From KU to KU
Kanagawa University Students Visit KU for 24th Year

The AEC is proud to host the university’s longest-running study abroad program. Students from Kanagawa University in Lawrence’s sister city of Hiratsuka, Japan arrived on Saturday, January 31st. This is the 24th year the AEC has hosted the Kanagawa program. The students are here for a specialized four-week program of intensive English study and cultural enrichment activities. They live in campus housing and attend AEC classes. The students have been enjoying many fun activities, including a square dance and “homestay” weekend with local families, trips to Topeka and Kansas City, and a Jayhawk basketball game. They will return to Japan on February 28th.
By Rebecca Boguski

The AEC offers many different services for its students in order to help them succeed. One of the services at the AEC is cross-cultural advising (formerly called ‘counseling’). There are six cross-cultural advisors at the AEC who are available to meet with students individually almost every day of the week! If you are interested in talking to a cross-cultural advisor, here is what you need to know:

**Why should I talk to an AEC Cross-Cultural Advisor?**

There are many reasons to come see an AEC cross-cultural advisor. The cross-cultural advisors' job is to offer support to AEC students and assist you if you have a problem. Advisors can’t solve a problem for you, but they can try to help you find the best solution. The cross-cultural advisors can help you with personal problems, academic concerns, or cultural adjustment issues. Here are some ways that AEC cross-cultural advisors often help AEC students:

- Answer questions and discuss concerns about AEC courses.
- Explain and answer questions about AEC policy on level placement, test scores, class attendance, etc.
- Discuss students’ study skills. Give specific suggestions to help students improve their study skills and make progress faster.
- Listen to personal problems (illness, roommates, family, etc.) Advisors can often help find other offices on campus or other professionals with the right knowledge to help with specific types of problems.
- Explain the cultural adjustment process. Discuss any problems students are having adjusting to life in a new country.
- Answer general questions about KU classes or the application process. We can also help to navigate the KU website or help locate other offices/departments on campus that may be of assistance.
How do I make an appointment?

There is usually an AEC cross-cultural advisor available every day of the week. You can schedule an appointment Mondays-Fridays from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. To make an appointment, come to the front desk of the AEC office (204 Lippincott) and say, “I’d like to make an appointment with an AEC advisor.” The person at the desk will help you to schedule the appointment. Appointments can be up to 30 minutes long. However, you don’t have to stay the whole time if you just have a small question. Just make sure that you choose an appointment time that is convenient for you and won’t cause you to be late to class.

So, if you have any problems or questions that you would like to discuss with a cross-cultural advisor, please feel welcome! We look forward to meeting you! For more information about AEC cross-cultural advising services, you can check out the website: http://aec.ku.edu/advising-counseling.

There are six cross-cultural advisors at the AEC—back row from left are David Kapusta-Pofahl, Elizabeth Gould, and Sandra Issa. In the front row from left are Rebecca Boguski, Ann Tilson, and Katie McClintic. They are all happy to talk with you!
Do you ever listen to **podcasts**? If you are not familiar with this term, a **podcast** is a weekly audio or video program that you can listen to from your mobile device or computer. Listeners can **subscribe** to podcasts for free so that each new episode automatically downloads each week. There are thousands of podcasts to choose from—just search based on a topic that interests you from the podcast app on your phone. While there are many podcasts available specifically for English language students, you might also want to challenge yourself by listening to other types of podcasts as well. Below are some popular podcasts that cover interesting and varied topics each week. Not only can you hear examples of natural, everyday English, they might also teach you a little about American culture! In addition, thousands of people listen to these podcasts regularly, so you might be able to talk about the topics you hear with some American students!

**Serial** tells a true-crime story over the course of 12 episodes. A journalist investigates a murder case in order to discover who killed a young high school student in 1999.

**This American Life** tells true stories in the life of everyday Americans. Each episode is based on a weekly theme and tells several stories related to the theme.

**RadioLab** discusses topics about “science, philosophy, and the human experience.” Each show is also based on a weekly theme, using a variety of stories to explore the theme.

**Grammar Girl** gives short explanations and tips about using English grammar. It also gives advice about how to improve your writing.

**VOA Learning English** podcasts are created especially for ESL students. Each story uses a limited vocabulary and a slower pace to support students who are learning English.

**TED Radio Hour** is a theme-centered show based on TED talks. This podcast explores those themes more in-depth with stories and speaker interviews.
By Jennifer Forth

How did you spend your Valentine’s Day? For many of our students, their valentines are very far away. You could stay in your room and be sad, or you could get together with friends and celebrate. Many of our Vietnamese teachers decided to celebrate! On Saturday night they went to an AEC teacher, Jennifer Forth’s home for a party. There was Italian food, salads, breads, and lots of desserts. They took a box of chocolate to the party that was almost as big as they are! Some people talked about work, and some talked about languages and accents, while others talked about travel. It was a fun evening and everyone went home feeling warm and happy, despite their loved ones being far away, knowing they have many friends here in Kansas.
Conversation groups are your chance to practice your English outside of the classroom.
All AEC students are welcome!
You don't need to sign up, come whenever you like.
We meet just to talk.
There is no homework or teacher. The leaders are students just like you.

A Learning Resource for YOU!
The AEC is happy to introduce a service to help you study, learn, and become part of the KU community! If you have a specific question about your classwork, or if you just want to work on a special area, you can come to our special room in the Anschutz Library. We call this room “The Point.” AEC instructors will be there to help you with your questions.

When? Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3pm.
Where? Room 438 Anschutz Library

Do’s and Don’ts
Do: Bring your book or materials with you.
Do: Have a specific question or area that you want to work on.
Don’t: Expect help completing homework assignments (we can help explain it to you).
Don’t: Ask broad, general questions (e.g. How can I improve my English?). Be specific! (e.g. I need help finding the main idea in a paragraph.) You only have 30 minutes!
Saturday March 7th
11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Join SUA as we go to the Kemper and Nelson Atkins Museums of Kansas City!

- You may buy tickets in the Union Programs Box Office, located on Level 4 of the Kansas Union (behind the coffee shop).
- Tickets are $10, which includes transportation to, and from, museums, as well as a boxed lunch.
- Students will be able to choose their lunch when buying the ticket.
- This event is for students w/ valid KU student ID.
- The bus will pick students up from the Kansas Union and leave at 11am.
"Let's eat Grandma!"

"Let's eat Grandma!"

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