

Amherst-Doshisha Faculty Semester Exchange Program



Amherst College has a long history with Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. We have connected our students and our faculty for many decades. We have recently signed a semester teaching agreement with Doshisha, expanding the ways our students and faculty can connect.

Starting in the spring 2024, Amherst will send one faculty member to teach (in English) at Doshisha in their Institute for Liberal Arts. In the fall 2024, a Doshisha faculty member will teach at Amherst.

Photo credit: Mei Zhou '18

Resources for more information:

- U.S. State Department Country Profile for [Japan](#)
- [The Institute for Liberal Arts](#) at Doshisha University
- [The History of Amherst College and Japan](#) (Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations)

Proposal process:

Faculty members (post-tenure) should submit an application to the committee on global education, who will make a recommendation to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty will select at least one candidate to nominate to Doshisha University. Applications include a CV and course proposals. Please also share why you are interested in teaching at Doshisha for a semester and living in Kyoto. **Applications are due June 1 and [instructions to submit are online](#).**

Information (alphabetical by topic) about Doshisha University and the Exchange:

Academic calendar	The spring semester begins in April and ends in July. Amherst faculty members will teach in the spring semester.
Children: daycare	Costs can vary, but are generally in the range of \$1,000 USD/month.

Children: schooling	Public schools are not a viable option for short-term visitors. Faculty with school-aged children will need to consider private school, such as the Doshisha International School or the Kyoto International School . The language of instruction is English, though Japanese is widely used and students will have an opportunity to learn the language. Cost of attendance is approximately \$5,000 per student. It is not uncommon for students to take the train to school, which may be up to 45 minutes away from the center of Kyoto.*
Climate	Kyoto has similar seasons to New England, though the summer and winter seasons are not usually as long as those in the northeast of the U.S.
Health insurance	Faculty members will want to consider the Blue Care Elect Plan , a PPO available for the duration of the exchange. Out-of-network charges and deductibles apply; prescriptions are reimbursable via an appeal process. Consultation with BCBS about potential expenses for healthcare coverage is strongly recommended before accepting an offer to teach on the exchange.
Housing	Faculty may reside in the Doshisha apartment near the Amherst House should it be available. The apartment is a one bedroom with two twin beds. There is a western-style kitchen (though no oven). WiFi and utilities are included. Alternative housing may be available for faculty with different needs, e.g., faculty with children..
Spouse/partner	Though Doshisha University is welcoming of all identities, Japan only recognizes opposite-sex marriages and partnerships. Spouses may be issued a Spouse Visa which does not permit employment. Non-married partners will need to secure their own.
Taxes	Faculty are advised to work with a tax consultant for advice in advance of accepting an offer to participate in the exchange to best understand their specific tax situation. The College has retained PWC for consultation and tax preparation. A tax consultant may cost between \$3,000-\$5,000.*
Teaching	Faculty will teach two 90-minute courses per semester. All subjects will be considered. Scientists cannot be given lab space, unfortunately, and may want to design science courses for non-science majors. The language of instruction will be in English.
Travel	Economy flights from BOS are approximately \$2500-\$3000 with one layover.*

Visa	Doshisha will sponsor the appropriate work visa, permitting a legal stay in Japan for the duration of the semester. Faculty members (and their families) are expected to apply for the visa on their own. Those who prefer visa application assistance may prefer to use the services of Travisa or CIBT .
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+ The Office of the Provost and Dean of the Faculty is willing to subsidize K-12 tuition fees of up to \$5,000 per child in the event there is no public school option.

*The Office of the Provost and the Dean of the Faculty is willing to contribute up to \$10,000 towards expenses related to the exchange, e.g., travel to and from Japan for the faculty member and immediate family members, tax advice and preparation, visa fees. Please note that tax advice, tax preparation, and travel is reimbursable tax-free for the employee only. Family travel is reimbursable, but not tax-free.