

Structure of the Program

The International Exchange subjects are offered by a variety of faculties, and are designed for mainly 3rd year undergraduate students. **OUSSEP** coordinators of the CIEE are in charge of the arrangements and coordination of the subjects.

i) International Exchange Subjects

In this English speaking program, the University tries to balance the number of students majoring in the fields of the physical sciences, including engineering and the health sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences. Students may select their courses according to their majors and interests. At the same time, students are encouraged to take courses outside their own majors as this will help them to broaden their perspective and at the same time gain a deeper understanding of Japanese society and culture. All participants are expected to earn at least 14 credits from International Exchange Subjects per semester.

ii) Independent Study

One of the unique features of the Full-year and Half-year **OUSSEP** programs is the Independent Study aspect (2~4 credits per semester). Students can propose a study topic and are then assigned to a supervising professor in an appropriate faculty. A student may wish to study a particular subject that is not found in the International Exchange Subjects (Individual Study) or to conduct a research project on a particular theme (Independent Research). The student and their supervising professor will agree upon the scope and depth of the study at the beginning of the program*. For Full-year **OUSSEP** students, the Independent Study usually continues for two semesters. At the end of each semester the student will submit their report on the topic to the supervising professor. Refer to the "Guide to Independent Study" found on the **OUSSEP** Website for further details. **Those who wish to undertake Independent Study must fill out the Independent Study Proposal along with the other application documents.**

*When the amount of work required for the independent study is particularly large, the supervising professor and the International Affairs Committee may decide to grant up to 4 credits per semester for graduate students, instead of the usual 2 credits.

Refer to the "Guide to Independent Study" for details.

iii) CIEE Japanese Language Course

In addition to the aforementioned courses, **OUSSEP** students may take any of the six levels of Japanese courses (4 credits each semester), according to their proficiency level.

iv) OUSSEP Field Trips

Each semester, **OUSSEP** offers an overnight educational trip for participants in order to study the local culture. Students have traveled to Hiroshima to listen to an A-bomb survivor give her/his testimony in English, and Koyasan to stay at one of the temples at the heart of esoteric Buddhism in the mountains in the past.

OUSSEP participants who successfully acquire the required credits for completion will be able to join these field trips without having to pay a fee.

v) OUSSEP Internship

From 2020 October, **OUSSEP** will launch a new Internship Course to provide participants opportunities to gain practical work experience and earn academic credits. In this program, **OUSSEP** cooperates with partner institutions in the private sector. KidZania Koshien is 2020's internship partner. KidZania is an indoor family entertainment center which allows children aged 4 to 14 to experience adult jobs through role-play. **OUSSEP** interns engage in English programs at KidZania on Wednesdays. Due to the schedule, KidZania interns will not be able to take classes on Wednesdays, including CIEE Japanese language courses.

Arrangements for Independent Study / Internship Courses

In cooperation with partner institutions, OUSSEP coordinators select candidates for the Internship Course before the semester starts. Students who wish to take an Independent Study and/or Internship Course must indicate so when they apply for an OUSSEP program.

Unfortunately, it is impossible for OUSSEP coordinators to arrange Independent Studies / Internships for those who did not indicate their desire to participate in these programs in their initial application.

***Participants who enroll in the Internship will be unable to take CIEE Japanese classes due to schedule conflicts.**

Completion of the OUSSEP Program

All **OUSSEP** courses offered, including the Japanese Language Program, Independent Study, and Internship Course are electives. **The minimum requirement each semester for the satisfactory completion of OUSSEP is 14 credits and the mandatory participation in that semester's field trip.** The International Affairs Committee of Osaka University will award Certificates of Completion to those students who have successfully completed **OUSSEP**. Aside from the International Exchange Subjects, Independent study, Internship Course, and CIEE Japanese Language, two of Osaka University's regular credits can be counted toward the completion of **OUSSEP**.



International Exchange Activities

In addition to the academic programs, students are encouraged to participate in various international exchange activities throughout the year, which the CIEE organizes. Other groups including those within the University (such as the student-organized international exchange group of Brothers and Sisters Program (BSP)), as well as those in neighboring communities, also participate in these programs. One example of a neighboring community group is the Osaka University Host Family Program (OHP), which is coordinated by the CIEE and provides international students with an opportunity to closely interact with a local Japanese family living nearby the university.

Field Trips

The **OUSSEP** program offers field trips for students in order to give them opportunities to see as many things and to meet as many people as possible during their full-year or half-year stay in Japan. Students go on trips as a part of the academic courses, including overnight trips, to different parts of the country to meet local people and experience local culture.



Koyasan



Koyasan



Miyajima



Miyajima

Academic Calendar

The academic year for regular educational programs in most Japanese universities, including Osaka University, begins in April and ends in March. However, the **OUSSEP** year, which is divided into two 15-week semesters, runs from late September until early August of the following year. Half-year **OUSSEP** participants will join either of these 15-week semesters: September-February or April-August.

Academic Year: OUSSEP

Fall/Winter Semester

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|---|-------------------------|
| • The end of September | Orientation |
| • The beginning of October | Classes start |
| • The end of December to the beginning of January | Year end/New Year break |
| • The beginning of January | Classes restart |
| • The middle of February | Classes end |
| • The middle of February to the end of March | Spring break |

Spring/Summer Semester

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| • The beginning of April | Orientation |
| • The beginning of April | Classes start |
| • The beginning of August | Classes end |



Koyasan



Trip to Koyasan