



## LaGuardia Community College & Temple University Japan (TUJ) Transfer Handbook

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For Students Enrolled in LaGuardia's  
International Studies Program



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## Table of Contents

<b>OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COST OF ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HOUSING IN JAPAN .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FOOD &amp; TRANSPORTATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VISA REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FINANCIAL AID.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>COUNSELING &amp; LEARNING SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ACADEMIC CALENDAR .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NEXT STEPS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>IMPORTANT NOTES.....</b>	<b>7</b>

## LaGuardia Community College & Temple University Japan (TUJ)

### Transfer Handbook

#### OVERVIEW

Students enrolled in the [International Studies Program](#) at LaGuardia Community College can pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian Studies at Temple University in Japan after graduation. This pathway is made possible through a [transfer agreement](#) between the two institutions, ensuring that LaGuardia students can complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in just two years. All courses at Temple University Japan are conducted in English<sup>1</sup>.

#### COST OF ATTENDANCE

Temple University Japan is accredited by the U.S. Middle States Commission on Higher Education and is FAFSA approved. This means students can use federal financial aid to pay for their studies in Japan. Students who are serious about pursuing this opportunity are advised to check total estimated costs [here](#) for the most up-to-date rates. A [conversion tool](#) can be used to quickly check the equivalency of Japanese Yen to US dollars.

Many students are surprised to learn how affordable it is to attend TUJ. Since LaGuardia students are able to complete their BA degree in just two years (as opposed to four), this provides even more savings.

#### HOUSING IN JAPAN

TUJ's Office of Student Services offers two options for living arrangements in the first year (junior year for LaGuardia students). [Option 1](#) involves sharing a dormitory suite with approximately 4-6 other students. The suite option includes sharing the same bathroom and a common living area with a group of students. Each bedroom in a suite has two twin beds. Advantages of sharing with other students include increased opportunities to make

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<sup>1</sup> Except for foreign language instruction

new friends, building a sense of community and, of course, paying less. [Option 2](#) involves having a private room with shower. The biggest advantage of this arrangement is privacy. Utilities are included in the total cost for both options.

All students are required to stay in dormitory housing during their first year (junior year for LaGuardia students). After one year of study, students may request to be placed in a homestay with a vetted Japanese family. Homestays are a great opportunity for students who want to truly immerse themselves in the language and culture of Japan. Students may also choose to rent their own apartment in Tokyo. The Office of Students Services and Engagement holds housing fairs and information sessions to help students find apartments. All information about housing options can be found [here](#).

## **FOOD & TRANSPORTATION**

All Temple University Japan students have access to an on-campus cafeteria. A typical hot lunch meal costs less than \$3 (2024). Students also have access to many local restaurants around the campus. The cost of eating out in Tokyo is substantially less than eating out in New York City.

Tokyo has a fast and highly developed subway system. The university is centrally located and easily accessible by subway. Many commuters use a [Suica Card](#) to get around, which is very similar to a NYC Omny Card. It is available for purchase as a physical card or virtual card (phone app) that can be refilled as needed.

## **VISA REQUIREMENTS**

To study in a foreign country, students must first receive approval from the government of that country. This approval involves getting something called a *visa*, which is formal approval that confirms a student is allowed to stay in the country for study purposes. All US students who intend to take classes for more than three months and who do not have a resident, diplomatic, dependent, spousal or other type of visa must acquire a Japanese student visa through Temple University Japan. The university will submit the visa

application documents to the Japanese Immigration Bureau on the student's behalf for the issuance of a student visa. *Students cannot apply for a Japanese student visa independently of Temple University Japan.*

Visa Duration & Cost: For most students, the initial visa is valid for 1 year. Students can then apply for a visa extension before their visa expires so they can continue their studies beyond the first year. Extensions are typically granted one year at a time. Prospective students applying for a Japanese student visa through Temple University Japan must pay a non-refundable visa application fee of approximately \$135 ( ¥20,900) as a part of the [Advance Payment](#).

#### Key Requirements for a College Visa:

- (1) Certificate of Eligibility: Documentation Provided by TUJ
- (2) Full-Time Enrollment: Documentation Provided by TUJ
- (3) Proof of Financial Sufficiency: The Japanese government wants to see that students have enough funds to get by while in Japan. Documentation **can** include a Pell grant award letter, a FAFSA or other loan approval letter and any bank account information. The financial aid office at TUJ will work with each student to ensure a smooth transition.
- (4) Health insurance: Japan has a national healthcare system that covers 70% of all medical/hospital costs. All students must enroll in the system before receiving visa approval. In general, healthcare services in Japan are very affordable and accessible. TUJ will provide students with the support necessary to obtain the required health insurance. Students can get more information about visa requirements, [here](#) or they can reach out to [osse@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:osse@tuj.temple.edu).

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Since Temple University Japan is a FAFSA approved institution, students who are US citizens can freely access federal grants and loans in the same way they would if they were studying in the United States. This includes GI Bill and Pell related funds. However, state

money like NYS TAP, *cannot* be used. Students can also apply for private scholarships and grants. After completion of the first year, TUJ offers the opportunity for an institutional scholarship. Information about financial aid and scholarships can be obtained [here](#). Questions can also be directed to [tujfinaid@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:tujfinaid@tuj.temple.edu)

## **COUNSELING & LEARNING SUPPORT**

Tokyo is a modern, vibrant and safe city with lots to do and see. However, moving to any new country--even temporarily--can require some adjustment. All TUJ students have access to counseling and mental health services via the on-campus counseling office. Students are also provided with a 24/7-day app that provides mental health support at any time of day. All services are provided in English.

For academic support, TUJ students have access to an on-campus Learning Center, that offers individual and group tutoring support according to subject area. TUJ also provides all necessary accommodations for students with learning disabilities. For more information about these services please visit [here](#).

## **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

Please be mindful of TUJ's academic calendar and, specifically, application deadlines which can be found [here](#). While TUJ's academic calendar is similar to a US academic calendar, some breaks align with Japanese holidays instead of American holidays. For example, students get time off for Christmas but there is no time off for Thanksgiving.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Still interested? A more detailed resource to explore is the [Temple University Japan International Student Handbook](#). LaGuardia students currently enrolled in the International Studies Program who wish to speak to a LaGuardia faculty member about the transfer agreement can reach out to Professor Savva ([msavva@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:msavva@lagcc.cuny.edu)) or Professor Lau ([alau@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:alau@lagcc.cuny.edu)). Both professors have visited the Tokyo campus and can answer any questions.

Students who are interested in applying should do so as early as possible during their final year at LaGuardia. LaGuardia students currently enrolled in the International Studies Program can apply for admission to Temple University Japan **free of charge**. Application fees have been waived as part of this agreement. Most students receive an admissions decision within 4-8 weeks after submitting their application. If a student decides to accept the offer, a new student orientation will be scheduled online to discuss next steps with an admissions counselor. **Students must be on track to graduate from LaGuardia to qualify for the transfer agreement.**

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** (1) Information in this handbook is based on 2024-2025 data and is intended to provide an overview to interested students. For the most up-to-date information students are advised to consult the Temple University Japan website (2) Temple University Japan recently opened a second campus in Kyoto. The transfer agreement can be used for transfer to the Kyoto or Tokyo campus based on each student's preference.



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