

JAPAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

STUDY ABROAD SPRING 2026



Join us for an unforgettable experience exploring both ancient traditions and cutting-edge innovations in one of the most resilient and technologically advanced nations in the world. This study abroad experience begins during winter semester with a special section of CCE 102—Sustainable Infrastructure along with a 1-credit Japan Study Abroad Prep course. These courses will prepare students with foundational knowledge of global infrastructure systems, Japanese engineering practices, travel logistics, and cultural awareness. Immediately following winter semester, we will spend three weeks during spring term traveling throughout Japan to visit major civil and construction engineering sites in cities such as Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Tokyo, Sendai, and Fukushima. Site visits will include the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge (the world’s longest suspension bridge), the G-Cans underground flood control facility, the Tokyo Skytree, advanced recycling and energy facilities, and innovative urban developments such as Odaiba and Minato Mirai. We will also explore the country’s leadership in disaster recovery and resilience through visits to earthquake and tsunami memorials in Kobe and Sendai, and a full-day guided tour of the Fukushima region, where students will learn firsthand about post-disaster reconstruction and long-term infrastructure challenges. Students will be organized into teams to study the technical, cultural, and societal aspects of each site, examining how Japanese engineers address issues such as seismic risk, population density, aging infrastructure, and sustainability. The program covers all major disciplines within civil and construction engineering: structural, transportation, geotechnical, water resources, environmental, and construction and facilities management. This program includes credit for CCE 102—Sustainable Infrastructure and is **open to Civil Engineering and Construction and Facilities Management majors only**.

DATES

27 April–16 May 2026

HOUSING

We plan to stay in three cities: Osaka, Tokyo, and Sendai. We will use each city as a base to visit the various sites and neighboring cities and day trips. We will stay in hotels in each city.

COURSES

Students will register for 3 credit hours during the spring term:

CCE 498R—Japan Study Abroad (3 credit hours)

Students may not take any other courses on this program, including BYU Online courses, without approval by the program director and ISP.

COST

\$7,400–7,800

Includes Latter-day Saint undergraduate spring term tuition (increased cost for graduate and non-Latter-day Saint students), airfare and transportation, lodging, and international health insurance coverage.

Does not include personal expenses, local transportation (subways and trains), or most meals (breakfast will be provided at each hotel).

TRAVEL

Flights which are covered by the program cost will be arranged by the program directors through a BYU Travel agent. Students may not purchase their own flights. BYU Travel | 280 HRCB | (801) 422-6293 | travel@byu.edu

PREPARATION

During the semester before departure, students are required to participate in a once-a-week preparation course (IAS 201R—Japan Study Abroad Prep, 1 credit hour) which will be held during the second block of winter semester 2026. Also, there will be a special section of CCE 102 in the winter semester associated with the Japan Study Abroad. This course is required as part of the Civil Engineering and Construction and Facilities Management majors. Part-time and non-BYU students will need to pay an additional tuition fee for enrolling in this prep class.

All participants are required to obtain a valid passport prior to departure, and meet all country- and program-specific COVID and health requirements for travel.

International study programs are physically, emotionally, and mentally demanding, so you must be in good health to participate. These programs often take place in locations that do not have the same level of safety and services in terms of transportation, living conditions, residential accommodations, food, public behavior, and policing that you may be used to on campus. If you have further questions or concerns on this, please see <https://kennedy.byu.edu/isp-travel-policy>. Japanese language skills are helpful but not required.

FUNDING SOURCES

The cost of this program has been reduced by \$600 as a result of the generous support of the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering. Furthermore, each student will be given a \$1,540 scholarship as a result of generous support from the Weidman Center in the College of Engineering. Thus, the net out-of-pocket cost will be approximately \$6000 after factoring in these two sources.

Regular BYU tuition scholarships, Pell Grants, and Federal Insured Student Loans may be applied to study abroad programs. Students who submit the financial aid section of the ISP application and who have a current FAFSA form on file at the Financial Aid Office (A-41 ASB) will be considered for a Study Abroad scholarship. Academic departments and colleges may also assist with scholarships and grants. Scholarships are not applied until last payment is due. Private grants and scholarships outside of BYU may also assist (see kennedy.byu.edu/scholarships).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students must be 18 years of age or older to participate. Complete the online application at kennedy.byu.edu/apply. A nonrefundable \$35 application fee is required. Applicants will be interviewed once the application is complete. Students will be notified via e-mail of their acceptance into the program. The first payment is due upon acceptance. Please refer to the Payment Information page.

Application Deadline: 1 October 2025

FACULTY

Norm Jones | (801) 422-7569 | njones@byu.edu

Michael Bown | (801) 422-8758 | bown@byu.edu

SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT

The travel portion will occur in the first 3 weeks of spring semester. There will be some minor follow-up and report submission upon returning, but you will be free to pursue internships, etc. immediately upon returning on May 16.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT

International Study Programs

101 HRCB | (801) 422-3686

isp@byu.edu | kennedy.byu.edu/isp

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS

International Study Programs (ISP) reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost. If it becomes necessary for ISP to cancel a program, all program payments made to BYU ISP will be refunded to the student's BYU Financial account. ISP is the only office authorized to cancel any of its programs.