

Gap Program in Fukuoka, Japan

Individually Customized Programs

What makes ANDEO's Gap programs stand out is that they are very flexible and can be customized to fit your goals and interests. The two core components are small-group language courses and a homestay with a local family. From there, you can choose your own path. For example, you can focus on Japanese pop culture, prepare for the J-Test, or live and work on an organic farm. Programs can be as short as four weeks or as long as a full year and start any Monday. Academic credit is available.

2010 Cost Estimate: \$7,250 for a 12-week program
(airfare not included; 4-week to 12-month programs possible)

Fukuoka

Fukuoka is a beautiful, modern city on the island of Kyushu, in the South of Japan. It is a great place to dive into Japanese culture, as you will find traditional shrines as well as futuristic architecture, classic kabuki shows and fun karaoke events. Nagasaki is just a few hours away, and the you can easily take a day trip to the hot springs of Beppu or to Mount Aso.

The Language Institute

Study Japanese at a small, intimate nonprofit language institute in the old Tenjin center of Fukuoka. With a maximum of 30 students attending at a time, you can be sure to receive plenty of individual support from your teachers and the staff. In the neighborhood, you will find post offices, shops, banks, and several parks.

The Classes

Classes are usually held every weekday morning, for a total of 20 hours per week. Some courses include more hours. Depending on your interests, you can choose a course with a focus on Japanese traditions or on modern Japanese pop culture, or join an exam preparation course. All classes are designed to get you ready to communicate in Japanese with ease, and incorporate authentic materials into the curriculum whenever possible.

Cultural Activities

The courses with a cultural focus include many hands-on activities and excursions. For example, you might try on a gorgeous kimono, try out Japanese martial arts, attend a traditional tea ceremony, or visit a graphic design studio to see the production of a new manga. Excursions to places of historic interests and into the surrounding outdoors are also being offered. Many of these activities are included in your program fees. You may want to budget a little extra for entrance fees and transportation costs.

Special Option: Japanese and Organic Farming!

A two-week farmstay preparation course will give you an insight into Japanese farming traditions and equip you with useful vocabulary. After that, you are ready to take off to an organic farm of your choice anywhere in Japan. As part of this program, you can live and work on the farm for up to six months and receive free room and board in exchange for your help with the daily tasks. Contact us for details!

Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself into the daily life in Fukuoka. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. All homestays include breakfast; dinner can be arranged for an extra fee.



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ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the cost estimate include? Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with breakfast every day, some cultural activities, pre-departure orientation materials, and ongoing support in your preparations and during your stay in Japan. If you want to add special options, please contact ANDEO for a cost estimate.

Can I study if I am a beginner? Yes, you can start as a complete beginner. Call for specific beginner start dates!

When will I receive my host family placement information? You will receive host family details and contact information in the week prior to your arrival date.

Will there be an orientation session in Japan? Yes. There will be a welcome meeting on your first day of classes. ANDEO will also send you comprehensive orientation materials before departure.

Will I have access to email? Yes, the institute has a several computers with internet access as well as a wi-fi network.

Will the institute be closed for any holidays? Yes, it will be closed for all national holidays in Japan. 2010 dates will be available soon.

Can I get credits for studying abroad? Yes! Whether you are a high school graduate, a university student working toward a degree, or a teacher looking for professional development, you can get credit for continuing your education abroad. Earn 5 to 10 credits by signing up for a variety of courses offered by *We Study Abroad*, an accredited college program linked with Seattle Central Community College. Please visit www.westudyabroad.com for details.

Do I need travel insurance? We strongly recommend that you get travel insurance that includes a medical plan. Prices depend upon trip length and participant age. You can compare different policies online or by contacting your local travel agent.

Will I need a visa? That depends on the length of your program, your citizenship, and other individual factors. Visa requirements change frequently, so we strongly recommend that you contact your nearest Japanese consulate or embassy to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about all rules and regulations that apply to your stay. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your program in Japan. If you need any documents from ANDEO or our partner organization abroad, we will do our best to provide them to you.

Can I speak to people who have participated in the program before? Definitely! Please contact our office and we can provide you with the emails of students who have participated in this program

How do I apply? To apply, complete the initial Gap application and return it with a \$500 deposit. You can download an application at www.andeo.org. Your deposit will be applied to the total program price. Upon receipt of your program registration and deposit, we will send you a detailed orientation packet. The balance of your program fees will be due 30 days before your program start date.

What is your cancellation policy? If you cancel your program before your complete application due date, we will refund the amount you have paid toward your program fee except for the \$100 non-refundable deposit as well as any cancellation fees charged by the language institute. The cancellation fees vary from program to program, so please ask us about the fees that apply to yours. For cancellations made after the complete application due date, your \$500 deposit will be forfeited, and you will also be responsible for the cancellation fees charged by the institute. If ANDEO cancels your program, you will receive a full refund.

If you have any further questions or would like to start planning your program in Japan, please contact ANDEO at info@andeo.org, 503.274.1776 or 800.274.6007. We look forward to working with you!



Like having options? Take a look at our other Gap programs in Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Peru, and Spain!

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