

The visas most commonly received by JCMU students fall into two basic categories: single-phase visas, and dual-phase visas. These categories directly correlate to the length of the student's intended stay in Japan.

**Single-Phase Visas** are a simpler form of application used when a traveler will be staying in Japan for 90 days or less, which include all of JCMU's May short course programs, Culture/Career Hybrid programs, and the Summer Intensive Japanese Language program. Single-phase visas do not require that the traveler be extensively vetted by the Japanese immigrations authority prior to issuance, so these visas can generally be issued within two weeks of an application being filed at the Consulate General of Japan. Single-phase visas take approximately one month to process in the JCMU office, so it is important that students requiring these visas work with the JCMU-East Lansing staff early to ensure that all of their documentation is correct and submitted on-time.

- **Temporary Visitor Visa: Abbreviated as TVV**, this visa is necessary for any student participating in a program shorter than 90 days and who is a citizen of the following:
  - People's Republic of China
  - Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, etc.)
  - South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka)
  - Eastern Europe (former Soviet bloc)
  - Middle East (Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc.)
  - Africa (all nations)
  - South America (all nations)
  - Central America (all nations except Mexico)
- **The Temporary Visitor's Visa is waived** for students participating in programs shorter than 90 days and who are citizens of the following:
  - the United States
  - Canada
  - Taiwan
  - South Korea
  - Australia
  - New Zealand
  - The UK/Ireland
  - Israel
  - Mexico (as of 2017)
  - most of Western Europe
- As of 2016, the TVV is also waived for students who hold a Hong Kong SEZ (blue Hong Kong-issued) passport.

**Dual-Phase Visas** require a more intensive vetting of the traveler by the Japanese government, and thus take longer to applying for than the single-phase variety. As such, JCMU requires at least four months to process documentation for a dual-phase visa, and up to three weeks allowance for Consulate processing once the finalized visa application and passport are submitted for issuance. Dual phase visas are required for ANY student staying in Japan for longer than 90 days, regardless of their nationality or country of origin. The most common dual-phase visa obtained by JCMU students is the Cultural Activities

Visa, which is held by students participating on any longer semester program (fall or spring), and the academic year program.

*Please note:* The Cultural Activities visa is also the standard visa necessary for students participating in multiple programs with more than 90 days, such as a May short course and summer language program together. If you wish to participate in multiple programs, it is important to receive and apply for your visa as soon as possible, as we usually have a much shorter window for application than our standard semesters. Please contact the Program Coordinator or Fiscal Officer at the JCMU-East Lansing office as early as possible if you intend to participate in multiple programs.

As is indicated by the name, dual-phase visas have two steps in their application process. In the first step, JCMU-East Lansing submits a series of documents to JCMU-Hikone, which translates them and prepares an application dossier for each student. Once the dossier is reviewed and approved by the Japanese immigrations authority, JCMU-Hikone is issued a Certificate of Eligibility (usually abbreviated as a CoE) for the students, which is shipped to East Lansing. Staff in the JCMU-East Lansing office then combine the CoE with the student's passport, official Visa Application Form, ID photo, and additional documents, and ships these materials to the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit for final processing. When the visa is issued, the passports are either returned directly to the student via express shipment (which is provided by JCMU), or students in the tri-county area surrounding Detroit (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties) are contacted by the Consulate directly and informed that their passport is ready for pick-up. Students who live in the MSU dormitories at the time of their visa application will have their passports returned to the JCMU-East Lansing office, from which they can pick up their passport prior to departure from campus.

*Please note:* because of the time necessary to applying for the second phase of the visa process, JCMU can only allow an early departure window of 5 business days before the program's official start date. For example, if a student attending JCMU for the fall semester is due to arrive on September 1<sup>st</sup>, the earliest that the student may leave the United States is August 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning an earlier departure, or have different travel plans, please inform the JCMU-East Lansing office as soon as possible.