

WSS Website Disability Access Page:

Preamble: Waseda University President Aiji Tanaka has indicated that Waseda University is open and accessible to all students regardless of disability, gender, national origin, religion, creed or political affiliation. We are committed to following his vision.

Accommodations and Access Requests: We will ask you if you need any special support academically, physically or mentally on the application form. We will only use the information you give us to evaluate the kind of support you may need at Waseda and it will NOT affect the selection process. We will ask for you to upload any academic accommodation letters to our office after you have been accepted into the program. It may take some time to issue a letter at your home university, so please prepare early. We will also ask you under “Other Access Needs” about needs that might not be in the letters. For example, you may have a mobility that is not indicated in your academic accommodation letters (or only obliquely as a request for accommodating tardiness in classes), or you may want to indicate under “Other Access Needs” that you cannot climb stairs of steps that are greater than 10cm. This will help us in thinking about housing and field trips. Or you may have a food allergy that is not indicated in your academic access letters, etc.

Confidentiality: Disability status and access-needs information will be treated as confidential by WSS staff and faculty and disclosed only on a need-to-know basis. That said, public disclosure of some accommodations may happen, for example if you require extra time or a separate space for exams; separate meals; notetaking; transportation; housing; bathrooms; etc. Please let the WSS staff and/or faculty know how you would best like us to handle these situations and we will do our best to ensure your personal privacy.

Academic Access

The WSS staff and faculty will work with **the Accessibility Resource Center** (<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/dsso/en/>) to provide you with the academic accommodations you need to thrive in our classrooms. Our international faculty can easily handle the majority of disability accommodation (including extra test-taking time, quiet testing locations, etc.) that are requested. For some specific disabilities and accommodations, please see the following notes:

***Wheelchair access:** The Waseda campus is mostly wheelchair accessible. All of the campus buildings we use have slopes and elevators, and we can move any classrooms that pose access issues. We have less control over wheelchair access during our field trips but will work with you on this.

***Notetaking and Sign-language Interpretation:** We can provide peer note-taking services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, and we can provide Japanese Sign Language (JSL) interpreters who can interpret between spoken Japanese and JSL depending the course contents

However, the number of notetakers who can handle English classrooms is limited and we have not located any ASL, BSL, or other non-Japanese sign-language interpreters in Japan who can also handle English-language classrooms. We will need to work with you on alternate accommodations.

***Campus guides for blind students:** We can ask one of our student interns to guide you between campus buildings for the first few days of class until you become familiar with the layout. Trained service dogs are welcome on the Waseda campus. For longer-term and off-campus needs, see “guide helpers” and “service animals” below under “Housing and Living Accommodations.”

***Braille and text-to-speech:** We have asked all faculty to provide their reading materials in machine-readable/OCRred formatted PDFs and will work with them to ensure that class materials are accessible. Please bring your own equipment that can read text-to-speech or output to braille, a properly OCRred and marked PDF. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to print any braille material on paper for you within the limited time of the summer program. Please note that not all of the Waseda websites are screen reader compliant and we will work with you to find alternate solutions. Please also note that while braille is ubiquitous in Japan (trains, subways, bank ATMs, and many other public accommodations have braille), the Japanese language braille system used is entirely different syllabary from the alphabetic braille used in your country and may not be legible to you.

***Gender identity and preferred names/gender/pronouns:** Please indicate what your preferred name, gender (including non-binary), and pronouns are after you have been accepted into the program. All of our public student rosters will list only your preferred name, gender and pronouns. For overnight trips which require a hotel stay in a double-occupancy room, please consult with the CIE beforehand and let us know your request about room arrangement. Depending on circumstances of accommodations, we may not be able to meet every one of your requests. However, we will work with you and do our best to meet your wishes.

Regarding gender and sexuality-related topics, the Gender and Sexuality Center provides advice, support, education, and events on sexual minorities. “**Support Guide for LGBTQ students** (<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/gscenter/news-en/2020/01/15/3018/>)” introduces Waseda University’s initiatives and measures in reducing the difficulties which sexual minority students face in student life.

***Other academic accommodations:** Please do not hesitate to contact the WSS staff and the faculty for your courses for any other academic accommodations.

Housing and Living Accommodations:

Waseda Summer Session staff have limited capacity and expertise to help with housing, personal accommodations, and other non-campus needs of students with disabilities. We provide the information below to help you decide what arrangements you may need to make yourself to thrive at Waseda:

Housing: WSS places students with private housing companies for the summer session housing and has not been able to locate fully wheelchair-accessible housing. The most accessible housing unit that we know of has three steps at the front entrance (that could be covered by a portable ramp) (fig.1) and that building has an elevator. However, inside each unit there is a 10cm step-up to the bathroom and a step-in bathtub with a very high rim (fig.2, fig.3). The rooms are generally too small for a power chair or mobility scooter (fig.4) and do not generally have the facility to store/charge one outside of the room.

