

9. LIFE IN OSAKA

Housing

Osaka University will have a room ready for each of the participants by the time they arrive. Osaka University will make its best effort to provide the **OUSSEP** program participants with low-cost accommodation in one of the University residences for overseas students located near the three campuses. Due to an increase in demand for campus dormitories by international students, however, we have to optimize the University resources for the most appropriate students. In the 2007-2008 period, self-funded students (without JASSO or OU grants) had higher priority in receiving the low-cost university accommodation than the JASSO and OU scholarship awardees. The University will maintain the same policy during the 2008-2009 period. Needless to say, OU's International Student Affairs Division will certainly help all well qualified exchange students to find relatively low-cost public sector accommodation such as that at Senri International House, which belongs to Osaka Prefecture, before these students arrive at Osaka.

Those who wish to stay in a private apartment house in the Osaka area should expect their average monthly living expenses (food, rent, and transportation) to be no less than 100,000 JPY. The University does not currently arrange home-stays for OUSSEP students. Students may seek opportunities for home-stays after they settle down at the above accommodation.

Health and Liability Insurance

Upon arrival in Osaka area, **OUSSEP** students must join a comprehensive health and personal accident insurance plan arranged by the University, which includes the compulsory National Health Insurance and the Disaster and Accident Insurance for Student Education and Research. The plan covers medical care and hospitalization. The cost is reasonable and will be carried by the students. In addition, students are expected to have liability insurance. An adequate student liability insurance can be purchased at the Osaka University COOP (student union).

Some students may buy international insurances at home, and are not pleased to have to join the above plan provided by the University. Note that in the event they need personalized certified translations for their own insurance companies, such as medical certificates or police accident reports, the University is not able to translate these official documents. Students will need to find professional translation services by themselves outside the University.



Football Crazy



Fire Drill at Dormitory

GCN-Osaka (Global Campus Net Osaka)

Osaka University provides a unique online virtual community of GCN-Osaka, primarily targeted at foreign researchers and exchange students at Osaka University. On this site, information for foreigners such as online Japanese learning materials, medical/child care information, scholarship information, a database for private accommodation, second hand goods information, etc. is posted, and exchanging information between fellow community members is possible through the use of a bulletin board system (BBS). This BBS is designed to be multilingual, so foreigners can use their native language to exchange information. The BBS can be used to exchange information and receive online counseling on studying abroad. Prospective students of the OUSSEP programs are able to get their IDs and Passwords before they come to OU through the home page below, and are able to prepare for their studies at OU by using such resources as the e-learning Japanese materials.

[<http://www.gcn-osaka.jp/>]



Summer Festival



Cherry Blossom at ISC



Cherry Blossom Picnic



Summer Festival