

FLY Program

(Freshers' Leave Year Program)

The University of Tokyo introduces the new **FLY Program (Freshers' Leave Year Program)**, starting from the 2013 academic year.

This program enables undergraduate students to participate in long-term independent activities in society immediately after entrance to the university and before normal student life starts. The aim of this program is to give students the opportunity to reaffirm or discover the meaning and purpose of studying at university, relative to conventional awareness and values by themselves.

Program overview

This program is based on the gap year system of universities in the West. The students take a leave of absence for a year and conduct independent activities with the support of the university.

The following are examples of some of the long-term independent activities students are anticipated to pursue.

- Voluntary activities which contribute to society (disaster recovery support, learning support, environmental conservation, and medical, welfare and care activities, etc.)
- International exchange activities (studying languages overseas, participating in international NPO projects, long-term overseas travel, etc.)
- Work experience, such as internships (public agencies, local governments, companies, NPOs, etc.)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishery industries and nature activities, regional activities (community building, experiencing life in an area different from one's home and region, such as in a farming or fishing village, etc.)

Program application eligibility

Students accepted to the Junior Division of the College of Arts and Sciences from April 2013 are eligible. However, due to restrictions with the status of residence, students from overseas may not be eligible.

Student must submit a prior application at the time of completing admissions procedures (mid/late March) explaining the intended activities. After admission to the university, students must then submit the main application with more details about the

activities.

There are several places available on the program.

Financial support

Students who wish to participate in activities on this program can apply for financial support to cover part of the expenses required for the activity at the time of submitting the main application.

When awarding this funding, the motivation and the details of the proposed activities of students wishing to take part in this program will be strictly examined, and the appropriate amount is decided.

Important points for students accepted

- Students accepted onto the program will be granted a special leave of absence for the year just after admission.
 - Students with a special leave of absence cannot take normal classes and seminars or gain credits. However, as they have student status at the University of Tokyo, they may use campus facilities, such as the library.
 - As the special leave of absence period is not included in the term of study, the duration from entrance to graduation will be extended by a year.
- Students plan and pursue the activities for the year independently. The university's role is centered on advice and support through provision of information, and financial support.
- For the duration of the activities, students on the program are able to consult with a designated supervising faculty member, keep in regular contact and ask for advice.
- At the end of the program, the students concerned will be asked to provide a predetermined activity report.

Information, etc.

Details about the program can be found in the FLY Program Application Guidelines, which was distributed with the admission procedure information on the day of the entrance examination. In addition, information about the program is provided on a website at the following address:

URL: <http://www.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/info/academics/fly/index.html>