

山形大学短期交換留学プログラム

(工学部・大学院理工学研究科／有機材料システム研究科対象)

STEP-YUFE

Short-Term Exchange Programs at Yamagata University

Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and

Engineering, Graduate School of Organic Materials Science

Spring Semester 2025 – Spring Semester 2026

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1. Profile of Yamagata University

Yamagata University has six faculties with twelve departments and six post-graduate courses. It has four campuses¹. The total number of students on all four campuses is about 9,000. As one of the leading universities in the Tōhoku (northern Japan) area, it fulfills an important role in both study and research. The number of students at Yonezawa campus, which is home to the Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, and Graduate School of Organic Materials Science (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Faculty of Engineering”), is about 3,600. With ‘symbiosis between nature and mankind’ as its theme, Yamagata University is very active in developing human resources that will play a major role in the next generation. Yamagata University aims to pursue and develop knowledge and work towards the prosperity of the local communities.

As of May 1, 2024, approximately 102 students from 13 countries are studying at the Faculty of Engineering. We have interfaculty exchange agreements with 25 universities in 11 countries, offering international educational experiences for both students and faculty members.

2. Outline of STEP-YUFE

Yamagata University Faculty of Engineering offers a short-term program for international students, giving students from universities with exchange agreements the opportunity to study here while being enrolled in their home universities. This program is called STEP-YUFE (Short-Term Exchange Program at Yamagata University Faculty of Engineering). Please be aware that this program is different from the Short-Term Exchange Program at Yamagata University (STEP-YU).

Program	Period of stay	Students
STEP-YUFE (Short-Term Exchange Program at Yamagata University, Faculty of Engineering)	1 semester or 1 year	Students from universities with interfaculty exchange agreements with Yamagata University Faculty of Engineering

The number of students exempted by the host university from paying tuition and the credit transfer are set in the agreement between Yamagata University and the partner universities. You can find a list of these partner universities on our website (<http://www.yamagata-u.ac.jp/en/international/network/agreements/>).



¹ Our four campuses are located across three cities in Yamagata Prefecture: Kojirakawa Campus and Iida Campus are located in Yamagata City, Yonezawa Campus is located in Yonezawa City, and Tsuruoka Campus is located in Tsuruoka City.

3. STEP-YUFE Program Features and Aims

This program aims to give both undergraduate and graduate students of various countries an opportunity to improve their Japanese language ability and their understanding of Japan, as well as their academic studies and research. The program offers regular courses given in Japanese at the Faculty of Engineering. Enrollment is possible in the aforementioned faculties and graduate schools. Depending on the exchange agreement with the partner institution, enrollment may be limited to undergraduate students.

In order to participate in undergraduate courses held in Japanese together with Japanese students, undergraduate applicants must have a level of Japanese equivalent to at least level N2 of the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

Graduate students are expected to have a level of Japanese high enough to adjust to everyday life in Japan even if they perform their research in English. Therefore, students with low proficiency in the Japanese language are strongly advised to participate in Japanese language training both prior to coming to Japan and while at Yamagata University. For the possibility of performing research in English, please ask us in advance.

The program runs from:

April 1, 2025 to either September 30, 2025, or March 31, 2026

October 1, 2025 to either March 31, 2026, or September 30, 2026

Necessary qualifications:

- 1) The applicant must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a university². The applicant must be at least in his/her second year of undergraduate study at the time of application.
- 2) The applicant's desired field of study or research must be consistent with existing courses at this university.
- 3) The applicant must have the Japanese or English ability adequate for smooth participation in university life.

Furthermore,

- Undergraduate students are required to take an English language test (TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) and the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). While not strictly required, it is preferable for students to obtain results of more than or equivalent to level N2 for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.
- Graduate students are required to take either an English language test (TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) or the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). If your main communication language is in English, you are required to obtain a TOEIC score of at least 600 or TOEFL iBT score at least 6.1. If your main communication language is in Japanese, you are required to obtain a Japanese Language Proficiency Test result of at least level N2. It is desirable for students to take proficiency tests in both languages.

We will not be able to take any students who have graduated from their home university or who will graduate from their home university during the period of their study at Yamagata.

4. Content of Classes

Supplementary Courses in Japanese Language³ (Yonezawa Campus):

The following courses are for the Fall Semester 2024. One lesson lasts 90 minutes.

<i>Level</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Beginner	Survival, General Japanese 1, Kanji
Lower Intermediate	General Japanese 2, Japanese Skills 2
Upper Intermediate	General Japanese 3, Japanese Skills 3
Advanced	General Japanese 4, Japanese Skills 4

*Business Japanese language course for graduate students is also available.

² The conditions of acceptance (required student status, number of students to be exchanged, etc.) will be in accordance with the student exchange agreement.

³ No credits will be given.

*For regular courses taught in Japanese, see the course contents on our website.
 (<http://www.yamagata-u.ac.jp/jp/life/lesson/syllabus/>)

Opportunities to Experience Japan

The Yamagata University International Circle in Yonezawa (YUICY) and various international exchange groups organize other valuable opportunities to explore Japanese culture, including attending festivals or doing a homestay with a local family. Yamagata Prefecture is an area full of nature and beautiful sites to enjoy throughout the year. There are hot springs (*onsen*) in every city, town, and village, and it's also a good environment for making friends. In such an area, we guarantee that international students will have a great opportunity to fully enjoy their stay in Japan.



