

IMSE Frequently Asked Questions

1) How much 'hands-on' experience will I get as a student in the IMSE?

A: Japanese law requires all medical students (including Japanese medical students) to observe, rather than treat. As such, your experience in the clinical departments will be primarily observation. During your regular meetings with your primary preceptor, you will have lots of opportunity for 'hands-on' EBM discussion, cultural observation and reflection.

2) What learning resources will be available to me?

A: As an IMSE student, you will be issued a pass allowing you 24-hour access to the on-campus library, which has personal computers connected to the Internet.

3) Do I need to know Japanese?

A: Knowledge of the Japanese language is not required. You must be fluent in English. Most of the hospital staff can speak English. However, most of patients speak only Japanese. So the conversation between medical staff and patients is conducted in Japanese. If you can understand Japanese, you may experience a better observation.

4) What else do I need to know?

A: You will be provided with additional orientation materials and curriculum documents after acceptance into the program. These will include a list of "Do's and Don'ts", maps, and more. If you have any further questions, please contact us at our Educational Center (listner@luke.or.jp).

5) What type of medical insurance should I have?

A: You will need to provide your own medical insurance coverage. More information can be found at <http://www.ifmsa.org/services/student-insurance/>

6) What type of visa do I need to get before coming to Japan?

A: This will depend on your country of origin. Please check this website for more information: http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/02.html

7) How much money should I bring?

A: The cost of living in Tokyo, Japan, is considered high by most standards. As a student at St. Luke's International Hospital you are allowed to eat in the employee's cafeteria, with meals costing on average ¥400-¥500. If you plan to withdraw money in Japan, please check your main bank in advance if your ATM card is available with these ATMs. Our hospital placed two ATMs in the hospital.

* Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ: <http://www.bk.mufg.jp/english/index.html>

* Shinsei Bank: <http://www.shinseibank.com/english/index.html>

ATM of JAPAN POST NETWORK is also available on the first floor of St. Luke's Tower next to the hospital. : http://www.jp-bank.japanpost.jp/en/ias/en_ias_index.html

In addition, exchange money is available at world currency shops in many shopping areas. For details, please refer to the website below.

* World currency shop: <http://www.tokyo-card.co.jp/shop/wcs-shop-e.html>

8) Will my cell phone work in Japan?

A: Most mobile phones from other countries do not work in Japan. Contact your local mobile service provider to check if yours will work. Mobile phone rentals are available at Narita airport or websites below.

* Rentafone Japan: <http://www.rentafonejapan.com/>

* Japan Phone: <http://www.cellularabroad.com/japancellphone.html>

You will be issued a PHS phone that works within the hospital to call or receive calls from hospital extensions.

9) When should I arrive?

A: You will be expected at the hospital by 9:00AM on Monday of the first day. Please arrive to Japan in time to be well rested for your first day.

10) How much free time will I have to explore Japan?

A: Depending on which clinical departments you have chosen, you can expect to spend 8-10 hours per day in the hospital, Monday through Friday. During weekends you are encouraged to further explore the wonderful city and country you are in !

11) Super market/convenience store/glossary store/dry cleaning

A: We will give you a map at the time of orientation.