

Asia-Pacific in Multi-Dimensions: A Summer Program at Ritsumeikan and Tokyo

Instructors:

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The Program ([see "Introduction"](#)):

This program is part of an inter-institutional collaborative learning program with Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. The program, under the direction of Professors Haruko Wakabayashi (Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University) and Keiji Nakatsuji (International Relations, Ritsumeikan University), offers a unique opportunity for students to explore the social, cultural, and political interactions in the Asia-Pacific region from multiple perspectives at multiple institutions. Students will gain “alternative” perspectives and learn to critically examine topics on the Asia-Pacific region through exposure to multiple points of view: faculty and students at a Japanese university, museums and sites where the experiences are remembered and told, and the “voices” or contemporaneous works and testimonies.

In the spring, students from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto visited Rutgers for four weeks and joined Prof. Wakabayashi’s 01:098:345 “Asia-Pacific in Cross-Cultural Perspective (10:20-11:40, FH-B5).” In April, we conducted 3 online joint sessions where students of Prof. Wakabayashi and Prof. Nakatsuji’s classes met to discuss some of the key issues surrounding the Asia-Pacific region.

For the summer portion of this program, Rutgers students will spend three weeks at Ritsumeikan and the final week in Tokyo. They will participate in Professor Nakatsuji’s class on contemporary issues in Asia-Pacific Relations, audit two other classes of the student’s choice (all offered in English) and may take an optional Japanese class. They will also go on a study tour to Hiroshima (The Peace Memorial Museum and Park, etc.) in addition to multiple excursions in Kyoto and its vicinities. During the final week, students will visit sites related to the theme of “war and memory” in Tokyo ([Women’s Active Museum of War and Peace.](#), [Daigo Fukuryūmaru Exhibition Hall.](#), [Yasukuni Shrine.](#), [National Showa Memorial Museum.](#), etc.), attend a lecture by [Prof. Yujin Yaguchi.](#) at the University of Tokyo, and finish with final discussion session.

As part of the program, students must attend 3 joint evening online sessions with Ritsumeikan in April and two pre-departure meetings prior to the trip.

Itinerary:

June 15th	Leave Newark Airport (optional)
June 16th	Arrive in Kyoto
June 17th-July 7th	Program at Ritsumeikan, Kyoto with Prof. Keiji Nakatsuji (Tassel Inn Kyoto.)(Ref: Kyoto Schedule (2025))
July 7th-11th	Program in Tokyo with Prof. Haruko Wakabayashi (Shinagawa Prince Hotel.) (Ref: Tokyo Schedule (2025))
July 12th	Leave Haneda Airport (optional)

Grades:

- Pre-Departure Sessions and Assignments 10%
- Course Fulfillment at Ritsumeikan (Project + Class Participation) 25%
- Weekly Reflection (Ritsumeikan, 5 pts. x 3) 15%
- Field Trip Discussion Leader (Post 1 question) 5 %
- Discussion Posts (5 pts. x 5) 25%
- Final Project 20%

Requirements:

- Students are required to attend the three online sessions with Ritsumeikan students in April and fulfill the assignments (see [website.](#) for online sessions) and attend two pre-departure sessions (10%).
- Students will be required to attend/audit three classes while at Ritsumeikan. Requirements and assessment will be determined by Prof. Nakatsuji and the instructors of the courses they choose to audit (25%).
- While at Ritsumeikan, students are required to submit weekly reflections on what they learned that week, either in class or outside of class (approx. 250 words; 5 pts. X 3 = 15%)
- Students are required to attend all program activities while in Tokyo with Prof. Wakabayashi and submit short responses (100-200 words) after each day on the Discussion Forum (5 pts. x 5 <including Hiroshima> =25%). "Discussion Forum Leaders" (2-3 per topic) must post a constructive comment/question(s) based on the assigned readings *before* the field trip to start a discussion thread (5%). All students are expected to post a response to at least one of the questions posted by the Discussion Forum Leader each day.
- A [Final Project](#) demonstrating some research and reflection on the sites visited in Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Tokyo must be submitted by 7/30 to Prof. Wakabayashi through Canvas (20%).

Program Schedule:

6/17-7/7 Ritsumeikan (Ref.: Ritsumeikan Schedule / [Introduction](#))

- 6/16 Check-in at the hotel
- 6/17 Orientation
 - 9:00 AM Pick-up at the hotel
 - 10-11 AM Orientation (Mr. Tanaka)
 - 1:10-2:45 PM Special Lecture by Prof. Matsusaka
 - 2:55-4:00 PM Campus Tour
 - 4:40-6:15 PM Welcome Party
- 6/18 Classes Begin
 - 3:25-4:25 PM Japanese Lesson (Ice Breaker)
- 6/21 Special Lecture on A-Bomb (Prof. Nakatsuji) & Visit to the Ritsumeikan Peace Museum
- 6/22-23 [Hiroshima Study Tour](#)
- 6/29 Kyoto Tour (led by Ritsumeikan students)

7/7 Leave Kyoto for Tokyo

- 9:30 AM Check out and leave Tassel Inn Hotel
- 10:00 AM Take the Shinkansen from Kyoto to Shinagawa (have lunch on the train)
- 12:15 Check in to Shinagawa Princeton Hotel
- 3 pm - 5 pm [WAM: Women's Active Museum on War and Peace](#)
- 6 pm Group Dinner in Takada no Baba (Shinjuku)

7/8 [University of Tokyo](#)

- 10:30 AM meet at JR Shinagawa Station
- 12:00 PM Lunch w/ U of Tokyo students
- 1:30-3:00 PM Lecture by Prof. Yujin Yaguchi
- 3:00 - PM Free Time ([Asakusa](#)., [Ueno](#)., Akihabara, etc.)

7/9 [Daigo Fukuryumaru Exhibition Hall](#)

- 9:30 AM Meet at JR Shinagawa Station
- 10:00 AM Daigo Fukuryumaru Exhibition Hall
- PM [Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park](#). (depending on time/availability)
- PM Free Time in [Odaiba](#).

7/10 [Yasukuni Shrine](#)

- AM Visit to the Yasukuni Shrine and/or Showa Memorial Museum
- PM Free Time ([Imperial Palace/Tokyo/Marunouchi area.](#); [Jimbocho Used Bookstore Town.](#); [Korakuen/Tokyo Dome City](#)).
- 2:30 PM Meet at JR Yotsuya Station, Akasaka Exit
- 3 PM [Aikido](#) with Sophia Aiki-kai/Social Gathering with Sophia University students (Prof. Wakabayashi's alma mater!)

7/11

- AM Free Time in Tokyo/Yokohama/Kamakura
- 4 PM Final Discussion & Dinner at Prof. Wakabayashi's home in [Hayama](#).

7/12

- Check Out/Departure