TOKYO, JAPAN
GLOBAL MASS COMMS
STUDY ABROAD SPRING 2022

Students will experience first-hand the interplay between modern and historical culture in the heart of Japan’s largest city. During their stay, students will participate in projects designed to explore the influence of both eastern and western cultures on modern Japanese society, and how these influences merge in an increasingly connected world. Students will be challenged to gather materials to produce content highlighting both secular and professional experiences, as well as spiritual ones, emphasizing both the Shinto religion and the growth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the region. As a primary outcome, students should expect to expand their personal portfolios through the experiences they choose to undertake in Japan.

DATES
9 May–3 June 2022 (dates are approximate)

HOUSING
Students will stay in a variety of housing accommodations that may include university dorms and hotels.

COURSES
Students will register for 6 credit hours during the program from the following courses:
COMMS 395R Global Mass Communication (3 credit hours)
COMMS 411 Media Effects (3 credit hours)
COMMS 483 Advanced Communication Studies (3 credit hours)

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

COST
$2,800–3,200

Includes Latter-day Saint, undergraduate full tuition (increased cost for graduate and non-Latter-day Saint students), housing, sponsored excursions, admission to cultural sites and events, in-country transportation, and international health insurance coverage.
Not Included: airfare, personal expenses, and most meals.

TRAVEL
Students are responsible for purchasing their own airfare to and from the program sites. Airline reservations must be made through BYU Travel. Students should contact a BYU Travel agent: BYU Travel, 280 HRCB | (801) 422-6293 | travel@byu.edu

PREPARATION
Non-communication majors should meet with the program director prior to ensure that they have completed equivalent courses that would give them the appropriate skill proficiencies for the internship program.

Accepted students are required to participate in an international, cross-cultural preparation course (IAS 201, 1 credit hour). This evening course will be held during the second block of winter semester 2022. Part-time and non-BYU students will need to pay an additional tuition fee for enrolling in the prep class. Accompanying spouses need to be credit-bearing participants on the program. Spouses will also need to apply online and enroll in the preparation course.

All participants are required to show proof of complete COVID-19 vaccination by the time the preparation course begins.

FUNDING SOURCES
Accepted students may qualify to receive a scholarship from the School of Communications (up to $1000). 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 and may be considered for other scholarships. Students must indicate on their original online application that they want to be considered for financial aid. Academic departments and colleges may assist with scholarships and grants. Private grants and scholarships outside of BYU may also assist (see kennedy.byu.edu/scholarships).

APPLICATION PROCESS
Complete the online application at kennedy.byu.edu/apply. The application requires a $35 fee. 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 2022 Payment Information document (see kennedy.byu.edu/isp-forms/ISPpayments2022.pdf).

Deadline: 30 November 2021

FACULTY
Kevin John is the director of this program, and his wife Hillery will be assisting him. Kevin is a health communication scholar with research lines in skin cancer, body image issues, substance use, and media effects. In addition, Kevin currently serves as the Director of the BioComms Lab in the School of Communications, where he uses eye-tracking, facial recognition, virtual reality, and other technologies to assist in his research. Kevin is originally from Alexandria, VA, Hillery is from Albuquerque, NM, and they both love to travel, play video games, watch anime, and make Jurassic Park jokes on any occasion they can. They are also especially grateful for their parents, who will be watching their 4 kids and 5 cats while they work to create an unforgettable cultural experience for students in Japan.

Kevin John, Associate Professor, Communications
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kevin.john@byu.edu

SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT
Students should plan to be in Tokyo on 9 May. The program will end on 3 June. Students should refrain from scheduling late arrivals or early departures.

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.