

# Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies Independent Study Proposal

**Application Deadlines:**

**For Fall Semester: June 15/For Spring Semester: November 1**

**DESCRIPTION:** Independent study allows you to explore a specific research topic in-depth, and acquire the methodological and analytical skills necessary for academic research. It normally involves directed reading and research, regular weekly meetings with a faculty advisor, and completion of a research paper or comparable final project that will be graded by the advisor. Independent study is particularly useful for formulating and gathering materials for a senior or honors thesis. Typically you would undertake this project in lieu of one of the two regular disciplinary courses.

Many students who plan to write a senior honors thesis at their home institutions have taken advantage of these independent studies as opportunities to collect materials or data that they might otherwise not have access to in the United States. Moreover, you may be able to establish an invaluable network of scholars and experts in your field of interest through an appropriate advisor for your independent study (either the Resident Director or a local faculty member from a university in the Kansai area).

Proposals will be reviewed by the KCJS Resident Director for approval. Students must also obtain approval from their home university study abroad office regarding credit transfer.

Complete the sections below, obtain the relevant signatures as noted below and electronically submit the completed form in your UGE account.

This signed form must accompany your final written proposal, which should include the following information:

1) **Title:** give a clear descriptive title of the project;

2) **Advisor(s):** If you have someone who could serve as an advisor in Kyoto, please list their name, institution, and email address here. If not, KCJS will work to match you with an appropriate adviser;

3) **Description:** provide a statement (approximately 400-500 words) describing the study you propose to undertake, and its major research themes and goals;

4) **Preparation:** indicate your level of skill in the Japanese language and list any courses you have taken (with grades) that provide background for the proposed research.

5) **Methodology:** explain the disciplinary framework within which you are working (for example, history, economics, anthropology, religion, literature, sociology), and how you plan to use that framework. Indicate whether this research is in preparation for a senior or honors thesis, or if the credits are a required part of your degree.

6) **Bibliography:** list proposed readings and research sources. About 10-15 entries, including books and peer-reviewed articles (or book chapters), would be appropriate.

7) **Schedule:** provide a proposed schedule of study for the 13-week semester. A completed draft of your paper will be due at least two weeks before the end of classes.

**APPLICANT'S NAME (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME INSTITUTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURES:**

**Home School Study Abroad Adviser:**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Independent Study Advisor:**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Advisor (if any):**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_