



June 30, 2021

Dear AKP Students,

We hope this message finds you well. It is hard to believe that it has been almost three months since many of us first met during the post-acceptance webinar in April.

During these past few months, AKP considered a number of factors for our operating decision this summer, among the most important of which included the opening of Japan's borders and the ability to apply for a student visa in time for AKP's late August start. While we had been hopeful for change, the Government of Japan still shows no signs of removing the current travel ban on foreign nationals (including international students) in the foreseeable future.

Given this continued uncertainty, AKP, with the approval of the Board of Directors, has made the difficult decision to cancel its Fall 2021 semester.

Like AKP's previous cancellations, this decision was not made lightly. After a long year of no international travel, all of us at AKP were excited to welcome you to Japan and understand how disappointing this is for you. We are particularly regretful for the rising seniors who intended to join us in the fall after no study abroad in the 2020-2021 year; we wish we could answer your flexibility and resilience with better news.

We kindly ask that you read the following for more details on how to proceed going forward.

Can students defer to Spring 2022?

All students accepted to Fall 2021 can defer to Spring 2022 without having to reapply. Anyone interested in deferring to the next semester should update AKP at us_office@associatedkyotoprogram.org as soon as possible and no later than Friday, September 24.

In addition, students accepted to the full 2021-2022 Academic Year can choose to attend only the Spring 2022 semester without needing to reapply. Due to the exceptional circumstances, we are also allowing rising seniors to participate in the Spring 2022 program if their schedule and home institution will allow it.

Note that deferring students will need to resubmit certain pre-acceptance and post-acceptance materials, which are detailed on our [website](#). AKP will reach out to deferred students in September to update them on the resubmission timeline.

Can students defer to Fall 2022?

Students wanting to attend AKP in Fall 2022 must reapply to AKP through a streamlined application process during the normal application cycle. More information on this deferral policy can be found on our [website](#). If you are interested in reapplying, please update us at us_office@associatedkyotoprogram.org with your intentions.



Do students have any financial obligations to AKP to take care of?

No. You do not have any further obligations (financial or otherwise) to AKP for the Fall 2021 semester. Students who choose to defer to the Spring 2022 semester will not be charged for their Spring 2022 comprehensive fee until after the Spring 2022 semester is confirmed to run.

Will AKP still be running online Japanese language tables and the partnership program?

Yes. In lieu of our in-country program, AKP will continue to provide our consortium school students with the following online opportunities:

- Japanese Partnership Program
- Japanese Language Tables

Non-consortium students who were accepted to the Fall 2021 program and plan to defer to Spring 2022 or reapply to another AKP semester can also participate in these programs if they are interested. It is our hope that these programs will continue to foster your passion for and connection to Japan even if you cannot be there in person.

Once again, thank you for your patience, hard work, and understanding. As the world continues to make its way through the pandemic, it is our hope that all of you will be able to visit Japan soon, whether independently or with AKP. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us_office@associatedkyotoprogram.org or your AKP Campus Representative.

Sincerely,

Peter Flueckiger
Chair of the Board of Directors
Associated Kyoto Program