

2025 ACUCA Student Camp
Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan
August 18-22, 2025

1. Theme

Christianity and AI: Faith, Environment and Human Well-Being

2. Rationale

Modern cutting-edge technologies, such as generative AI, are rapidly advancing. In this context, universities—often regarded as temples of knowledge—must confront these technologies and determine how best to utilize them. This challenge has become urgent and unavoidable for higher education institutions worldwide. Christian universities are no exception. The question of how the Christian faith should interact with AI and technology has become essential.

Within the Christian community, there are varying stances: some view these technologies simply as "enemies" of faith and advocate for their exclusion, while others place excessive trust in AI and technology, dismissing faith as "outdated." Instead of perpetuating such polarized debates, Christian universities are now called upon to thoughtfully explore the relationship between Christianity and AI, incorporating sub-themes such as faith, environmental issues, and well-being.

This camp aims to provide a space for students to sincerely engage with these challenges and develop deep insights into harmonizing AI - and other technologies - with Christian faith. This is particularly crucial for the younger generation, who experienced the COVID-19 pandemic during their formative years, often enduring socially isolated environments and increased vulnerability to emotional distress. The camp provides an open and inclusive atmosphere for these students to share their thoughts while living and interacting with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds across Asia. Furthermore, Kyoto - a city that serves as a cultural and traditional hub and the birthplace of innovations and technologies from companies like Nintendo, Kyocera, and Omron - offers a uniquely meaningful setting to explore such profound themes.

3. Objectives

This student camp aligns with the ACUCA Charter, which advocates for “a ministry

of providing quality education grounded on Christian values; Christian educational institutions must integrate faith and action to realize relevant, inclusive, innovative, and holistic education; and educational programs must be a redemptive manifestation of God's saving actions in the world and an instrument for positive social transformation and nation-building.”

Students from across Asia will gather at Doshisha University in Kyoto, sharing accommodations, engaging in prayer, worship, and praise, and participating in open discussions, cultural events, and field trips. Through these experiences, they will strive to understand one another deeply and cultivate lasting friendships. Particular attention will be given to addressing the unique needs of the generation of students who endured social isolation and relationship challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The camp aims to promote an understanding of the rich spiritual relationships fostered through Christianity while providing opportunities to explore the camp's theme: "Christianity and AI: Faith, Environment and Human Well-Being" Each activity during the camp will be designed to offer learning experiences that go beyond conventional classroom education. Specifically, students will be encouraged to acknowledge differences, gain new insights into their cultures, and foster mutual understanding. Through these collective experiences, the camp seeks to deepen students' awareness and appreciation of the Christian values of "faith, hope, and love."

4. Goals

Through the student camp, the following goals will be pursued:

- 1) Students will develop a proper understanding of the relationship between modern technologies, AI, and the Christian faith (or religion) and gain a deeper awareness of the challenges involved.
- 2) Students will become accustomed to communicating in English and develop leadership skills.
- 3) Students will enhance their ability to understand others (neighbors) and cultures different from their own, fostering friendships in an international context.
- 4) Students will develop self-understanding and self-respect, fostering stronger self-esteem.
- 5) Students will gain a deeper and more genuine understanding of Christianity

while appreciating diverse cultures.

5. Pre-camp online sessions

In preparation for the camp in August, 10 online sessions will be held starting Monday, July 28. These sessions are intended for participating students to get to know each other and to receive useful information for the camp. Please make sure to attend at least one or more of these sessions at your convenience. Each session is expected to last approximately one hour.

Schedule:

July 28 (Monday)

July 29 (Tuesday)

July 30 (Wednesday)

July 31 (Thursday)

August 1 (Friday)

Each day at Japan Standard Time:

11:30 AM

5:30 PM

The links and details for the sessions will be sent via email around July.

6. Activities

The following activities are to be organized during the camp:

- Living together
- Prayers
- Keynote speech
- Group discussion, presentation, discussion session
- Study tour and cultural tour
- Cultural night

6. Eligibility

To participate in the camp, students must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Possess a valid passport or be able to obtain one, arriving in Japan on August 18, 2025 and departing on August 22, 2025.
- Have sufficient English proficiency to communicate with the organizers and other participants.

- Be able to cooperate and engage in activities and daily life with other participants (in principle, accommodation will be shared with multiple people).
- Adhere to the no-smoking and no-alcohol policy during the program, regardless of home country's regulations.
- Enroll in overseas travel insurance that covers the entire period of the camp.

Other requirements and selection criteria may be set by each institution of the student.

7. Registration

Students wishing to participate in the camp or have questions about the camp should contact relevant officer at their home institution. ACUCA Secretariat will later contact those students selected and registered by their home institutions to collect necessary information for participation.

Q&A for students

Booking flights

Q1. Which airport do you recommend using?

A1. Kansai International Airport (KIX) and Osaka Itami Airport (ITM) are the two close airports to Kyoto. ITM only serves domestic flights. For example, if you arrive at Narita or Haneda, you might choose ITM for a domestic transfer.

Q2. Can we use airports other than KIX and ITM?

A2. You are free to use any airport, but please note that we only provide airport pickup (guidance to the limousine bus stop) at KIX and ITM, and assistance from the limousine bus drop-off point to the accommodation in Kyoto. We therefore do not recommend using other airports.

Q3. Which flights should I book?

A3. For flights arriving in Japan on Monday, August 18, 2025, please choose a flight that arrives at KIX by 2:30 PM or at ITM by 3:30 PM at the latest. If the arrival is later than these times, it is likely that you will not be able to attend the Opening Ceremony starting at 6:00 PM on the same day.

For flights departing Japan on Friday, August 22, 2025, please choose a flight that departs from KIX or ITM after 8:30 AM. If the departure is earlier than these times, you will need to stay near the airport the night before to ensure you can make it on time.

Q4. My flight arrives at KIX or ITM early in the morning on August 18. What should I do?

A4. The exact time when staff will start welcoming participants at the airport is yet to be determined, but we will try not to leave you waiting alone for hours! Upon arrival in Kyoto, you will be guided to your hotel. The first official program of the camp, the opening ceremony, will begin at 6 PM in the hotel banquet hall. However, the banquet hall will be open from 2 PM for registration and to provide a space where participants can converse and relax. Additionally, after arriving at the hotel, you can store your suitcases, allowing you to explore nearby shops or even do some

sightseeing if time permits.

Q5. Can I enter Japan before August 18?

A5. Please consult with your institution. The ACUCA office cannot provide any assistance for your stay prior to August 18. The itinerary required for visa application can only be issued for August 18 - 22.

Q6. My return flight departs from KIX or ITM late at night on August 22. What should I do?

A6. The check out time at the hotel on August 22 is at 11 AM. If you wish to do some shopping or sightseeing around Kyoto before heading to the airport, the hotel front desk can store your suitcases for free after checkout. Also, both KIX and ITM have several restaurants and shops.

Q7. Can I stay in Japan after August 22?

A7. Please consult with your institution. The ACUCA office cannot provide any assistance for your stay after August 22. The itinerary required for visa application can only be issued for August 18 - 22.

Q8. How should we handle the timing of flight reservations, the booking process, and the payment method?

A8. Please consult with your home institution as the ACUCA Secretariat will not be involved in arranging air tickets.

For those using KIX and ITM, we will provide airport pickup and guidance to the bus stop, as well as guidance from the bus drop-off location to the accommodation. We plan to send an email in July to ask for your flight information.

Access from the airports

Q9. How can I get to the city from airport?

A9. If you arrive at KIX or ITM, our staff will assist you in boarding the limousine bus to Kyoto at the airport. It takes approximately 1.5 hours from KIX to Kyoto and about 1 hour from ITM to Kyoto.

Q10. How much is the fare for the limousine bus?

A10. The fare for the limousine bus from KIX is 2,800 yen one way. If you purchase a round trip at KIX, it costs 5,100 yen. From ITM, the fare is 1,500 yen one way. There is no discount for round trips.

For purchasing tickets, you can use cash (Japanese yen) as well as major credit cards such as VISA, MasterCard, and American Express.

Q11. Should I take the limousine bus for the return trip as well?

A11. It is up to you! You may take the train if you prefer, however, please note that we do not provide guidance or assistance with train schedules or reservations, so you will need to check and book tickets by yourself if necessary.

If you choose to take the bus, tickets and reservations for the Kyoto station to ITM route cannot be made in advance. Therefore, you should allow ample time to reach the bus stop on the day of departure. A bus timetable is available, so you can easily find the bus you need to take.

Reservations are available for the buses from Kyoto station to KIX. Upon arriving in Kyoto on August 18, you can reserve your return trip at the bus information counter near the drop-off point. Our staff will accompany and assist you.

Accommodation

Q12. Where are we staying?

A12. We will be staying at a hotel right in front of Kyoto Station. You can learn about the hotel from its website.

<https://www.kyoto-towerhotel.jp/en/>

Q13. How many people are staying in a room? Can I share a room with a participant from the same institution/country? Can my friend and I be arranged to be in the same room?

A13. We have reserved rooms that can accommodate 3 to 8 people, and the size and type of rooms vary depending on the number of people. Individual requests cannot be accommodated. Separate rooms will be assigned to male and female.

Q14. Can I stay at my friend's house?

A14. It is not allowed as staying overnight with other participants is part of the purpose of the camp.

Internet connection

Q15. Should I purchase pocket Wi-Fi or an international SIM?

A15. If you need to be online at all times, please arrange those services by yourself. Wi-Fi is available in hotel rooms and some areas of the university, but there are often situations where there is no Wi-Fi access, such as outside of hotel rooms, during transportation, and when participating in cultural tour, etc.

Q16. Can I purchase pocket Wi-Fi or International SIM after arriving in Japan?

A16. They may be available at the airport. Please check the details on your own and apply in advance if necessary.

Registration fee

Q17. What is the registration fee?

A17. Registration fee is a contribution from participants to cover part of the program costs. The registration fee is a flat rate of 23,000yen (approximately 150USD) per person. This includes accommodation, meals, transportation, and activities during the program. Anything other than those, for example, airfare to Japan and return, transportation fees from the airport to Kyoto and return, souvenirs and personal items, should be covered by the participants.

Q18. Who pays the registration fee?

A18. All participants are requested to pay the registration fee in cash at the reception upon arrival. Even if the registration fee is covered by the home institution of the participants, they should pay in cash and get it reimbursed. Additionally, a deposit of 1,000 yen for the room key will be collected. This 1,000 yen will be refunded upon returning the room key at checkout on the 22nd. Please exchange currency before departure or upon arrival at the airport to prepare Japanese yen.

Q19. Can I get a receipt for the registration fee?

A19. Yes, you will receive a receipt for the registration fee when you pay. If you need a proof of payment to get reimbursement from your institution or some party,

you can submit the receipt.

Illness and Injury

Q20. Do we need to purchase overseas travel insurance? If so, what kind of insurance should I purchase?

A20. Please be sure to purchase overseas travel insurance. Without adequate insurance, you will have to pay a large amount of medical expenses in cash if you receive medical treatment for illness or injury while participating in the camp. If you are not sure about what kind of insurance you should purchase, please consult with your home institution and refer to the insurance that students going on exchange programs typically enroll in.

Q21. Should I bring my medicines?

A21. Yes! ACUCA secretariat cannot provide medical treatment, for example, its staff cannot share their personal medications, such as headache medicine, with participants. While you can purchase medicines in Japan, we strongly recommend that you bring your own medicine that you are familiar with.

Others

Q22. Can I visit my friends during the camp? (Do we have any free time?)

A22. There will be no time to visit your friends since various programs are scheduled every day from after breakfast until around 9 PM during the camp.

Q23. Could you provide more travel information, such as what to bring and the climate in Kyoto during that time?

A23.

You can refer to the guide which we will send you later (in May).