

Illegal Drug Use in Japan: Know the Facts

Unfortunately, as revealed by arrest records, an increasing number of people in their teens and 20s in Japan, including college students, have been involved in drug-related cases. We would like to remind to keep away from illegal drugs, so as not to put your study abroad in Japan, and your life plans, at risk.

As you should be aware (the issue was discussed during your Orientation), penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs, including marijuana, are severe in Japan. Convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and fines. Following drug arrests, suspects are detained and barred from receiving visitors or corresponding with anyone other than a lawyer or a consular officer until after the first hearing, which at times has taken up to a year to take place.

So please keep in mind, while penalties for possession of marijuana, for instance, are slight to none in several countries, you are in Japan, and fully subject to Japanese law. Neither your passport nor your affiliation with Kansai Gaidai can rescue you once you become involved with the Japanese criminal justice system.

It is our sincerest wish that study abroad in Japan will make a positive contribution to your career and to your life. We hope you will do your best to take advantage of the opportunity, and make the best judgments toward that goal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free let us know.

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