International College of Liberal Arts
Yamanashi Gakuin University

EXCHANGE PROGRAM

iCLA is a four-year, English-medium, liberal arts college at Yamanashi Gakuin University in Kofu city, Yamanashi prefecture, Japan.

Liberal Arts

Education at iCLA spans both depth and breadth as students study a variety of disciplines while acquiring a deep understanding of their chosen major. Students can take courses in areas such as:

- Global Business & Economics
- Interdisciplinary Arts
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Health & Physical Education
- Political Science
- Japan Studies
- Natural Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Data Science

Workshops & Practical

Unique to iCLA are our Workshops & Practical offerings, a range of cultural classes that students take for credit. Pick up the koto, learn karate, judo and more, all under the tutelage of Japanese masters respected for their craft.

iEXPerience Program (iEXP)

Explore the unique charms of the Kofu/Yamanashi culture through iCLA's unique iEXPerience program, a series of field trips and experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Participate in a Japanese culture workshop at a Buddhist temple, practice Japanese drums "Wadaiko", or learn "Koshu Wine" brand at a local winery (activities TBC).

Campus & Housing

iCLA's campus was designed by Toyo Ito, one of the world's most celebrated architects and winner of the 2013 Pritzker Award. Exchange students typically stay in a private room at our on-campus iCLA residence hall sharing facilities such as showers and a common lounge. Some rooms come with a view of Mt. Fuji!

Depending on availability, exchange students may live in the iCLA residence hall, other university housing, or in off-campus apartments.

QUICK FACTS

9:1 Student to Faculty Ratio

60+ Nationalities

89%+ of Full Time Faculty Members Educated Overseas

80%+ International Students

55+ Partner Universities

90min from Central Tokyo

Maizuru Catsle Ruins

iCLA is located in Kofu city, the capital of Yamanashi prefecture. Yamanashi is famed for its beautiful mountains and lakes, historic sites, hot springs, hiking trails, fruit orchards and vineyards, all set against the iconic backdrop of Mount Fuji. Being based in Kofu puts you right at the center of Japan with easy access to Tokyo, and both Eastern and Western coasts of Japan.

Arakura Fuji Sengen Shrine

Study Period

Exchange students have the option of studying at iCLA either for 1 or 2 semesters

Spring Semester	Late March – Late July
Fall Semester	Late August – Late December

Eligibility

- Your home institution has a student exchange partnership with iCLA
- You have completed at least one academic year at your home institution by the time of entry to iCLA
- You have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent
- You have a TOEFL score of 80 (iBT), 550 (iTP), IELTS 6.0, Cambridge FCE or equivalent

The above English requirement is exempt for students of certain partner institutions/programs.
Japanese language skills are not a requirement to study at iCLA.

How to Apply

- Have your international office/exchange coordinator nominate you to iCLA
- Once your nomination is accepted, apply through our online application form

Spring intake deadline	October 15
Fall intake deadline	April 15

Approximate Fees

(room, utilities, meal plan, cleaning and rental items fee, student insurance)

1 semester	JPY 475,000 – 543,200
2 semesters	JPY 950,000 – 1,018,200

The approximate fees above are provided for reference only:
· room fees are based on rates at iCLA's residence hall, and may vary depending on accommodation type;
· meal plan fees are based on the current school calendar, subject to changes.

Insurance

All exchange students are automatically enrolled in three mandatory insurance plans for their stay at iCLA, and have to pay for only two of the three plans.

Student Visa

After you are accepted by iCLA, you will apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE), a document that qualifies you to apply for a visa. Once you receive the CoE, apply for a student visa at your nearest Japanese embassy or consulate.

The information in this fact sheet is current as of October 2026.

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