

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. THE ACADEMIC YEAR

There are two semesters, beginning in April and September. Each semester consists of 15 weeks of classes, including final examinations. To ensure that each course is held a sufficient number of hours to fulfill the regulations of the MEXT, make-up class days for regular class days cancelled due to holidays may be scheduled at the end of the term prior to the examination period. For the academic year 2010, one Monday of cancelled courses is scheduled for the autumn semester. This “virtual Monday” will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

2. LOYOLA WEB SERVICE

The Loyola web service for teachers and students enables students to:

- Register and withdraw from courses (there are some exceptions)

- Check their registration status and grades

- Check information concerning cancelled classes, make-up classes, or notices on the web bulletin board through PCs and mobile phones.

Please refer to the “Loyola Handbook” for detailed explanation on how to use Loyola.

3. CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

A. Degree Student

A degree student is one who is accepted as a candidate for a Master of Arts degree from the GPGS. New students are admitted in both spring and autumn semesters.

B. Non-Degree Student

Non-degree students are those who enroll for one year to take courses and obtain credits but do not intend to earn a degree from the GPGS. This category includes graduate students who are pursuing a graduate degree at another university and wish to come to Japan either to do research for their thesis or undertake related course work. Non-degree student status is applicable only to international students who enroll as full-time students. The application deadline is the same as for degree students.

C. Non-Matriculated Student (科目等履修生自由履修コース)

Non-matriculated students are persons of any nationality who wish to take one or more courses of their choice, up to 10 credits in one year, but do not intend to earn a degree from the GPGS. In order to be eligible for this status, the student must have already completed an undergraduate degree and hold a valid visa for Japan.

Applications are accepted in late March for courses beginning in April, and in early September for courses beginning in October.

4. HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM

A. National Health Insurance

International students who will stay in Japan for more than one year are required to join this insurance system. The procedures are carried out at the local ward/city office. The premium must be paid. However, by declaring you have no income, it will be deducted. Please ask directly about the details to the local ward/city office.

Subscribers to the National Health Insurance system have only to bear 30% of medical expenses for any treatment covered by the insurance at clinics or hospitals (Expenses for medical treatment not covered by the insurance must be paid in full.)

B. Sophia University Student Health Insurance Mutual Union

All degree students are affiliated with this Union at the time of entrance to Sophia University. The Union will reimburse 80% (65% for dental treatment) of the expenses uncovered by the health insurance (excluding expenses for medical treatment not covered by the Health Insurance system in Japan). Please refer to “The Handbook for International Students” (issued by the Overseas Liaison Center) for details.

5. PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS PURSUING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

All degree students and exchange students must be affiliated with this insurance plan. This will cover physical injuries a student suffers during educational and research activities at the university (taking part in the regular curriculum, school events, extracurricular activities reported to the university, and while the insured is within the school facilities for other reasons) and during commuting to school and in transit between school facilities. For details, please refer to the “Manual for Participants in Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research”.

6. MAIL

Students are allowed to use Sophia University as a mailing address for one month after they register as new students.

7. TRANSCRIPT AND OTHER CERTIFICATES

Requests for Certificates

Certificates that can be issued
from the certificate issuance machine

Certificate of Attendance [English and Japanese]	¥100
Official Transcript (current students)[English and Japanese]	¥200
Certificate of Prospective Graduation [English and Japanese]	¥100

The above certificates are issued from the certificate issuance machine in front of the Center for Academic Affairs, Bldg. 2, 1F, and in the Student Lounge, Bldg. 11, 1F. Service hours of the machines are Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 17:00.

Certificates to be requested at
the Academic Records Section

Visa Extension Application Form	¥100
Supplementary Letter for Part-time Job	¥100
Certificate of Graduation [English and Japanese]	¥300
Certificate of Past Attendance [English and Japanese]	¥300
Official Transcript (past) [English and Japanese]	¥300
Official Personal Report (current students and graduates) [English and Japanese]	¥500

A request form is available at the Center for Academic Affairs. The above certificates are issued three to four days after the request is received. Office service hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 11:30, and 12:30 to 17:00.

The University will not issue a transcript of a student's or graduate's record to any third party unless the student or graduate requests the Center to do so. When requesting a transcript, the student or graduate should indicate in writing the name and address of the recipient.

8. STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD (ID CARD)

The ID card identifies one as a student of Sophia University and should be in the student's possession at all times. Students must present their ID cards on the following occasions:

1. When registering for courses
2. When taking examinations
3. When applying for any kind of certificate such as Certificate of Attendance or Official Transcript
4. When applying for a Tsûgaku Shômeisho (通学証明書) for a commuter's pass or student discount certificate
5. When entering the Central Library
6. When using or borrowing university facilities or equipment
7. When requested to show it by school officials or employees
8. When purchasing a student commuter pass
9. When applying for medical services at a hospital designated by the university

If the validity period has expired, the card is invalid.

Reissuance of ID Card

If a student loses his/her ID card or if the card becomes dirty or damaged, s/he should immediately notify the Center for Academic Affairs and apply for reissuance of the ID card. A new ID Card will be issued in about one hour. A fee of ¥800 must be paid at the time of application.

