

## IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS and NOTICE for Autumn Semester 2021

Sophia University is now working on the admission process assuming that most of courses will be offered on face-to-face basis in Autumn semester, and planning further steps to welcome inbound exchange students to our campus in September. Please read thoroughly the following policy and conditions for Autumn inbound exchange program.

**Please kindly understand that if the situation worsens drastically or any decision is made by the Japanese Government, we may have to change our policy on the exchange program.**

**DO NOT MAKE ANY FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT at this point  
as the future situation of COVID-19 is uncertain.**

The following information is temporary and it may be changed depending on the future situation. Updated information will be announced later. We would like to advise you to make a financial arrangement for your housing and flight, etc., AFTER details of arrival instructions are received around mid-July. Students are strongly advised not to make any financial commitments until the future situation is clearer.

### **0) Current situation in Japan (as of May 2021)**

As you might be aware, currently visa issuance is suspended and international students are not permitted to enter Japan. We are not sure if/ when the restrictions will be relaxed or lifted. Once the government's policy is released, we will let you know and may request you to submit additional documents for your entry to Japan, so please follow our future instructions.

### **1) Course format of Autumn semester 2021**

Currently we assume that Autumn courses will be offered in face-to-face format, but please kindly understand that if the situation worsens drastically or any decision is made by the Japanese Government to change its current policy, we may have to switch the exchange program to online mode. In such case, we will let you know immediately.

### **2) Arrival, Quarantine and other entry requirements**

- Designated arrival date is expected to be around early September
- 15 nights quarantine after entering Japan will be required

In January 2021, when students were permitted to obtain a student visa and enter Japan, they were required to quarantine for 15 nights upon their arrival in Japan. We assume that the quarantine will be required for your future arrival as well even if the current entry restrictions will be lifted. Once the updated policy is released by the Japanese Government, we will request you to submit an additional document promising to follow the host university's instructions on your entry to Japan and quarantine.

Meanwhile, we must be prepared to the quarantine and request inbound students to arrive in Japan around early September and quarantine for 15 nights to be ready to come to campus at the beginning of the Autumn semester (September 21).

The designated arrival dates are expected to be September 3-5, but it is not fixed yet. The fixed arrival dates will be announced by mid-July. You need not to worry about the date of entry indicated on the CoE application form. We will change the date accordingly so that it will not affect your visa.

### 3) Quarantine costs

#### **-Estimated costs for quarantine will be around 160,000JPY- 200,000 JPY**

Students will be required to arrange their quarantine place and transportation through the travel agency designated by Sophia University and cover all costs related to the 15 nights quarantine period. The above estimated cost includes pick-up service, transportation from the arrival airport to the quarantine hotel, accommodation fees for 15 nights, and arrangement fee (Meals are NOT included. You can buy foods and drinks at stores in the quarantine hotel.)

Students can arrange their quarantine through the designated system run by the travel agency and the required fees must be paid by credits card before their departure from their county.

Details about arrangement of quarantine will be announced in mid-July.

Please note that students whose relatives are in Japan, or who have place to stay in Japan are not exempt from this arrangement, and all the incoming exchange students must make the arrangement for quarantine/ transportation through the designated travel agency.

### 4) Other conditions

Other requirements may be set by the government, but it is uncertain at this point.

#### **-Vaccination is recommended**

As Japanese Government has not released any restrictions or requirements on vaccination for international students, we are not sure if it will be recommended or required when you will arrive in Japan. However, we would like to recommend you to get vaccinated in advance if it is available in your country so that you can be prepared for the requirements by the Japanese Government.

#### **-Testing for COVID-19 before departure**

Students will be required to undergo testing for COVID-19 within 72 hours before departure from the departing country, have a local medical institution issue a Certificate of Testing for COVID-19 confirming the "negative" test results.

Also, the following process may be required upon your arrival in Japan, but please understand that all the measures are based on previous policy of Japanese Government and might be changed depending on the future situation and decision by the Japanese Government.

-Recording health condition for 14 days before departure

- Installing designated applications on their smartphone
- Reporting daily health condition for 14 days after entry to Japan

## 5) Schedule

### Early-mid June

Housing placement will be announced for students applying for housing through Sophia

### Mid-July

Students will register arrival information on the designated online quarantine system (details will be announced later)

### Late July

Acceptance package (CoE and other necessary documents for visa application) will be sent out via express mail

### Early- Mid August

Students will apply for student visa at local Japanese embassy/consulate

### Early September (TBA)

Student will arrive in Japan and go through 15 nights quarantine period.

Once the quarantine period is over, students can move to their accommodation.

\*Please do not book a flight until you receive further instructions about your arrival date and quarantine.

### September 21

Orientation on campus (details will be announced later)

## 6) Academic Calendar for Autumn semester 2021

<b>Orientation</b>	September 21
<b>Placement Test (Japanese Language class)</b>	September 22
<b>Course Registration/Confirmation/Adjustment</b>	late September- early October
<b>Classes</b>	September 27- January 22
<b>Final Examinations</b>	January 24– January 31
<b>Spring Vacation</b>	February 1– March 31
<b>Transcript Issuance</b>	Mid-March

Please note that the exchange students must follow the academic calendar of Sophia University and finish the final examinations. It is not possible to ask for early scheduling of examinations in order to return to their home countries, or leave Sophia at the middle of the semester.