5. Life in Japan

Spring and Fall Semesters

The Spring Semester starts in early April and ends in early August. The summer vacation continues until September 30. The Fall Semester starts on October 1. There are approximately 15 days of New Year's vacation from the end of December to early January. After the end of the semester, there is another vacation from late February through March.

Spring Semester	April	Spring Semester begins, orientation, Japanese language placement test, class registration
	Late July–early Aug.	Final examinations
	Late Aug.–Sep.	Summer break
Fall Semester	Mid-Sep.	Orientation, Japanese placement test
	Oct.	Fall Semester begins, class registration
	Late Dec.–early Jan.	Winter break
	Early Feb.	Final examinations
	Late Feb.–early Apr.	Spring break

After Arriving in Japan

After arriving in Yamagata, students can be lodged at the International House. Within two or three days, students will be required to register their addresses, open bank accounts, take a Japanese language placement test, and participate in a campus tour and orientation. Students will also have to register for classes during the first week of the term. Each student will be assigned a Japanese student as a tutor to help them get used to life in Japan.

Housing and Cost of Living

For short-term international students at Yamagata University (at Yonezawa campus), students can be accommodated at the Yonezawa International House. Please be aware that you might be required to rent an apartment off-campus if the number of applicants for the International House is over the capacity. The residents of the International House are determined by the Yamagata University Faculty of Engineering International Exchange Center.

The Yonezawa International House is about a ten-minute walk from campus. In the single rooms, there will be a bed, desk, chair, air conditioner, mini kitchen, kitchen shelf, bookshelf, refrigerator, shower and toilet.

Please see the table below about the expenses regarding housing. Other than the expenses below, electricity, gas, and water will have to be paid. Internet is available as well, but an individual contract is necessary to use the Internet.

Type of dormitory	Type of room	Boarding fee per month	Communal services fee per month	Security deposit upon your move-in
Yonezawa International House	Single room	¥5,900	¥800	¥30,000
	Couple room	¥11,900	¥900	¥36,000
	Family room	¥14,200	¥1,200	¥45,000

*The security deposit will be used for cleaning the room, futon, and refrigerator and for other expenses (like damage or losses) upon moving out. The remaining sum will be returned to the student.

On average, students living in Yonezawa will have to pay for their room rent, utilities, food, transportation, Internet, phone, and after class activities. In total, this comes out to approximately ¥60,000 per month (the current exchange rate⁴ is 130-150 JPY = 1 USD or 130-160 JPY = 1 EUR).

6. Application Method and Deadlines

The selection of candidates for STEP-YUFE is carried out based on an evaluation of each applicant's grade point average (GPA), their plan for study and research, and a letter of recommendation issued by their professors. Students applying for the program are asked to send their completed application materials (listed below) to the address given on the back of this pamphlet by registered mail, via their home university's International Exchange Office (or the equivalent thereof) by the following deadlines: December 1, 2024 for students wishing to start in April, and April 26, 2025 for students wishing to start in October 2025.

In addition, if there is more than one applicant from a single university, we ask the Office to please inform us in which order the applicants are recommended.

Student Services, Yamagata University Faculty of Engineering

E-mail: yu-kouryug@jm.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp

	Required Documents
1	Form 1-1: Completed Application Form (submit as a Word file)
2	Form 1-2: Plan of Study or Research (submit as a Word file)
3	Form 2: One recommendation letter from an academic instructor at the applicant's home university who has known the applicant for at least one year
4	Form 3: Physical Examination Report *If you have a problem with sending the documents through e-mail, you may also send the documents through mail.
5	Photograph (submit as a JPEG file)
6	Application for Certificate of Eligibility (submit as an Excel file)
7	Academic Transcript (from university currently enrolled in)
8	One copy of certificates of an English language test (TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) and/or Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

⁴ As of Sep 19, 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Undergraduate students are required to take an English language test (TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) and the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).</u> • Graduate students <u>are required to take either an English language test (TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) or the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).</u> It is desirable for all applicants to take both. <p>* Please be sure to read the necessary qualifications in Section 3 (STEP-YUFE Program Features and Aims) of this guideline and submit the necessary documents. *If you have no language certificates, an online interview can be conducted instead to test your language ability.</p>
9	Copy of Passport (*The passport must not expire during your stay in Japan)
10	Application Form for Residence Approval (*Only for applicants wishing to live in the Yonezawa International House)

7. Notification of Results

The results of the selection process will be sent to the International Exchange Office (or the equivalent thereof) of the applicant's home university by mid-March (for Spring semester applicants) or late August (for Fall semester applicants).

The Certificate of Eligibility necessary for obtaining a visa will be sent to the same office around the same time that we send out the results of the selection process. Before the arrival, applicants are asked to confirm the necessary procedures for attaining a visa with their local Japanese Embassy or Consulate. Applicants must also book and pay for their airplane tickets to Japan.

8. Access to Yonezawa Campus

Please check the URL below. It takes about 2 hours to get to Yonezawa from Tokyo Station by bullet train (shinkansen).

<http://www.yamagata-u.ac.jp/en/about-yu/transportation/>

To get to Tokyo Station from Narita or Haneda Airport, please use the public train system (JR Narita Express or Keisei Skyliner for Narita Airport; Tokyo Monorail for Haneda Airport). To get from Tokyo to Yonezawa station, take the Yamagata Shinkansen (Tsubasa).