9. EXTENDING A COLLEGE STUDENT VISA

After applying for an extension of period of stay, or applying for permission to change Status of Residence, it is essential to submit your newest "Certificate on Registered Matters" (登録原票記載事項証明書 Tourokugenpyo-kisaijikou-shoumeisho) or photocopies of both sides of your "Certificate of Alien Registration" to the Center for Academic Affairs, Academic Records Section. Please note that various disadvantages regarding school life, such as Loyola access being stopped or non-receipt of Scholarships may occur until it is confirmed that you have submitted either of the above document.

Further, as of September 1, 2009, changes and additions have been made to the documents to be submitted to the Immigration Bureau for the "Application for change of status of residence" and the "Application for extension of period of stay". The new forms include documents, which must be filled out by the Center for Academic Affairs.

Please refer to “The Handbook for International Students 2010” (available at the Overseas Liaison Center). If you have any questions, please contact the Center for Academic Affairs, Academic Records Section.

10. CHANGE OF GUARANTOR FOR SOPHIA UNIVERSITY, STUDENT’S NAME, OTHER CHANGES

If there is a change in the following information, students are required to notify the Center for Academic Affairs and fill out the appropriate form as soon as the change takes place: student’s name, address, telephone number or guarantor’s name, address, or telephone number. In the case of a change in the student’s name, s/he will be required to attach the Jūminhyō no Utsushi (住民票の写し) issued at a local government office.

For non-Japanese students, in the case of change in the student’s name, visa status or period of stay, s/he will be required to submit the Certificate of Registered Matters (登録原票記載事項証明書) issued at a local government office or a photocopy of of Alien Registration Certificate (外国人登録証明書) (one copy of each side). Failure to submit may cause disadvantages to you.

11. BULLETIN BOARDS

Notices concerning classes (cancelled classes, make-up classes, change of classrooms) and announcements for individual students, including urgent matters, will be posted on Loyola bulletin board. Some notices may also be posted on university bulletin boards. All students are strongly advised to check the Loyola and university bulletin boards regularly.

12. ABSENCES DUE TO LAY JUDGE SERVICE

Based on the "Act on Criminal Trials Examined under the Lay Judge System," students may decline to serve as lay judges under the recently instituted lay judge system. However, in order to respect the wishes of students that consent to being appointed as lay judges, absences due to lay judge service (including any attendant procedures) will be treated as follows.

A. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students as well as non-matriculated students. This policy does not apply to auditing students.

B. Accepted Grounds for Absence

- a. Appearing at a courthouse as a lay judge candidate for appointment procedures
- b. Attending a trial as a lay judge.
- c. Sitting in on trial proceedings as an alternate lay judge.

C. Procedures

In general, students must contact the Center for Academic Affairs, receive a copy of the designated Notification of Absence due to Lay Judge Service form, and submit this form, along with a copy of the Notice of Date for Lay Judge Appointment sent in the mail from the court, to the faculty member(s) in charge of the class(es) from which the student is to be absent. The student must also show to the faculty member(s) the post-trial discharge certification documentation issued by the court.

D. Handling of Absences

Provided that the student has given notice of absence by means of the designated form mentioned above, faculty will observe the following considerations to avoid causing detriment to the student.

- i). Classes will not be counted absent. Make-up opportunities will be determined by the faculty member.
- ii). Quizzes will not be counted absent. Make-up opportunities will be determined by the faculty member.
- iii). Examinations will not be counted absent. Student will be allowed to sit a make-up examination. The usual request for a make-up examination should be submitted in time.

Office Directory

	Office	Tel	Bldg	Floor/Room
Course Registration / Class Information / Transfer Credits / Examination / Grades	Center for Academic Affairs	03-3238-3515	No. 2	1F
Request for Deferred Payment of Tuition & Fees Health Insurance Part-time Jobs Scholarships Governmental Financial Aid for Foreign Students	Center for Student Affairs	03-3238-3523	No. 2	1F
Lost & Found	Information Service Office	03-3238-3112	No. 2	1F
Student Travel Fare Discount Certificates Certificate of Attendance / Official Transcript	Vending Machine (in front of the Center for Academic Affairs)		No. 2	1F
Exchange Program (Incoming / Outgoing) Short-term Language Programs Short-term Study Abroad Programs Monbukagakusho Scholarship	Overseas Liaison Center	03-3238-3521	No. 2	1F
Tuition and Fees	Center for Academic Affairs	03-3238-3195	No. 2	1F
Employment	Career Center	03-3238-3581	No. 2	1F
Admissions	Admissions Office	03-3238-4018	No. 2	1F
Request for Leave of Absence Request for Withdrawal from the University I.D. Card Reissuance Change of Address / Guarantor Re-admission Transfer of Faculty / Department	Center for Academic Affairs (Academic Records Section)	03-3238-3519	No. 2	1F
Appointment with Director	GPGS Office	03-3238-4004	No. 10	4F
Health Service	Health Center	03-3238-3394	Hoffman Hall	2F
Computer	Media Center	03-3238-3101	No. 2	3F
Counseling	Counseling Center	03-3238-3559	No. 10	Room 303
Teacher and Curator Certification	Center For Certification Programs	03-3238-3520	No. 4	Room 186