

Opportunities to Study in Asia

Spotlight on Student-Abroad Programs in Japan

ASIANetwork spotlights four study-abroad programs that focus on Japan. The programs are: the John Carroll University Exchange Program in Japan, the Japan Study Program at Earlham College, the Kanzai-Gaidai Exchange Program at Furman University, and the Bridging Scholarships for Study in Japan Program. We plan to spotlight study-abroad programs to other areas in future issues.

John Carroll University Exchanges in Japan

Rose Begalla, Coordinator for International Scholars & Study Abroad

John Carroll University (JCU) is a Catholic, Jesuit, accredited, comprehensive, private liberal arts university in Northeastern Ohio. JCU offers programs in the arts, sciences, business and pre-professional fields at the undergraduate and master's levels. We strive to develop women and men of diverse religious, economic and cultural backgrounds with the knowledge and character to lead and to serve. Pursuant to this end, JCU has taken more of an active role in globalizing the curriculum and promoting study abroad.

Two such study-abroad programs are long standing—one dating from the late '60s with a sister Jesuit school, Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, and the other, initiated in the early '90s with Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan. Both institutions are well-respected in the field of International Education and have made great strides on their home campuses to promote globalization and study abroad.

Through these exchange programs, we have received many diverse students from all over Japan and have sent many Cleveland-area students to learn about life outside the United States, and specifically about life in Japan. Through this type of exchange, students are fully integrated into life at the host university. Students are given the chance to live with families or in residence halls; they can join student organizations and get involved in a variety of activities of campus life.

These programs complement JCU's East Asian Studies Program which coordinates a concentration in East Asian Studies. Concentrations are interdisciplinary in nature and allow for a broad cross-section of university students to focus in many areas of interest. Students in History, Language, Marketing, and the like, can opt to add this concentration to their degree and, by doing so, can spend a semester, year or summer in Japan with a partnering institution.

Financially, exchange programs are economical and

cost-effective for colleges and universities to establish. In essence, students swap places. Each school charges its own fees to its students and when the visiting students arrive they are not charged tuition, etc., depending on the parameters of the exchange agreement. However, since the cost of education at private U.S. schools is ever-increasing and the dollar seems to fluctuate, students usually need to look for additional sources of funding to make the international opportunity affordable. While students who are not enrolled in JCU are eligible to participate in these programs, they would have to pay JCU fees in order to do so.

The Japan Study Program at Earlham College

Gary DeCoker, Director, Japan Study

Established in 1963, Japan Study is one of the oldest educational exchange programs linking colleges and universities in the United States and Japan. Based at Earlham College, Japan Study promotes exchange among member colleges of the Great Lakes Colleges Association, Inc. and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, and Waseda University in Japan. These colleges and universities are recognized as among the leading educational institutions in their respective societies. Waseda University enrolls about 45,000 students; GLCA/ACM member institutions combine to enroll a similar number. Student participants have gone on to distinguished careers in education, business, government, and non-governmental organizations.

Program Highlights

Students may participate in Japan Study for the full academic year or for one semester. Of these options, the full academic year offers the best academic and cultural opportunities, some of which are listed below.

- *An extended orientation session.* During this time, students get to know each other and begin to familiarize themselves with the language, culture, and new environment.