP students. For further details, please visit the website below.
https://www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/university-life/housing/student-dormitories/
NOTE:
For HUSTEP students, the housing application process is different from other international students. Detailed information will be provided to accepted students.

5. Important Notes
1) Incomplete or late application will not be accepted.
2) There is a screening process and not all students who apply will be accepted.
3) Please note that due to a limited number of scholarships offered, only a few students will be able to receive them.

6 Privacy Policy
(1) All pe personal information collected by Hokkaido University will be completely protected in compliance with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information, and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) pursuant to the Hokkaido University Regulations on Personal Information Management.

(2) Your name, address, and other personal information you provide to the university through application process will be used solely for ① enrollee selection (application processing and selection), ② the announcement of exam results, ③ enrollment procedures, ④ surveys and research on enrollee selection process, and ⑤ other related processes.

(3) That personal information in section (2) above will also be used after enrollment, only for those who pass the exam, for processes related to ① academic affairs (registration, academic guidance), ② student support services (health management, scholarship applications, dorm admission selection, welfare services, etc.), ③ job search support services, ④ tuition, ⑤ use of the university library, ⑥ use of information education facilities, ⑦ confirming your safety and communication in a disaster or emergency situation, and ⑧ public relations (distributing newsletters, information on events, etc.).

(4) Personal information contained in exam results will be used to conduct surveys and research on enrollee selection methods.

(5) For recruiting purposes, when we receive a request for information from the Hokkaido University Frontier Foundation (Kita 8 Nishi 5, Kita Ward, Sapporo, Hokkaido; Tel: +81(0)11-706-2017) or the following university-affiliated organizations listed below, the only personal information listed in section (2) will be provided for use within the scope of that organization's activities.

・Hokkaido University Elm Alumni Association (Kita 9, Nishi 6, Kita-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido; Tel: +81-(0)11-706-2101).

(6) The personal information set forth in (2) will be retained for five years from the next academic year of our acquirement.

(7) The university shall use Article 6, Paragraph 1 (a) of the EU GDPR as the basis for handling personal information and obtaining consent to use it. Personal information will only be used for the purpose for which consent has been given, except when required by laws and regulations.

(8) The consent set forth in (7) may be revoked at any time. However, this does not affect the legal handling of personal information before consent was revoked.

(9) Individuals who provide personal information may make the following requests to the university based on the EU GDPR and related laws and regulations: ① Disclosure of personal information, ② Correction of personal information, ③ Erasure of personal information, ④ Limitation of the handling of personal information, ⑤ Objection to the handling of personal information, ⑥ Transfer of personal information to other service providers

(10) If you have provided personal information within the European Economic Area, you may file an objection to a supervisory authority in accordance with Article 51, Paragraph 1 of the EU GDPR if you are dissatisfied with the university's handling of your personal information, etc.

(11) Some of the processes in (2) - (5) mentioned above may be outsourced by the university to a contracted service provider (hereinafter referred to as "contractor"). All or some of the personal information provided by applicants may be provided to the contractor only as needed to perform the tasks for which it has been contracted.