

Study abroad program SJMC Japan adds third city to their 2025 trip

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SAN MARCOS- The School of Journalism and Mass Communications (SJMC) at Texas State University, announced the addition of a visit to Hiroshima to their Japan study abroad program this summer.

This two-week program takes students through Tokyo and Kyoto, and SJMC professor Gilbert D. Martinez recently sought to expand the trip. SJMC Japan professors Jon Zmiky and Martinez, will begin the fourth trip to Japan on June 2, 2025. During their stay, students will complete two classes, Mobile Storytelling in the Outdoors, along with Feature Writing.

“They can certainly do these [classes] also at Old Main, they can do these things on campus, but the extra cost is related to, we get to do all that, but we get to do it in Japan,” Martinez said. “It really becomes a life altering, life changing experience for many students.”

In a press release sent out by the program, Martinez stated during this trip, students will gain a better understanding of the history of Japan, especially as they commemorate the 80th anniversary of an atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima during World War II.

“[Students will get the] opportunity to visit Hiroshima, to see that it has a lot more to offer than just being the site of the dropping of the bomb... [and to] contemplate the significant piece of world history,” Martinez said. “Theres a lot that Hiroshima offers but the main reason we are going there is mark and recognize the anniversary.”

Martinez said students will create daily blog posts, write a feature essay of their choice and end the course with a personal travel essay for the students to discuss how the trip impacted their future career goals. Students will also create social media content during the program they will post on SJMC Japan’s Instagram page and website

[Students write] how they can envision themselves, not just doing something in Texas or maybe across the country, but maybe even around the world,” Martinez said. “Thats what study abroad programs can do, it really opens up the world for students.”

The program costs approximately \$6,000, not including airfare and is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Applications for this summer have closed, but applications for SJMC Japan next summer open Oct. 16 of 2025 and will close Jan. 24, 2026.

For more information visit www.SJMCJapan.