

多治見市陶磁器意匠研究所
Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center

2024

Application Guidelines



Work by Kagamihara Airi

ishoken

About us

Ishoken(Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center) was established in October 1959, after transferring operations from the Minoyaki Overglaze and Enamel Decoration Research Center. Since the first graduates from March 1960, Ishoken has taught over 1000 graduates who have been active in the forefront of the ceramic Industry as designers, and ceramists.

Tajimi City together with neighboring Toki, Mizunami and Kani City form the largest ceramic producing area in Japan. These three districts together are called Mino. The ceramic-wares made in this area are called “Minoyaki” or Mino ware. Minoyaki has a long history dating back to the 7th century when “Sue Ware” was first made and this culture has continued to this day for over 1300 years. Minoyaki now includes a wide range of ceramics from tableware, tiles, to Shino and Oribe tea bowls for tea ceremonies.

Furthermore, Tajimi City established the International Ceramics Festival Mino Japan, in 1986. The festival consists of an international competition with more than 2000 applicants and exhibitions with many works submitted from all around Japan and the world. Since 1986 the festival has been held every three years, the up coming festival will be held in 2024 with the aim to “Contribute to the development of the ceramics industry and the enhancement of ceramic culture through international exchange.” Throughout the years, 25 of our graduates from Ishoken have won various prestigious prizes including the grand prize.

Tajimi City aims to promote “Minoyaki” overseas to attract aspiring ceramists from all over the world. Ishoken has accepted students from over 40 countries in the past and is looking forward to accepting more in the future.



Curriculum

We offer a wide range of technical guidance

Ishoken is located in Tajimi, in the heart of the Mino area in Gifu, Japan, where “Minoyaki” is made. The Mino area is rich in ceramic culture and history, where a wide range of ceramic techniques and styles are used, from small traditional wheel-throwing artisans, to hand coiling contemporary ceramic artists, and to slip casting industrial operations. It is also famous for its abundance of raw materials and use of both clay and porcelain. Due to the wide range of techniques, styles, and raw materials available, at Ishoken we can offer a variety of technical guidance and knowledge from our staff and local professionals.

Fostering Creativity

People may have an impression of ceramics being a traditional craft that is passed down through the generations. However, at Ishoken we not only teach traditional skills and knowledge, but also encourage students to consider ceramics from a contemporary perspective. The underlying ethos in all our courses is to take into account the inherent features of ceramics and explore the potential of the material in our world today. We believe that by exploring these potentials students will be able to create original works that express the inherent beauty of the material.

Course Outline

Course Description

Ceramics Lab is a one-year course open to International Students and Japanese speakers.

The course is intended for applicants who have already acquired basic knowledge and skills in ceramics and are looking to expand their expertise. Students will be required to create a body of work based on their own research topic that has been approved by the faculty. The course intends to create an international environment to nurture the next generation of ceramicists.

Training day : [AM] 9:00 -12:00 / [PM] 13:00 - 16:00 Monday - Friday

*Training days Excluding national holidays, etc

Project 1 : Mid-year Development Work (training period: April to September in 2024)

Project 2 : Graduation Work (training period: October 2024 to February 2025)

*Students will exhibit their works

Application Requirements

1. Training period / 1 year [April 2024 – March 2025]

*1 year extension is possible with approval from faculty and city office.

2. Admission quota / Around 3 persons

3. Entrance qualification

(1)Age: from 20 to 40 *Applicants who are born between 2 April 1983 and 1 April 2004.

(2)Basic understanding of ceramics or some equivalent qualifications

(3)Must show interest and dedication to participate in the ceramics industry in the future.

(4) Must be well-conducted and eager to study.

(5) Foreign nationality, and have been living in Japan for less than 7 years.

*Communication skills in English or Japanese.

Training fees

• Training fee / 220,000 yen (per year)

• Admission fee / 62,500 yen

• Material fee / about 30,000 yen

Total 312,500 yen

* Training fee and admission fee once paid cannot be returned.

* Training fee and admission fee should be paid after the entrance ceremony.

* Material fee includes expenses such as tools, textbooks, etc.

Equipments

Facilities for Students

[Kilns] Gas kiln (1.0m³, 0.4m³) / Electric kiln (30 kw, 20 kw, 15kw, 10 kw, 4kw) / Electric kiln for overglaze painting / (5 kw)

[Facilities related to Firing] Wheels (35) / Vacuum pug mill (2) / Casting slip mixer (2)

[Facilities related to Plaster Molding] Plaster wheel (10) / Vacuum plaster mixer

[Facilities related to Glazing] Glaze spray booth / Compressor

[Facilities related to Raw Materials Preparation] Pot mill

[Computing Facilities] Computer for Design (6) / 3D printer / 3D scanner



Submit Your Application

Timeline

Applications start – 1 September 2023 (Japan Time 8:30)

Deadline for Applications – 13 October 2023 (Japan Time 17:00)

Announcement of Results – 24 November 2023

Application Documents must be submitted by Email (PDF file)

All documents must be written in English or Japanese.

Deadline/13 October 2023 (Japan Time 17:00)

Application Documents

1. Application for Form to Ishoken (This form is attached to the end of this file)
2. Certificate of Graduation or Statement of Expected Graduation (Final Education)
3. Academic transcript (Final Education)
4. Medical certificate (Issued after April 2023)
 - (1) Eyesight test (naked eye, corrected eyesight)
 - (2) Hearing test
 - (3) The past medical history of an applicant
Please list the disease that has been treated in the past, a disease treated now, a disease following up
(a) Age (b) Disease name (c) Heal or Undergoing treatment or Under follow-up
 - (4) Overall assessment
Please fill in the diagnosis of the doctor
 - (5) Date of diagnosis, Medical institution name, Medical institution address, Doctor's name
5. Recommendation letter
(By applicant's research supervisor from their university or teacher of ceramic art/designer.
*Descriptions of the recommender's career should be included.)
6. Curriculum vitae (no larger than A4)
7. Copy of your passport (Including "ID" page and pages with "all records of immigration".)
8. Documentary examination documents
 - (1) Short Essay
 - Theme 1 - What do you consider important when you are working with ceramics?
(On one A4 paper, within 500 words)
 - Theme 2 - Your Research themes in Ishoken? (On one A4 paper, within 500 words)
 - (2) List of works
 - (3) Photos of Work (5 pieces, 3 angles) On one A4 Paper (This form is attached to the end of this file)
*Please reference the numbers corresponding to the file in (2).

Procedure After Acceptance to Ishoken

Once you receive an acceptance notification via post or email, we can start preparing for your VISA to enter Japan.

What Visa do I need?

We will start the application process for a Cultural Activities Visa.

According to the Japanese School Education Law, "Ishoken" is not a school. Therefore, during your stay in Japan applicants will need a Cultural Activities Visa.

With a Cultural Activities Visa it is prohibited to work in Japan. Please prepare at least one years living and training costs.

A minimum of 1,550,000yen.

What do I need to prepare for a Cultural Activities Visa?

You will need to fill out a form (we will email you) in order to receive a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Ishoken will apply for a COE on your behalf with the documents and forms provided.

Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is a document necessary to receive your Cultural Activities Visa from a Japanese Embassy or Consulate in your country.

Details of this process will be explained via email. We will help you with procedures concerning living in Japan.

All correspondence concerning admissions to "Ishoken"

should be addressed to : **ishoken**

Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center

Postal Address: 2-77, Misaka-cho, Tajimi-shi, Gifu, 507-0803 Japan

Email: ishoken-jinzai@city.tajimi.lg.jp

https://www.city.tajimi.lg.jp/ishoken/02_apply/lab_i.html

