Waseda Law School

Through this semester-long study abroad program, you’ll study at one of Asia’s most highly regarded law schools and develop expertise in a wide range of legal issues with global significance.

Program Description

Waseda Law School is widely considered to be Japan’s most elite and innovative institution for the study of law. It hosts an extraordinarily distinguished faculty and a highly selective student body, and is connected to one of Japan’s top four universities. In this program, you’ll study a wide range of legal issues of importance to Japan, Asia, and globally. The Law School enjoys a location in the heart of Tokyo, which may enable you to network with Japanese or global law firms while you are in Japan. Waseda’s long tradition of training leaders in law, government, and policy means that you’ll enjoy unparalleled access to a wide range of influential institutions.

Curriculum

Waseda Law School offers several courses in English during the fall semester. If you have sufficient Japanese language ability, you’ll have full access to the larger Waseda Law curriculum.

In the past, instructors have accommodated the schedule needs of exchange students (e.g., returning in December) by offering special written examinations, oral examinations, or research papers of approximately 20 double-spaced pages. With permission, if you wish to write a substantial research paper of more than 40 double-spaced pages for additional credits, you may undertake a special study supervised research paper. You should receive your official transcript from Waseda by the end of February.
Credits at Waseda
Prior to your departure, you must ensure you are on track to complete the necessary upper-level semester hours to meet your JD degree requirements. You will receive 12 credits for your semester at Waseda Law School.

Sample of Courses

» Japanese Legal Culture
» Introduction to Japanese Legal Research
» Human Rights Law in Japan
» International Entertainment Law
» Corporation Governance and Risk
» Management
» International Trade Law
» Civil Law in Japan
» Pacific Settlement of International Disputes
» Comparative Financial Law
» Business Law in Japan
» Civil Dispute Resolution in Japan

Grading and Evaluation
Academic performance is assessed by various methods, including written exams, oral presentations, and papers. The Waseda grading system is comparable to the letter scale used in the U.S.: A “C” or higher is required for a passing score. All classes must be taken for a grade (i.e., not pass/fail) but will not be factored into your Penn Law GPA.

Academic Calendar
Although the program dates vary from year to year, the Waseda academic term generally begins in mid- to late September with classes and exams running into January. However, special accommodations are made for exchange students, allowing them to compensate for missed January coursework through special evaluation/examination provisions (see the Curriculum section on the previous page).

Recent Penn Carey Law Students

Peter Jones (Fall 2019) Michelle Kao (Fall 2017) Daniel Jordan (Fall 2015)
Ashley Williams (Fall 2018) Ren-Ann Wang (Fall 2017) Eric Zember (Fall 2013)
Hongda Wang (Fall 2017) Nathan Swartz (Fall 2016)
Cost of Living
Estimates for living expenses in Tokyo are provided on the Waseda Campus Life website.

Visa Information
Exchange students are required to enter Japan under a “College Student” visa. Once admitted, you will receive a Certificate of Eligibility once Waseda receives the relevant documentation from the Tokyo Immigration Office around July. You then need to submit this certificate along with a valid passport to the Japanese Consulate for issuance of a visa. The visa can usually be obtained within a few days of application.

Health and Safety
“College Student” visa holders are obliged to participate in the National Health Insurance Scheme of the Japanese Government. The insurance covers 70% of your medical charges. The monthly premium is about 700 yen for international students.

Further details are available in the International Student Handbook and on the Waseda’s website.

Please review the Health and Safety information available on the Penn Global Support Services website. Details on Travel Warnings, if relevant, are posted under International Travel Guidance.

Disability Access and Special Needs
The Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) provides necessary essential academic support to students with disabilities (e.g., hearing impairments, visual impairments, limitations in mobility) studying at Waseda University. For guidance on general disability access that may be available in Tokyo, please contact the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange.

Housing Information
Waseda University is affiliated with National Students Information Center (NASIC), which manages several private dormitories for exchange students. If you apply for dormitory housing, you should receive information about your arrangements from the NASIC office by the end of July. Note: If you seek private apartment housing, in Japan it is customary to pay a lump sum amount before taking up residence, in the form of key money (reikin, non-refundable) and deposit (shikikin), in addition to one month's rent in advance. Visit the Waseda website to learn more about housing at Waseda.

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