



Global | Learning Across Borders

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Mindful of Tradition, Mindful of Innovation: Discovering Multidimensional Japan

Spring/Fall Semester Program Overview



- *Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the men of old; seek what they sought.* •
- Basho



Shinto, Anime, Zen-Buddhism, Samurai, Koi, Tempura, Ryokan, Karaoke, Calligraphy, Pagodas, Cherry Blossoms, Geisha, Capsule Hotels, Tea Ceremonies, Ikebana, Mt. Fuji, Haiku, Lexus and Toyota, Origami, Humanoid Robots, Hibachi, Bonsai, Tamagotchi Toys, Paper Lanterns, Bullet Trains, Pachinko Parlors, Refined Gardens—such is the pied panoply that is Japan. From placid rural settings that are caretakers to tradition...to the electronica and stylish crescendo that is Tokyo; from somber Hiroshima and its seeds of peace...to contemplative, spiritual Kyoto with symbols all too familiar yet no less riveting. Students on this Global Learning Across Borders (Global LAB) semester program will experience this full range of “Japanness”. Community service, home-stays, Japanese language study, brush painting, meditation, music, poetry, and much more will deliver a genuine and profound cultural immersion in this complex country.

Primary Themes & Venues

Furusato: Experiencing Life in the Countryside as a Reflection of Japan's Collectivist Thought

In Japanese, "*furusato*" refers to one's hometown in the countryside, and this concept plays a large role in the Japanese identity. This component of the semester focuses on experiencing and learning about traditional work, family life and education. As the Japanese group mentality stems largely from their traditional background as agriculturalists, semester students will spend time in rural areas of the country, assisting with some aspect of rice farming. Home-stays and local high school visits provide semester students with unique opportunity to understand the rural traditions still practiced in the increasingly technological mainstream, urban culture of Japan.

Contemporary Japan: Technology & Pop Culture

This component of the program takes place in Tokyo and includes lectures, site visits, and independent study projects exploring contemporary Japanese culture. Japanese youth culture and cutting edge technology have an increasingly influential impact on life in Japan and the rest of the world as well. Semester students will have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the many benefits and challenges that these sweeping changes are bringing to all of Japan.

Japan's Push for Peace

Japan's famous "No War" clause in Article 9 of its Constitution has been increasingly challenged by politicians who seek a greater military force as regional rivals like China and Korea gain increased geopolitical and military influence. Based in Hiroshima, semester students meet with a range of peace activists engaged in inspiring work to prevent future wars and all forms of violence. The opportunity to become engaged in the unfolding dialogue surrounding peace, war, nuclear weapons, and non-violence will provide semester students direct access and insight into some of the most critically important issues of our day.

Japanese Philosophy, Religion, and Art

Based in the remarkably beautiful traditional city of Kyoto, semester students learn about Buddhism from English speaking monks and have the opportunity to practice Zen meditation while staying at an ancient but still active temple. Independent study opportunities include taking up the study of martial arts, calligraphy, tea ceremony, intensive Japanese language instruction, philosophical inquiry, traditional poetry writing, or a range of other possibilities as apprentices with community leaders.

***Fall Semester Only:* Students will enjoy the traditional pilgrimage ascent to witness Goraiko (sunrise) from the summit of Mount Fuji.

2008 Program Dates

Spring Term: February 15 – May 17, 2008

Fall Term: September 12 – December 14, 2008

Applications accepted year-round on a rolling admissions basis (group size: 8-12 students)

2008 Semester Program Tuition

\$13,495, subject to change (*not including r/t international airfare or travel to point of group departure—NYC*). Tuition includes: pre-trip preparatory and educational materials and orientation; dedicated student web pages for program communications and resources; all logistical facilitation; all hotels and guest houses; all meals; all domestic air fares/taxis/buses/trains; museum, park and temple entrance fees; Global LAB faculty and instruction; local coordinators, cooks, porters; all program elements (independent study projects and apprenticeships, community service projects, home-stays, community support/charitable contributions). Please note: Additional expenses not covered by Global LAB include: inoculations, travel insurance and international medical and evacuation insurance; visa/passport processing fees; personal costs (laundry, phone calls/emails, souvenirs, etc.).

Cancellation/Refund Policy

While Global LAB would like to provide as much flexibility as possible, this policy is based on the timing of our commitments to instructors, international airfares and travel arrangements, confirmation of in-country program components, logistical administration, and student preparation. We recommend that participants purchase travel insurance to protect themselves against financial loss in the case of personal emergency or other unforeseen events requiring last minute cancellation.

Program Deposit

A \$500 program deposit is due with student application. \$250 of the deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure. If a participant withdraws his or her application within 90 days of program departure, the deposit is nonrefundable. The \$500 deposit is fully credited toward program tuition. If Global LAB does not accept a student's application, the full deposit is refunded less a \$25 processing fee.

Tuition Balance

Tuition balance is due in full 60 days prior to program departure and is 50% refundable up to 30 days prior to departure. If cancellation occurs within 30 days of departure, 20% of tuition is refundable.

How to Apply & Eligibility

Global LAB accepts applications on a rolling admissions basis, accepting qualified applicants until programs are full (maximum of 12 participants). For this reason, we recommend candidates submit their applications as early as possible. Semesters are open to those ages 16-22. No language prerequisite is required. While the semester is geared toward interim or 'gap' year students, high school seniors as well as college freshmen and sophomores will be considered.

Credit

For high school seniors, Global LAB works closely with you and your school to ensure that you receive the fullest credit possible for participating. University students may also be eligible for credit. Contact our Director of Programs for the very latest credit information and guidance.



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Global Learning Across Borders, a non-profit 501(c)(3) based in New York, exists to educate and inspire new generations of young people and adults to become responsible and committed global citizens in their local communities and beyond. We do this through international cultural immersion and community service programs for young adults; global studies professional development programs for educators; partnering with schools to help design and launch experiential global education and service programs; and through global expeditions that offer exceptional cultural experiences for adults.