(fig.1)



(fig.2)



(fig.3)



(fig.4)



Wheelchairs and mobility scooters: It is best if you bring your own mobility device to Japan. Please note that some of the larger foreign wheelchairs and mobility scooters may not fit in Japanese elevators, buses, and wheelchair lifts.

Public transportation: Tokyo subways and buses are largely wheelchair accessible although some prior notification at train stations is often necessary if you use a wheelchair. There is also an

approximately 400 meter/yard walk on a hill from the closest train station or bus station to the Waseda classrooms.

Canes and walkers: Please note that there is a long walk on a hill from the train or bus station to Waseda, and many of the apartments are also similarly located several hundred meters from the closest public transportation (fig.5). The field trips also require quite a bit of walking and many temples and shrines (in particular) require you to climb a flight of stairs. We will work with you so that you can make the most of the field trips despite inaccessible areas.

(fig.5)



Taxis and Uber: Some taxis can take fold-up manual and lighter power wheelchairs if you are able to transfer to a regular seat. Fully accessible taxis (and Uber) are rare to non-existent. Paratransit is available but often requires municipal residency which is outside of the capacity of this program.

Care attendants and guide-helpers: The municipal care attendant program and guide-helper system is only available to residents of Japan and thus unavailable to Waseda summer students. We can provide a referral to the local independent living center or center for the blind, if you are interested in hiring a local care attendant or guide.

Medication: Please declare all medication to customs when entering Japan. Please note that some ADHD medication, some psychotropics, and all forms of cannabis products are illegal in Japan, even with a prescription. We recommend working with your physician or psychiatrist well in advance of entering the country to ensure that you can bring your medication and that you have enough supply to last the summer. We emphasize that you are responsible for ensuring the legality of your medication. Please note that all accommodations arranged through WSS have a small dorm-style refrigerator but some of these small units may be too small or not have adequate temperature control for some temperature-sensitive medications. You may need to consider alternatives that are less temperature-sensitive or a storage solution with better temperature control.

Medical devices (CPAP/BPAP/wheelchair chargers/etc.): Tokyo operates on 100 volts AC at 60hz. Please note that some parts of Japan operate at 50hz. Please ensure that your medical device can work at 100 volts AC and 50/60hz. While the electrical plug is similar to an American ungrounded

plug, you may still need to use an adaptor if your machine requires a ground plug or has polarized plugs. If your device is required to "call home" with telemetrics, work with your health care provider to ensure it can use the Japanese cellular networks or wifi, or that they know that it cannot call home for the period that you're in Japan.

Service animals: Japan has strict quarantine laws that make it very difficult to bring a service animal into Japan. Please read the Japanese customs page carefully regarding the certification that you will need to bring to avoid quarantine. It is not an easy process and you will need to start it months before you come to Japan. Please note that while Japan has passed an anti-discrimination law that provides for access for service animals in public accommodations, it has several limitations: 1) it recognizes only trained seeing-eye dogs, service dogs for physical disabilities, and hearing-ear dogs; 2) it only recognizes dogs; 3) it does not recognize emotional service animals or psychiatric/neurological service animals.

Food restrictions: It has become much more possible to find vegetarian, vegan, halal, and kosher food in Japan in recent years. However, some Waseda cafeterias and restaurants students use during field trips may not meet all of your requests for special kinds of food. If you require gluten-free or other allergen free food, you may encounter difficulties, especially when dining out. There are now a few online groups of foreigners and other English-language speakers with food restrictions and you may want to seek these out so that you know how to prepare in advance.

Regular medical care: If you require regular medical checkups / check-ins while you are in Japan, we recommend arranging something in advance in coordination with your home physician and your health insurance provider. Your physician, psychiatrist, or therapist may have a telemedicine option that you should explore if you want a teleconferenced office visit.

Emergency and urgent medical care: All students are required to have health insurance. Waseda University has a small health clinic for urgent care needs (minor physical injuries, etc.). For urgent English-language mental health needs, psychiatric counselling, and referrals, we recommend calling TELL Japan (<https://telljp.com/>; 0800-300-8355 *TOLL FREE). You should not hesitate to call or ask someone to call the national emergency number "119" for any major injuries or illnesses, whether physical or psychiatric.