Kyoto University Short-Term Academic Research Program (KU-STAR) 2026 for Australia Application Guide

Key Dates	
Application opens	August 4, 2025
Application closes	5 p.m. (Japan Standard Time [UTC+0900]), September 8, 2025
Notification of results	October 31, 2025
Arrival in Kyoto	Wednesday, January 7, 2026
Program starts	Thursday, January 8, 2026
Program ends	Friday, February 20, 2026

Program Overview

Students will participate in advanced research at one of Kyoto University's graduate schools (see list below) for a total duration of 44 days. Placements will be made based on student interests and available spaces. Each student will be assigned for supervision by a specific faculty member. Lab information, including eligibility requirements specific to individual labs, is detailed in the appendix.

Kyoto University Graduate Schools

Natural Sciences	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary
- Agriculture	- Asian and African Area Studies	- Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability
- Biostudies	- Economics	- Human and Environmental Studies
- Energy Science	- Education	
- Engineering	- Government	- Global Environmental Studies
- Informatics	- Law	
- Medicine	- Letters	
- Pharmaceutical Sciences	- Management	
- Science		

In addition to the research positions, students will also take part in a variety of educational activities (details subject to change). All students will engage in research and educational activities for approximately 40 hours per week (8 hours × 5 days). Below are some examples of the educational activities:

- Seminars and lab visits in which faculty will give presentations on relevant research fields and careers. These activities will expose students to cutting-edge research and broaden their understanding of opportunities in their graduate studies and academic careers.
- A poster session at the end of the program in which the participants will share their program outcomes with a larger audience.

- Program period: 44 days commencing on January 8, 2026 and finishing on February 20, 2026

- Number of participants: 10-20 students

<div align="center">**Support**</div>

- Accommodation
Kyoto University will provide accommodation for all participants for the internship period.

- Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (Gakkensai)
The Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (Gakkensai) is a mandatory insurance, and provides insurance coverage against accidental injury during education and research activities in the program period.

- Costs that must be covered by the students themselves
    (1) Travel costs
    Flight tickets and transportation fees between Kyoto University and the airport in Japan are not included. Participants can choose their arrival and departure dates flexibly, provided they are at Kyoto University for the duration of the program.
    Note: Please note that Kyoto University's accommodation provision is strictly limited to the official program dates. This includes check-in one day prior to the program start and check-out one day following the program end. Participants who choose to extend their stay in Kyoto or Japan beyond these specified dates will need to arrange their own accommodation.

    (2) Visa application fee, if required
    For nationals required a short-term visa to enter Japan, successful applicants are responsible for paying the visa application fee. Kyoto University can assist with the visa application process, but will not cover the cost of obtaining the visa.

    For Australian passport holders attending the KU-STAR Program, which involves a stay of less than 90 days and does not include remunerated activities in Japan, a visa is generally not required due to Japan's visa exemption scheme for short-term stays.

    However, visa regulations can change. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, all participants are strongly advised to consult the Embassy or Consulate-General of Japan in Australia well in advance of their planned travel dates.

    (3) Overseas Travel Insurance/Liability Insurance

All students must arrange their overseas travel insurance, covering own private health insurance. Additionally, upon arrival, all students must enroll in personal Liability Insurance for students (*Gakubai*) provided by the Kyoto University Co-op.

Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

- To be eligible for the program, applicants must:
  - Be enrolled in an undergraduate program or a master's program at a college or university in Australia. Students must have completed at least four semesters before the internship.
  - Not be scheduled to graduate before the program begins, and must resume their academic program for at least one semester or quarter after returning to Australia after the end of the internship.
  - Have a strong academic performance record; above CGPA 8.0 out of 10, CPI 8.0 out of 10 or 80% in overall academic achievement.
    - For master's students: The academic performance record of either your undergraduate or master's program must be above CGPA 8.0 out of 10, CPI 8.0 out of 10 or 80% in overall academic achievement.
  - Meet the requirements of the chosen laboratory, as specified in the list.
  - Have a strong desire to pursue a doctoral program at Kyoto University.

- Participants of the KU-STAR Program must agree to:
  - Apply for the appropriate visa(s) for entry to Japan in a timely fashion, if required.
  - Stay at the accommodation designated and provided by Kyoto University for the duration of the program.
  - Attend the orientation and all required conferences, activities, and cultural events, such as Japanese language classes organized through the Kyoto University internship program office.
  - Undertake advanced research projects for a period of 44 days at one of the participating laboratories.
  - Fully participate in the academic activities of the laboratories to which they are assigned, attending any relevant research seminars and workshops.
  - Prepare a poster presentation on their work at the end of the program.
  - Assign any intellectual property that results from their work during the program to their supervisor in the first instance.
  - Provide feedback on the KU-STAR Program.
  - Agree to be photographed by Kyoto University during the program, and grant the university the right to publish the photographs.
  - Contribute to media and public relations-related requests from Kyoto University.
  - Be present at Kyoto University for the full duration of the program. (Given the intensive nature of the program, participants will be unable to engage in other work or study during the program period. Applications from students who do not plan to be present at Kyoto University for the

full duration of the program will not be considered.)

