



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Waseda University**  
**Academic Year 2011-2012**  
**Program Guide**

Waseda University  
<http://www.waseda.jp/sils/en/index.html>

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### **Preparing for Study Abroad**

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with: [www.economist.com/countries](http://www.economist.com/countries) or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.newspapers24.com>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>  
Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions, students may want to visit the following website: [www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com)
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website ([www.bc.edu/international](http://www.bc.edu/international)) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study abroad experience.

### **On-Site Contact Information**

- **Mr. Junho Song**  
Program Coordinator – Incoming Exchange Students  
Tel: + 81-3-3207-1454  
+ 81-3-5286-1827 (after hours)  
Fax: + 81-3-3202-8638  
Email: [in-cie@list.waseda.jp/](mailto:in-cie@list.waseda.jp/)

### **Travel Information**

- Pick-up services will be arranged upon request. This service is available only for students who choose the homestay or the university dormitory housing option. Those who wish to take advantage of this service need to book a flight that arrives on one of the days set by Waseda University. These dates will be provided by Waseda at a later date. SILS will send you the 'Arrival Questionnaire' in the Pre-Departure Orientation Information, which you will need to fax back by the indicated deadline. If you do not send your information by the deadline, Waseda will not be able to arrange your pick-up. Once you apply for the pick-up service, please don't cancel it. Those who have applied

for the pick-up service will meet with Waseda students at JR Shinjuku Station (Platform of JR Narita Express). Before taking the train, please call the SILS office (+03-3203-9806) to inform the staff on duty of your arrival time to Shinjuku station and your train cart and seat numbers. It is recommended to use a telephone card, which can be purchased at the “kiosks” and vending machines. Please take the JR Narita Express from Narita Airport to the station. JR Narita Express costs about 3,000 yen (about \$26) and the journey lasts about 60 minutes.

- Narita is far from Tokyo, so it is recommended to use the airport pick-up service. However, if you do not need to use the pick-up service, you may reach your destination by limousine bus, Keisei Skyliner (train), or taxi. The information counter will help you access these transportation modes.
- **Visa Information:** Waseda University will send you a Certificate of Eligibility (COE), a document which you will need in order to obtain your visa. You will need to submit the COE and your acceptance letter to the Japanese Consulate nearest your home. The student visa will be stamped in the back of your passport, and the COE will be stapled into your passport. As an exchange student, your visa status should be “College Student.” To locate the appropriate consular office, you can contact the Boston Consulate General of Japan at (617) 973-9772 or <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/index.html>. Along with the completed application for a College Student Visa, you should submit the COE, your passport, and a passport-sized photograph to the nearest Japanese Consulate. Please consult the Japanese Embassy website at <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/index.html> for updated information on required visa application documents, regulations and procedures, as they may vary from state to state.

## Academics

<b>Program dates and Academic calendar for Full Academic Year</b>	
<b>Fall 2011 (Tentative)</b>	<b>Spring 2012</b>
<b>TBD:</b> Recommended arrival	<b>May 6:</b> Classes begin for the spring semester
<b>TBD:</b> Japanese Placement Test	<b>August 4:</b> Classes end
<b>TBD:</b> Orientation & general course registration	<b>August 5:</b> Earliest departure date
<b>TBD:</b> Japanese language course registration	
<b>TBD:</b> Course registration result announcement	
<b>September 26:</b> Classes start	
<b>TBD:</b> Add/drop period for Japanese language courses	
<b>TBD:</b> Add/drop period for general lecture courses	
<b>December 23-January 5:</b> Winter Vacation	
<b>February 4:</b> Classes end	

**The university will be closed on the following dates: TBD**

- Check in at [http://www.waseda.jp/sils/jp/common/pdf/schedule\\_2011.pdf](http://www.waseda.jp/sils/jp/common/pdf/schedule_2011.pdf) for updated dates and holiday information.

