

# University of Hyogo Exchange Program

## The Hyogo Experience

The exchange program with the University of Hyogo is over 30 years old. Students study from April through March using three Evergreen Individual Learning Contracts to structure their studies. Students typically focus on Japanese language study, cultural studies of all types, and a self-designed research project. Students build both credit-bearing and audited courses at Hyogo into their contracts. The university has multiple branches in Hyogo Prefecture - three in the Kobe area - with about 6000 students and nearly 560 faculty and staff. The Kobe campuses focus largely on business and economics; it has numerous graduate schools, research centers and more.

## The Kobe – Hyogo Region

Kobe (pop. 1,544,000) is located in Hyogo Prefecture on the north side of Osaka Bay, a part of Japan's Inland Sea. It is a large, bustling city with a long history of internationalization and commerce. Hyogo Prefecture is also home to one of the best-preserved Japanese castles at Himeji, and Osaka, Nara, and Kyoto are short train rides away. The university is located west of the urban center, in a less busy part of the city.



## Japanese Language Study

The university welcomes international students from around the world and offers Japanese language and culture study through the lens of business. Students can also utilize Japanese language training resources offered in Kobe itself. Students typically assign 8 credits of each 16-credit contract to language study.

## Academics

Students arrange for an Evergreen faculty sponsor or sponsors over the course of their three contracts, self-designing their goals and activities with faculty guidance. Students utilize credit-bearing and audited course work at

Hyogo, such as Japanese courses and more, to give structure to their study. They also conduct their independent project study within the contract. Each quarter's contract will generally be set up as follows, with increasing flexibility over time. Contracts may range from 12-16 credits, resulting in 36-48 credits over three quarters.

Language Study	8 credits
Cultural Study	4 credits
Project of Inquiry	4 credits
Total:	16 credits

## Housing and Meals

Evergreen exchange students live in campus housing, essentially in small apartments that are passed from one Evergreen student to the next, along with furnishings and household goods! The university subsidizes the cost, resulting in a monthly cost of about \$261, plus utilities charges of about \$35 per month. Students should also plan for meals costs of about \$350 per month.

## Center for International Relations

The staff of the Center for International Relations on the Hyogo campus will help guide you in all areas: applications, arrival, housing, orientation, insurance, academics, clubs and activities, and daily life. They are there to help you be successful and at ease in your new life in Japan. In addition, Dr. Yoko Matsuda, professor of Japanese and long-time friend of the exchange program, serves as mentor for Evergreen students.

## Program Dates

Evergreen Application Deadline:	May 1
Decision Date:	May 10
Hyogo Application Forms Mailed:	Oct 15
U of Hyogo Start Date:	Apr 1
U of Hyogo End Date:	Mar 31

## Estimated Costs for a One-year Exchange:

Tuition:	Home tuition at Evergreen
Housing:	\$3550
Meals:	\$4200
Books:	\$ 900
Airfare:	\$1500
Local Transportation	\$1500
Insurance:	\$ 100
Miscellaneous:	\$ 500
Total:	\$12,250 plus home tuition

You will need to provide evidence to Hyogo that you have this amount (minus tuition) available through financial aid or other resources in order to receive a Certificate of Eligibility to apply for your Japanese student visa. Submit your FAFSA early.

## Selection Criteria

Students interested in studying in the year-long exchange program at the University of Hyogo should demonstrate the following:

1. Strong interest in studying Japanese language and culture;
2. High level of past academic performance and success in interdisciplinary coursework;
3. Ability to pursue intellectual curiosity in a setting that requires self-motivation and self-discipline.
4. Ability to act with maturity, responsibility, and sensitivity, even in stressful circumstances;
5. Ability to assume leadership roles within the overseas community and to understand your role as a representative of Evergreen and the US;
6. Selected students must have studied Japanese for at least two quarters before their departure.

## Application Materials – Phase I

1. Complete Common Application for Exchanges.
2. Letter of interest (one page) that addresses:
  - a. your reasons for choosing this program
  - b. the benefits to your academic and career goals
  - c. how you are academically prepared thus far
  - d. maturity, responsibility, sensitivity, and leadership qualities as described above.
  - e. your proposal for a feasible project of inquiry
  - f. reasons for study at the selected university
3. Transcripts from Evergreen, unofficial version; Other colleges, must be official, unopened
4. Two Faculty Recommendation Forms/Letters, preferably from Evergreen faculty, but one may be from an outside source
5. One assessment by Japanese language faculty, if you've studied Japanese before.
6. One past academic writing sample, preferably on some aspect of Japanese culture, but other topics are acceptable. No creative writing samples!
7. Copy of valid passport, or copy of application for passport. Must be valid 6 months beyond your expected end date.
8. A personal interview may be requested.

Submit all materials to the Coordinator of International Programs, Academic Advising, Library 2153, by the listed deadline.

## Recommended Students - Phase II

Please submit the following documents by **Oct 15** so we can meet the University of Hyogo's deadlines:

1. Application for Special Auditor Student: This is a two-page form in Japanese and English. Print clearly.
2. Application for Certificate of Eligibility: This is a four-page form in Japanese and English, needed to prepare the Certificate of Eligibility, a document needed to apply for a student visa at the consulate in Seattle. Print clearly.
3. Transcripts: A copy of the transcripts you have already provided will be sent to the university.
4. Passport ID Pages: Be sure that you have submitted a copy of the ID pages of your passport.
5. Four Photos: Use your own or *Photoland* in the Library. Cut to 4.5cm X 3.5 cm, upper body, full faced, no hats. Use the template provided. Write your name and nationality lightly on the back of each photo.
6. Financial Statement Form: This is in Japanese and English. You must provide evidence that you have adequate funds to support your living expenses in Japan. This may be a bank statement, a copy of your financial aid award, a letter from a parent's employer, etc.
7. Letter of Recommendation: The Coordinator of International Programs will prepare this letter addressed to the VP and Director of the Center for International Relations at the U of Hyogo, based on the academic and personal history of the student.
8. Scholarship Application for HUMAP: This is a three-page form in Japanese and English needed to apply for the scholarship. Requires some writing in Japanese kanji, hiragana, katakana.
9. Scholarship Application for JASSO: This is a one-page form in Japanese and English needed to apply for the scholarship.