Application Procedures

1. Starting Your Application

   To begin your application, please read this Application Guide carefully. After reviewing the guide, choose your preferred lab(s) from the Laboratory List.

   Please note: DO NOT contact the laboratories directly regarding the KU-STAR Program.

   If you have any questions about the lab list or the KU-STAR Program, please send your inquiries to the program office at australiandesk-ku@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp.

   The online application manual is available to help you when filling out the form.

2. Online Application

   Applications are only accepted through the online system. Once your application is submitted, you cannot change any files or information.

   Applicants must first create an account on the online application system.

   Please note that one applicant can submit only one application during this application period. If the university finds more than one application from the one applicant, all applications won't be accepted.

Online application:

https://reg31.smp.ne.jp/regist/switch/00051c0005bdfdZpKJ/createaccount

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Documents to submit (all files except ID documents must be submitted in PDF format)

- Statement of Purpose
  - The statement must be written in English and should not exceed 700 words. The file name should be "First Name_sop.pdf" (e.g. Jane_sop.pdf for Jane Smith).
  - The statement should include an explanation of why you have chosen a specific laboratory, research group, or professor as your host. You should also describe what you expect to accomplish through your research activities at Kyoto University.
  - Clearly detail the background and purpose of your research, including the experimental methods and expected results. Additionally, briefly describe the research plan that you will follow at the host laboratory.
  - Provide your future study and career plan, particularly your reasons for pursuing a doctoral degree program at Kyoto University.
  - If you choose two preferred labs 1 and 2, please upload a single Statement of Purpose(SoP). This SoP should combine all relevant information for both laboratories and remain within the 700-word limit.

- CV

- Although there is no specific format, your academic background, awards (if any), and publications (if any) must be included. The file name should be "First Name_cv.pdf"

- Official academic transcript of your college or university
  - The file name should be "First Name_academic transcript.pdf"
  - Master's students must upload their official transcripts of both undergraduate and most recent transcripts available in the master's program.
  - If the academic transcripts do not show CGPA or CPI, submit an official letter on departmental letterhead stating your percentage in your academic performance along with your official transcripts.

- ID
  - A photocopy of the page of your valid passport with your portrait
  - The file must be submitted in PDF, JPG. JPEG, or PNG format, and the name should be "First Name_passport.pdf/jpg/jpeg/png"
  - If you are unable to obtain a valid passport by the application deadline, other forms of ID with your full name and date of birth are also acceptable. If you upload other forms of ID, the name should be "First Name_ID.pdf/jpg/jpeg/png"

Document submitted by an applicant's recommender
- A Letter of Recommendation
  - To request the letter, select "Request Recommendation" after filling in your recommender's information including his/her email address in the online application form during the application period. The recommender will receive automatic email from the online system, which explains further instruction for its submission. The letter must be submitted by the recommender directly to the online application system.
  - The recommender must be a person who knows you well in your recent academic capacity.
  - The letter should be written in English on departmental letterhead, and it must include the recommender's signature. It must be submitted in PDF format.
  - Once your recommender successfully submits your letter of recommendation online, both you and your recommender will receive an automatic email. The file name of the submitted letter will then automatically appear under "Letter of Recommendation" on your "Student My Page."
  - It is applicant's responsibility to ensure that his/her recommender has submitted the letter online earlier enough to complete your application by the deadline.

Submitting Your Application
To successfully submit your application, you must complete the following steps within the application period:

1. **Fill in all fields** correctly on the online application form.
2. **Upload all required documents.**
3. Ensure your **letter of recommendation has been uploaded by your recommender.**
4. Select **"Submit My Application"** and then select "Register" on the online application Update Form.

After your application is successfully submitted during the application period, the Application Status on your "Student My Page" changes to "Submitted". Remember, if your application Status remains "Progress Saved" or "Recommendation Requested", your application has not been successfully submitted yet.

> Application with all required documents including SoP, Academic Transcript(s), CV, ID, and a Letter of Recommendation by your recommender, must be submitted online by
> **5 p.m. (Japan Standard Time [UTC+0900]) on September 8, 2025**

Screening

1. Screening of Application Documents
   The application documents will be screened by a committee of Kyoto University faculty members.
2. Interview (if required)
   An interview will be conducted, if required.
   The interview will be a web-based interview. Details of the interview, such as the interview method, date, and time will be determined by the university.

A Notification of Results

Applicants will be notified of their application results via email on October 31, 2025. Please ensure that your email address registered in the online application system is accurate and that you check your inbox, including your spam/junk folder.

Contact

Australian Desk, Division of Graduate Studies, Kyoto University
Email: australiandesk-ku@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp