

JAPAN

Okayama University



... ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- Spring term (April to August) and full year (September to August) available
- Easy transfer of credits
- Exchange, you pay tuition to Chatham. Chatham scholarships apply.

... WHY OKAYAMA?

Okayama is the capital city of its namesake prefecture, located in western Honshu on both banks of River Asashi, which flows into the inland Sea in Kojima Bay. Bounded on the north by the foothills of the Chugoku Range, Okayama is a good base to explore the surrounding area. The city is the economic and cultural center of Honshu and is known as the “Land of Sunshine”, with flat terrain within the city, making using a bicycle easy. Interesting sites include the 16th-century Okayama Castle, dubbed “Crow Castle” for its black exterior, and Korakuen, an iconic formal garden, designed in the Kaiyu (“scenic promenade”) style presenting visitors with a new view at every turn of the path. Kyoto is 60 minutes away from Okayama by bullet train, and you can travel to Tokyo in three and a half hours.

... STUDY AT OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY

Okayama University ranks among the Top 13 Global Universities in Japan. Along with having a rich history of 140 years and being based in a quiet and safe city, Okayama University has a strong sense of tradition and culture. Okayama offers a wide range of support and services for International Students to enrich their study abroad experience and make them feel as comfortable as possible. The university is conveniently located relatively near Okayama station, which is a central hub of the city.

... ELIGIBILITY

- Good academic standing (2.5 GPA or higher)
- Six months Japanese language experience preferred prior to program start
- Must have studied at Chatham for one year prior to study abroad and be 18 years or older

... APPLICATION DEADLINES AND PROGRAM DATES

SPRING 2025 TERM

Application Deadline	November 14, 2024
Entry Date	April 2025

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Application Deadline	May 1, 2025
Entry Date	September 24, 2025

●●● ACADEMICS

Most of Okayama University's courses are taught in Japanese, though the Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK) offers courses in both English and Japanese for international students. EPOK encourages students to learn and understand Japanese culture, customs, and social backgrounds. Okayama encourages the understanding of various cultures across the world, both with international students and Okayama students.

Courses in EPOK are structured around Japanese language courses at seven levels that range from teaching those with no Japanese skills, to those at an advanced level. Students can learn about modern Japanese culture and movies while improving grammar, writing, and reading skills.

The EPOK Research project allows students to research a topic of choice with the aid of an academic advisor and create a final project to present in front of peers. A small number of electives taught in English are available for EPOK students, ranging from general education courses, global discovery courses to global human resource development courses. For information on courses for exchange students, see <https://intl.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/inbound/programs/epok/curriculum/>.

●●● ACTIVITIES

EPOK students can participate in the L-Café, a great social learning space to make new friends, take part in trips to explore Japan, teach English as part time work, and learn Japanese at the weekly "Sakura" Café. The L-Café offers both in-house and community-based events, including presentations, social gatherings, excursions, and volunteer activities. Students can meet friends, exchange language, and learn about culture in these weekly meetings.

●●● ACCOMMODATIONS

All EPOK students stay at the Okayama University Share House. Students share a unit with one Japanese student and two other international students. This offers great opportunities to experience customs and cultures of Japan as well as other parts of the world. The school library, computer laboratories, shops, restaurants, and various forms of entertainment are easily accessible. The Okayama University Share House is conveniently located just five minutes from the Tsushima Campus of Okayama University (main campus) and provides single sex units, each offering a common room with kitchen facilities, a bathroom, a toilet and four private rooms. There is no meal plan. Students can cook in their unit and/or have meals at cafés and restaurants on and off campus.

●●● TO APPLY

Students must contact the Office of Global Engagement to apply. For application information, visit <https://e-apply.jp/ds/okayama-u-epok/>.

●●● ESTIMATED COSTS

	SPRING 2025	ACADEMIC YEAR
Tuition & Fees	Chatham tuition	Chatham tuition
Housing	\$1,250	\$2,500
Additional Expenses	\$4,000-5,000	\$8,000-10,000
Approximate Total	\$5,250-6,250 + Chatham tuition	\$10,500-12,500 + Chatham tuition

These prices are an estimate and are subject to change. Okayama University program is an exchange, meaning students pay Chatham tuition and fees. Housing will be paid directly to Okayama University. All housing fees and dates should be confirmed with the program. "Additional expenses" is an estimate for airfare, meals, entertainment, visa, health insurance, transportation, and personal allowance. Students are responsible for all expenses.

Chatham is committed to being as transparent as possible with respect to our study abroad financial arrangements. Financial transactions and business dealings are fully disclosed. Foreign currencies can be converted at www.xe.com/currencyconverter/.



 **CHATHAM UNIVERSITY**
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Falk Hall, Lower Level
412-365-1388