- For course selection information, please refer to <http://www.waseda.jp/sils/en/student/subject.html>
- **Important:** All students must take the standardized Japanese language exam, JLPT, on the designated date. It is recommended that students prepare using the JLPT Study Books 1 – 4.
- Based on the results of this test, students will be placed into levels 1 – 8 of Japanese in the SILS program.
- The following is a tentative schedule of daily class periods:

1st Period 9:00-10:30	2nd Period 10:40-12:10	3rd Period 13:00-14:30
4th Period 14:45-16:15	5th Period 16:30-18:00	6th Period 18:15-19:45
7th Period 19:55-21:25		

- Course approval information will be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

### **Housing and Living**

- There are three types of housing offered by SILS: homestay, university dormitory, and private dormitory. Students will most likely receive a space at one of the Waseda University dormitories. Some students choose to live in apartments, which must be arranged independently. Upon acceptance, Waseda will inform you of your housing options. You are required to answer their housing questionnaire by the deadline (mid-June) given by Waseda. Students should communicate directly with Waseda University if they have specific questions pertaining to each option. Accommodation assignments will be made by the Student Affairs Section at Waseda upon receiving your request, and they do not accept any changes later. They will send you your dormitory information in mid-August with the Certificate of Eligibility. Housing fees are paid directly to the provider. For more information, consult the Waseda website at [http://www.waseda.jp/cie/exchange/sils/02\\_housing.html](http://www.waseda.jp/cie/exchange/sils/02_housing.html)
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: [http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012\\_estimated\\_student\\_budget\\_w\\_housing\\_June\\_2011.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012_estimated_student_budget_w_housing_June_2011.pdf)
- **Local Transportation:**  
Convenient transportation can be achieved using the multitude of train, subway, and bus lines. Student commuter passes can be purchased at the railway station by filling out a request form and submitting it with the Student ID card. To use a bus line, students must apply for a Student Commuter Certificate at the Student Center.
- **Waseda Cultural Activities:**  
The One-Year Study Abroad Program at SILS provides ample opportunities for extracurricular activities for International Students. These activities include field trips and a lecture series, both of which are designed to help students gain a better understanding of Japan through varied fields like politics, journalism, art, education, and industry. There are two main international clubs at Waseda: the [Waseda International Club \(WIC\)](#) and

the [Rainbow Club\(Nijinokai\)](#). These groups provide opportunities for international students and Japanese students at Waseda to interact through activities such as studying Japanese, hiking, etc. Other extra curricular activities previously offered include trips to the Japanese Countryside, Japanese History and Culture Excursion (Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, and Okinawa), kabuki, sumo, field trips in Tokyo, the University Athletic Festival, and the All-Waseda Cultural Week. Information on cultural activities is provided on the Waseda website at [http://www.cie-waseda.jp/lifeatwaseda/index\\_e.php](http://www.cie-waseda.jp/lifeatwaseda/index_e.php).

- **Meals:**

Meals are provided on a pay-as-you-go basis and your options will vary according to your housing. More information will be available in your acceptance package and at orientation.

### **Wellness, Health and Safety**

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:  
[http://kidshealth.org/teen/your\\_mind/emotions/culture\\_shock.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html)  
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>  
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>  
BC emergency contact information:  
OIP (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
BCPD (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs  
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country, so if students choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country's laws by visiting:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#drug\\_offenses](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses)

### **Finances**

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad: [http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012\\_estimated\\_student\\_budget\\_w\\_housing\\_June\\_2011.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012_estimated_student_budget_w_housing_June_2011.pdf)

- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:  
[http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html)

### **Returning to BC**

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation.
- Mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting [oiexchange@bc.edu](mailto:oiexchange@bc.edu)
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Christina Dimitrova at [dimitroc@bc.edu](mailto:dimitroc@bc.edu)
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home:  
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>  
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

### **References**

- **Useful websites:**  
<http://www.roughguides.com/> travel guidebook
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>