



THE UNIVERSITY
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at CHAPEL HILL

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Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences
Office of General Education
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues:

Student Exchange Program with Nagoya University, Nagoya (Japan)

We are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish an undergraduate student exchange program with Nagoya University (NU). Initially, this will be a bilateral exchange with Spring and Year-long options, commencing Academic Year 2018-2019. Further information about NU can be reviewed at en.nagoya-u.ac.jp.

Dr. Bob Miles, Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges, and Jing Liu, Asia Programs Director, visited with faculty and staff of NU and reviewed its facilities in December 2016.

Nagoya University

Nagoya University was founded in 1871, chartered in 1939 and was the last Imperial University in Japan, and one of the National Seven Universities. NU currently has over 16,000 students enrolled throughout its 9 undergraduate schools and 14 graduate schools. The undergraduate schools include: Letters, Education, Law, Economics, Information and Sciences, Science, Medicine, Engineering, and Agricultural Sciences. The institution is one of the top research universities in Japan, especially with regard to physics, chemistry, and biology and biochemistry. It was ranked 26th in the 2016 QS Asian University Rankings and 115th in the 2017 QS World University Rankings.

Program Rationale

UNC-CH currently has six existing exchanges with universities in Japan, four of which are in the greater Tokyo area. This exchange would add both academic and geographical diversity to the existing exchange portfolio. While the existing exchanges offer quality and robust programs at selective institutions, they are largely limited to Japanese language and cultural studies. Students who participate in these exchange programs are typically Asian Studies or Global Studies majors seeking language or area studies credit. The addition of the NU exchange would allow students to expand their course selections to major content courses offered in English, particularly STEM courses.

The Nagoya University Program for Academic Exchange (NUPACE) offers a comprehensive curriculum

consisting of Japanese language instruction, area/cultural studies, and over 1,000 major courses taught in English. One reason for its wide array of course offerings can be attributed to the Global 30 International Programmes. NU was selected by the Japan Ministry of Education to be one of thirteen Global 30 hubs and received substantial funding from 2009-2014 to implement broad-ranging internationalization initiatives. The G30 program offers six undergraduate and eight graduate degree programs taught entirely in English, and regularly enroll international degree-seeking students. The undergraduate programs include: Automotive Engineering, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Fundamental and Applied Physics, Social Sciences, and Japan-in-Asia Cultural Studies. For our exchange students, they would be able to select courses from the NUPACE and G30 curricula. For those with sufficient demonstrated proficiency in Japanese, students also have access to major courses taught in Japanese. Additionally, students who participate in a year-long exchange program can opt to take advantage of the Guided Independent Study (GIS) system in their second semester, after consulting and obtaining permission from their academic advisors. The GIS permits students to undertake independent research in their major field of study with the cooperation of a research supervisor.

NU is located in Nagoya, the capital of the Chubu region and in the geographical heart of Japan. The third largest city in Japan with a population of 2.3 million people, it offers all the conveniences of a major urban center. Easily accessible to and from other areas in Japan, it is approximately three hours to Tokyo and just over an hour to Kyoto via Shinkansen high speed rail. The NU campus has its own metro stop and just an easy 10 minutes from central Nagoya.

Nagoya's ease of navigation and lower cost-of-living, combined with NU's wide academic offerings and comprehensive student support make this a sensible addition to our current exchange portfolio in Japan. This exchange program will provide a lower cost option in comparison to the Tokyo-based exchanges and also appeal to STEM majors who have interest in Asia and international research experience.

UNC-CH has recently seen a steady increase in STEM majors studying abroad, thanks to the efforts of the Study Abroad Office Science Working Group. As recently as 2015, there were only a few dedicated STEM programs, especially summer faculty-led programs with science courses. For example, in Summer 2015, the Sevilla Science Summer and Biochemistry in Grenoble programs took abroad 33 students. That number more than doubled to 77 on five different faculty-led programs in Summer 2016 and nearly doubled again in Summer 2017 to 122 students on even more programs. Other STEM and research focused programs have also gained popularity. Both the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Science Lab Exchange at the National University of Singapore saw increased enrollment.

Academic Requirements and Credit

Nagoya University is on a traditional Japanese academic calendar. The Fall semester runs from early October to mid-February and the Spring semester runs from early April to early August. Our students could stay for the Spring semester or for the academic year, and would take a full course load of 15-18 credit hours per semester (required by NU). To be eligible to apply, UNC-Chapel Hill students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (required by NU) and at least sophomore status when abroad. The exchange will be primarily for undergraduates but graduate students may apply.

There will be no language prerequisite, but students are highly encouraged to study Japanese throughout their program. This exchange will convey UNC-CH transfer credit (TREQ) to students who successfully earn a C or better in their NU coursework. The program will be offered on an exchange-only basis.

Housing and Activities

Nagoya University has several dormitory facilities for international and exchange students. There are three dormitories used exclusively by international students and contain 244 rooms for single students. NU also operates a mixed Japanese/international student dormitory that houses 60 international students. These facilities are either on-campus or within a ten-minute walk from Nagoya's Higashiyama campus.

There are numerous students groups that are open to international students, some of which are volunteer groups designed to connect Japanese students with international and exchange students. All exchange students are also eligible to receive a tutor/buddy, available for up to 40 hours per semester. The buddy can help with language and cultural issues in addition to assistance with university and official paperwork after arrival.

Safety and Security

Japan is an industrialized nation with a stable economy and plentiful resources and services. It is 18th in the rankings of gross domestic product per capita by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and 17th in the United Nations Human Development Index. It is also recognized as a very safe country. Country Reports states that the general crime rate in Japan is well below the U.S. national average and there have been no major terrorist incidents in Japan since 1995.

Medical care in Japan is good; however, English-speaking physicians and medical facilities are typically in major urban centers and can be expensive. Japan has a national health insurance system which is available to foreigners with long-term visas. All NUPACE students are required to enroll in the Japan National Health Insurance (JNHI) which entitles policy holders to a 70% discount on most medical and dental fees.

Nagoya University Support Services

Our students will receive support from the staff at Nagoya University Program for Academic Exchange (NUPACE). Support includes placement assistance in international student dormitories, pre-departure and visa information, international student orientation and activities, and the full range of services provided to regular undergraduates on campus. NU houses a Health Administration Office which performs emergency treatment for illnesses and injuries free of charge. Where necessary, the office will refer students to nearby hospitals. The International Education and Exchange Centre also houses the Advising and Counselling Services department which possesses expertise in supporting international students with regard to mental health and disability issues.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Dr. Victoria L. Bautch, Ph.D.
Chair: Department of Biology



Bob Miles
Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges