

Kyoto 2026

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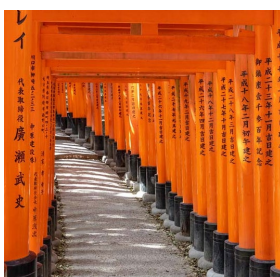
Course options:

Standard Course
2 weeks+ duration

Japanese & Conversation
2 to 8 weeks duration

Japanese & Culture
2, 3 & 4 weeks duration

Languages for Life
10 or 20 weeks duration



Reasons for choosing Kyoto:

A historic city!

Kyoto is known as the thousand-year capital, the historic seat of the Imperial Emperors until 1869. It is home to 1.5 million+ people. The city is home to a busy business centre, many revered Universities and a very modern major train station. The ancient and the modern sit side by side here, historic temples, shrines and palaces, modern skyscrapers multi landed highways and quiet backstreets with old world wooden houses.

Small class sizes

A maximum of 8 students per class, and on average 4 to 5 students

Focus on communication

Yes you will learn Kanji but the school put a lot of emphasis on learning to speak Japanese, from your very first week in the school.

Extra conversation classes

Students who want to make maximum progress in their Japanese language skills enjoy combining the Standard Course with additional conversation classes, designed to make you use your new found language skills.

Ms W: 2 wks in Kyoto

Enjoyed the course, making new friends and wished I'd opted for a 4-week course. My host family really made me feel at home and took me out for a meal on my final night. Hope to go for 4 weeks next year 😊



Kyoto is known as the thousand-year capital, the historic seat of the Imperial Emperors until 1869. The city is located in the south of Honshu island, and is home to a busy business centre, many revered Universities, and a very modern major train station. The ancient and the modern sit side by side here, historic temples, shrines and palaces, modern skyscrapers multi landed highways and quiet backstreets with old world wooden houses. It's famous for its numerous classical Buddhist temples, as well as gardens, imperial palaces and Shinto shrines.

Kyoto is composed of 11 wards, with a population of around 1.5 million people.

Kyoto, though renowned as a historic city, offers a great transport options. It is easy to find your way around by bus, train or subway.

Students will need to commute into the school each day, but the transport system is

'Must sees' include:

The Imperial Palaces, Kyoto Tower, Nijō Castle, Kiyomizu-dera, Iwatayama Monday Park, Samurai and Ninja Museum and the favourite haunt of any foodie - Nishiki-kōji Ichiba (the street market)!

Visitors to the city love to ...

Discover Nishiki-kōji Ichiba.

Nishiki market is a kaleidoscope of stalls selling teas, beans, fish, rice, seaweed, pickled vegetables and more, with an artistry that is a true delight. The market has been running since Edo times, and exploring the stalls is an absolute must!

Go Manga mad!

Kyōto Kokusai Manga Museum) consists of three floors and a basement, and most of its walls are lined with shelves of manga. Browsing this massive collection of manga is one of the museum's main attractions.

View the Golden Pavilion

Kinkaku-ji is incredibly beautiful, gilded in gold leaf, wonderfully reflected in the pool beside it.

Explore Nijō Castle

Home to the Tokugawa shoguns, the Castle is a masterpiece of the old military might based on stone wall, ramparts, impressive sliding doors and the famous nightingale floors.

Walk the Gion district

The city's most famous geisha district, Gion, is an atmospheric maze of backstreets and townhouses. Geisha (also known as geiko) can still be seen going about their lives in the narrow lanes of the area, dressed in traditional kimonos and make-up.

Wander through the Fushimi Inari Taisha

The red pillared gates create a wonderful walkway which is one of Kyoto's most famous Shinto shrines (dedicated to bringing luck and prosperity).

Shop till you drop

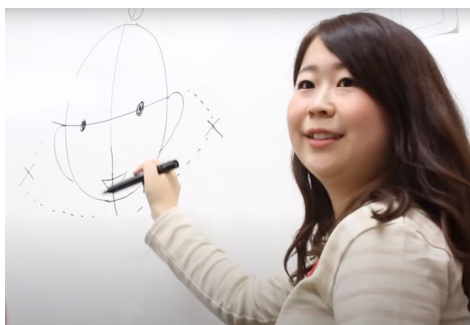
The city's largest shopping district along Shijo Street in central Kyoto, with a Takashimaya and Daimaru department store, as well as high end fashion, and the Porta underground shopping centre and a massive Aeon shopping centre south of Kyoto station, plus the big retailers such as a Bic Camera electronics store

Visit Kiyomizu-dera

Take in the panoramic city view from the wooden veranda of this awe-inspiring historic Buddhist temple, at the top of the steep walk along Teapot Lane, lined with shops selling souvenirs, food and handicrafts.

Enjoy the modern Kyoto Station

The second largest station in Japan has a vast futuristic main hall and large shopping centres. It is the main hub for the city's public transport with prepaid rechargeable Suica and Pasmo cards (IC cards), they work on all city trains, subways and buses. You can purchase these from machines at any station.



The Kyoto School

The Japanese school is only minutes away from the historic Gion district, a 20 minute subway ride to Kyoto Station and a 25-minute walk to the inspiring and the world-famous Kiyomizu-dera.

Catering for up to 60 students in any month, this is a small school offering a personal service. Ideal for adults and students looking to improve their Japanese communication skills. There are 9 classrooms and a large communal lounge for our students to relax. It has a large window overlooking the street and the classrooms are designed to facilitate learning in a relaxed and comfortable environment.

School facilities include:

PCs with broadband internet access

Free wifi

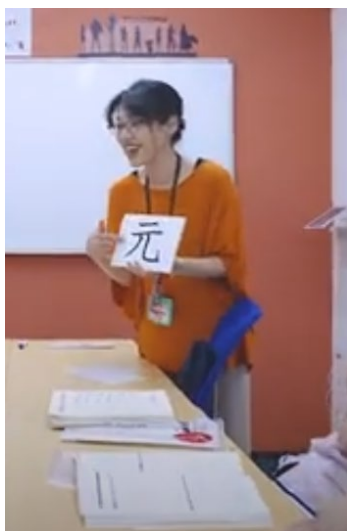
Study space

A game console with a good selection of games

Multimedia projectors in every class

Manga/book library

Coffee and tea facilities



Japanese language course options

A truly immersive experience

Visa rules:

If you are a UK, EU or US citizen, you can enter the country as a tourist for a course of up to 90 days (and can extend your stay for a further 90 days once in Japan). If you are of another nationality or you require a longer course please discuss visa rules with CESA.

Standard Course

(Visa Waiver)
(Tourist Visa)

20 lessons per week
2 to 12 weeks+ duration
Class size: max 8 people
Courses offered all year round
but limited course start dates (and durations) for complete beginners

Schedule:

Morning classes: 09.30-13.10hrs or

Afternoon classes: 11.25-15.50hrs or 14.05-17.45hrs

You may have morning classes on some days and afternoon classes on other days. It's impossible to tell what time you will attend classes in advance, as the schedule only gets released the week before, for all students.

Ideal for all age groups and language abilities. Core classes concentrate on communication skills, across all language levels, with emphasis on real-life skills. Small classes and professional teaching staff ensure the optimum learning environment.

Course format:

You will learn new grammar, sentence structures, words, kanji, and how to apply these concepts when you speak and get spoken to. Once you have learnt the new content in class, teachers will give you some homework to reinforce your new knowledge and make sure you really understood what was taught.

When you come to school the next day, your first session will be the output session. Here, you will apply the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing this is where you will apply all of the grammar, new words, sentence structures, kanji and so on you learned the day before in real-world situations.

Teachers will pair you with classmates to practise conversation in fun roleplay situations. You'll work on listening exercises, read interesting articles not included in the textbooks, and even prepare a presentation for your class! Students benefit directly from this teaching style as they can use their new found skills when exploring the city and engaging with Japanese native speakers!

The school teaching staff teach ALL their classes in Japanese, whatever your current language level (English will only be used if absolutely necessary) so you get plenty of practice speaking in and listening to Japanese.

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Class placement

Students are placed in the most appropriate ongoing classes for each student or a complete beginner class if new to the language.

Placement is decided based on

- 1/ the results of the online level check arranged through CESA before arrival, and
- 2/ the results of the placement test and interview held on the first day at school.

Minimum age: **16** (mainly 18/30 yrs)

Minimum age: **14** in the summer

Minutes per lesson: **50**

Languages for Life Course

(Visa Waiver)
(Working Holiday)

The same format as Standard Course
– but at a discount!

20 lessons per week
10 weeks or **20 weeks** duration

Class size: max 8 people
Courses offered all year round but limited course start dates and duration for complete beginners

Ideal for all age groups and language abilities. Open to students eligible for visa waiver rules, who can extend their course, beyond 90 days once in Japan for a 20 week programme.

Group class levels offered:

Foundation &

Beginner 1 JLPT: N5 / A1

Average time to complete: 16 wks

Proficiency: 700 words 100 kanji

Beginner 2 JLPT: N4 / A2

Average time to complete: 19 wks

Proficiency: 1,300 words 300 kanji

Pre-Intermediate JLPT N3 / B1

Average time to complete: 20 wks

Proficiency: 3,000 words 650 kanji

Intermediate JLPT N2 / B2

Average time to complete: 20 wks

Proficiency: 6,000 words 1000 kanji

Upper-intermediate JLPT N1 / C1

Average time to complete: 20 wks

Proficiency: 10,000 words 2000 kanji



Japanese & Conversation Course

((Visa Waiver)
(Tourist Visa)

As Standard course + 4 conversation classes

2-8 weeks duration

Class size: max 8

Course offered year round (except Juy/August)

Not offered to beginners (students must have 80hrs+ study already)

Combine the Standard course with four extra classes each week of conversational Japanese focused on elements it can be hard to cover in the standard classes, such as slang, dialects, specialized vocabulary, and more.

Small-group classes are given both inside and outside of the classroom - you will learn essential communication techniques in structured lessons with the teacher, then practice them in real-world situations, such as:

Calling a movie theatre to ask for showtimes

Ordering delivery sushi

Calling a restaurant to make reservations

Giving a questionnaire to people in the park

Asking for directions at the train station

Buying electronics

Professional teachers

All the teachers are professional career teachers who have been through a thorough training before becoming Japanese language teachers.



Japanese & Culture

(Visa Waiver)
(Tourist Visa)

As Standard course + Saturday cultural activities

2, 3 or 4 weeks duration

Class size: max 8

Course offered year round

You will have 6 hours of cultural "experience" activities every Saturday in addition to your Standard Course language lessons. Culture activities are held on a monthly schedule, so are repeated each calendar month.

All activities are based on gaining an understanding of and appreciation for Japanese culture, learning a specific point of Japanese, and participating in the beauty of Japanese traditional and modern arts. They enable you to learn about the culture whilst still learning the language, and the chance to participate in activities with other people.

You will participate in: kimono dressing, ceramics creation, a tea ceremony, creating calligraphy, learning flower arranging, Japanese cookery, visit a Maid café, dance and theatre, military arts (e.g. aikido), religion/spirituality, customs.

Teenage Summer Course

(Visa Waiver)
(Tourist Visa)

As Standard course + cultural activities
with additional staff supervision

2 to 8 weeks duration

Class size: max 9

Course offered throughout the summer

Aimed at 14/19 yr olds (mixed in with adult learners)

A very popular course and always becomes fully booked early in the year!

Please see the specific Teenage Course PDF details

Who learns Japanese?

Students are generally ...

between 18/50 yrs of age (mostly 18/30yrs)

With 14yrs/17yrs students joining mainly in July/August

55% male, 45% female

a lot of them arrive at false beginner (A1) level and study for between 2 and 8 weeks or follow a longer-term course.

university students, young adults or retired and looking for an adventure.

from the USA, Australia or the UK, then Germany, France, Switzerland, or Canada and then a whole load of students from other countries too!

Approx student numbers: 100 pr wk

Of course, there are also plenty of non-average students and everyone who wants to learn Japanese is welcome to attend!

If you're not sure, contact us and we will be happy to chat the options through with you.



Accommodation

Arrive: **Sunday PM**

Depart: **Sunday AM**

NB: Accommodation in Kyoto generally involves a commute, allow 30/90 mins to college by public transport. Check out the Accommodation PDF details for full information.

Host family 16yrs+ (14 yrs in the summer)

Minimum duration: 2 weeks

Single room, half-board (45/90 mins commute to school)

When arranging a host family, we try to take into account any needs or preferences you may have, such as smoker or non-smoker, allergies, English ability, and so on. You'll be sent a questionnaire once you've enrolled please complete this as early as possible!

Allow around Yen 800 for daily commute

Residence (with Japanese people) 18yrs+

Minimum duration: 4 weeks

Single room, self-catering (30/50 mins commute).

You will have the privacy of your own bedroom, while still getting to meet and mingle with the other residents of the house, and enjoy the freedom of life in the city and an easy commute by public transport from school

Allow around Yen 600 for daily commute

Private apartment 18yrs+

Minimum duration: 4 weeks

Single occupancy, self-catering. Highly recommended, (around 40/50 mins)

Around 15 m sq

Private apartments are usually close to a simple hotel room in quality, but quite a bit cheaper, and can be rented by the week (from 2 weeks+). They are ideal if you want to live independently but are very compact including a bed, living room area, kitchen area, and bathroom. Generally all required appliances are included. High-speed wired Internet is provided for no extra charge. Most private apartments are centrally located in the downtown area.

Allow around Yen 600 for daily commute



Start Dates



Standard Courses, Languages for Life Courses + Japanese & Conversation or Culture Courses

Dates in **red** are open to Beginners (for 2+ weeks)

All other levels: Any number of weeks (2 wks+), depending on availability of places

NB: Conversation classes: No beginners and classes not offered in July or August

Month	Dates				
January	05	12	19	26	
February	02	09	16	23*	
March	02	09	16	23	30
April	06	13	20	27	
May	11	18	25		
June	01	08	15	22	29
July	06	13	20*	27	
August	03	10	17	24	31
September	07	14	28		
October	05	12*	19	26	
November	02	09	16	23*	30
December	07	14	21		

Underlined dates:

Beginner start dates for two week programmes ONLY on these dates

* **Public holidays:** Lessons are not held, but are replaced by a school activity or a small refund and if this coincides with a start date, the assessment tests and registration take place on Tuesday instead.

2026: 01 & 12 Jan, 11 & 23 Feb, 20 Mar, 29 Apr, 04, 05 and 06 May, 20 Jul, 11 Aug, 21, 22 and 23 Sept, 12 Oct, 03 & 23 Nov

Christmas holiday: Week of 28 December 2026 2027: to be confirmed

Course Prices

For additional course duration options & prices, please view the

CESA Course Quote Finder : www.cesalanguages.com

CESA Fee: **¥14,000** per person Books & Materials: Inclusive in course fees

Standard Course	2 wks Yen 98,000	3 wks Yen 138,000	4 wks Yen 178,000	6 wks Yen 258,000	8 wks Yen 338,000	12 wks Yen 480,000
Languages for Life	10 wks Yen 408,000	20 wks Yen 740,000				
Japanese & Culture	2 wks Yen 130,000	3 wks Yen 186,000	4 wks Yen 242,000			
Japanese & Conversation	2 wks Yen 130,000	3 wks Yen 186,000	4 wks Yen 242,000	6 wks Yen 354,000	7 wks Yen 410,000	8 wks Yen 466,000
Private Tuition	15 lessons /	2 wks Yen 258,000	3 wks / Yen 378,000	(PT not offered in the summer)		

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Accommodation Prices



Hosts

From: 16 yrs (14 yrs in the summer or on request)
Single room, Half-board, Commute by public transport

2 wks Yen 84,000	3 wks Yen 116,000	4 wks Yen 148,000	6 wks Yen 212,000	8 wks Yen 276,000
9 wks Yen 308,000	10 wks Yen 340,000	11 wks Yen 372,000	12 wks Yen 404,000	20 wks Yen 660,000

Residence

From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students
Single room in a shared residence, Self-catering, Commute by public transport

4 wks Yen 96,000	5 wks Yen 115,000	6 wks Yen 134,000	7 wks Yen 153,000	8 wks Yen 172,000
9 wks Yen 191,000	10 wks Yen 190,000	11 wks Yen 207,000	12 wks Yen 224,000	20 wks Yen 358,000

Apartments

From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students
Sole occupancy apartments, Self-catering, Generally in walking distance

4 wks Yen 200,000	5 wks Yen 220,000	6 wks Yen 260,000	7 wks Yen 300,000	8 wks Yen 340,000
9 wks Yen 380,000	10 wks Yen 400,000	11 wks Yen 438,000	12 wks Yen 476,000	20 wks Yen 760,000

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Travel Plans

Fly direct to one of the Osaka airports (Itami ITM or Kansai KIX) then the train or the taxi shuttle bus to Kyoto or book a school arranged transfer. Alternatively fly to Tokyo's Narita airport and take an internal flight to Osaka.

Transfer Service: School arranged transfer/One way service (by train):

¥ 25,000 approx 50/60 minutes transfer / Osaka Itami ITM airport or

¥ 40,000 approx. 90 minutes / Kansai KIX airport.

Offered from 8.00am to 8.00pm. If staying with hosts, please fly in before 6.00pm or you will need to stay the first night in a Hotel.



CESA Plus Points

Kyoto:

Known for its traditional wooden homes, Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, manicured gardens, and authentic Geishas, Kyoto is an ancient city that is well worth exploring and an ideal destination for any language student. The city is one of the safest cities in Japan and the locals will go to extraordinary lengths to help you if you just ask. There is a large university student population (over 20 universities in the city) and it's a very popular tourist destination. It offers history, fine cuisine and a lively Arts scene. The nearest airport is in Osaka (around 60 mins by bus). The cost of living in Kyoto is cheaper than Tokyo – so you'll find your yen goes much further when budgeting for day to day living!

Kyoto College:

Small college in a small city ~ friendly, relaxed atmosphere ~ flexible range of short-term course options to suit a range of personal & linguistic needs ~ excellent city centre location ~ good range of accommodation offered.



CESA
Languages Abroad

If you wish to discuss the programme, please call us on **01209 211800** or email us to check course availability.

> CESA online [Kyoto School 2026](#)