

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Student Exchange Application

Kansai Gaidai University

In Fall 2010 Bennington College established a Student Exchange Agreement with Kansai Gaidai University's Asian Studies Program in Hirakata, Japan. This exchange allows approved Bennington students the opportunity to study at Kansai Gaidai for a term or a year while maintaining their full time enrollment at Bennington College and retaining all of their financial aid. Exchange participants will pay room, board, tuition, and other mandatory Academic fees to Bennington as they normally do. Each Exchange student is responsible for providing his/her own transportation, living expenses during extended academic recess (i.e. holidays, winter and spring break, etc.), passport expenses, excess baggage shipment and storage, independent travel and such personal expenses as books, etc.

There are a limited number of exchange spaces each year. Each applicant will be reviewed based on his/her academic merit, the fit of the program to his/her Bennington Plan, and financial need. Students who are not approved to study at Kansai Gaidai University through an exchange can apply through SUNY - Albany's study abroad program.

Eligibility

Students wishing to take part in this exchange must meet the following eligibility criteria in order to apply:

- Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing.
- Students must have second-term sophomore standing with an approved Plan Proposal.

Application Materials (Due by April 1 for fall and September 30 for Spring)

Personal Statement

This statement (2-3 pages in length) should answer the following questions:

1. Why do you wish to attend Kansai Gaidai through this exchange?
2. What courses do you plan to pursue?
3. How will your work there compliment the work of your plan at Bennington when you return?

Transcript Request Form

Ten Identification Photographs

- All photos must be passport-sized (1.4 in x 1.8 in), original and printed on standard photo paper
- Must be recent, and show the whole face and head
- These may be obtained at a local pharmacy or photo lab (CVS, Rite Aid, Vermont Color)

Language Proficiency Form

Three Letters of Recommendation

- Your letters should be from former or present faculty members and/or advisors at Bennington and other colleges you have attended. He/she should speak to your academic achievements and to your ability to adapt to new environments. This letter should include his/her full name, title, place of work, and contact information, and be addressed to the university to which you are applying.

Advisor Approval Form

Financial Aid statement reflecting your federal and institutional aid at Bennington. This can be accessed at 'My Financial Aid' on Bennington's website.

Financial Responsibility Form

Once your application has been processed and approved, Kansai Gaidai University will request the following additional materials:

- Medical Information Form
- Confidential Financial Questionnaire Form
- Non-Refundable Application Fee of \$50
- A copy of your passport (must be valid through the duration of your intended study in Japan)

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Kansai Gaidai Exchange Advisor Approval Form

To be completed by applicant

Name of Applicant: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date _____

To be completed by applicant's faculty advisor

1. Please comment briefly on the applicant's Plan at Bennington and the appropriateness of this exchange program to the goals of his/her plan of study at Bennington.

2. Please check one:

- I strongly recommend this applicant for the Kansai Gaidai University/Bennington Exchange Program.
- I recommend this applicant for admission to the Exchange Program but with reservation
- I DO NOT recommend this applicant for admission to the Exchange Program

3. Additional Comments (optional):

Faculty Advisor's Name (Please Print): _____

Faculty Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to Laurie Kobik, Assistant Dean of Academic Services, in Barn 123H. If you have any questions, you can email Laurie at lkobik@bennington .edu or by phone at x4400.

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Language Proficiency Form

Student's Name: _____

TO THE STUDENT: Please evaluate your proficiency in Japanese and sign the form. Ask your current professor or the person who has most recently taught you in a language course to complete the rest. Please check all appropriate boxes.

Estimate your proficiency in Japanese:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening Comprehension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I waive my right to access this reference completed by _____

YES NO

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

TO THE REFERENCE: The student named above is applying for the Bennington College/Kansai Gaidai University Academic Exchange Program. We would appreciate your assessment of the applicant's attributes with which you are familiar. You may also attach a letter of recommendation.

1) How long, and in what capacity, have you known the applicant?

2) Please evaluate the applicant's ability in Japanese, if you are familiar with the applicant's language ability.

L= Low M= Mid H= High

	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Superior	N/A
Speaking	L / M / H	L / M / H			
Listening	L / M / H	L / M / H			
Reading	L / M / H	L / M / H			
Writing	L / M / H	L / M / H			

Are you familiar with ACTFL guidelines? YES NO

3) Does the applicant demonstrate a consistently high level of social and personal maturity? Please comment:

4) Please add any additional information that would assist us to understand the candidate's qualifications.

Please sign below and return this form to Laurie Kobik at Bennington College, 1 College Drive, Bennington, Vermont 05201.

Your Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Department: _____

Institution: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Office Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

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Financial Responsibility Agreement

Exchange participants will pay room, board, tuition, and other mandatory Academic fees to Bennington College. Each student is responsible for providing his/her own transportation, living expenses during extended academic recess (i.e. holidays, winter and spring break, etc.), passport expenses, excess baggage shipment and storage, independent travel and such personal expenses as books, etc.

Outlined below are *approximate* expenses for one term of study at Kansai Gaidai University which are NOT included in the exchange. Please note that this total is an average estimate of costs.

Estimated Additional Costs:

Travel to and from Japan: \$1300

Additional expenses:

Homestay participants:

Lunch Expenses	\$600
Textbooks	\$200
Average Commuting Expenses	\$700
Miscellaneous	\$1,400

Expenses: \$2,900

Travel: \$1,300

Total: \$4,200

Dormitory Residents:

Meal Expenses \$1,500

Textbooks \$200

Miscellaneous \$1,400)

Expenses: \$3,100

Travel: \$1,300

Total: \$4,400

If I am selected to participate in the exchange program, I understand and agree that I will be financially responsible for all additional expenses incurred during my time at Kansai Gaidai University.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____