

General Information on the 2009 Invitation Programme for Japanese-Learning Students at Australian Universities

1. General Outline

(1) Outline of the 2009 Invitation Programme for Japanese-Learning Students at Australian Universities.

The Invitation Programme for Japanese-Learning Students at Australian Universities is a new invitation programme, through which Japanese-learning students at Australian Universities, who will assume greater responsibilities in the coming years and are strongly interested in strengthening economic relations with Japan, would visit and experience Japan; its society, culture, and people. The aim of this unique programme is to deepen Australian youth's understanding of Japan through visits to major Japanese industries, lectures on Japanese society and interaction with Japanese people. There will be many opportunities to use Japanese throughout the programme.

At the request of Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso at the 5th Japan-Australia Conference in Tokyo in November 2008, it was decided to jointly review a role that language learning can play in promoting people to people exchange and to consider measures for strengthening the linkage between advanced levels of Japanese language learning and business. This programme is designed and will be implemented in order to advance and enhance the relationship between Japan and Australia, and thus promote mutual understanding. This programme also aims to play a leading role in exploring new frontiers in economic ties.

(2) Under the auspices of the JENESYS Programme

At the Second East Asia Summit (EAS) held in January 2007, the then prime minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, announced a plan to implement a 35-billion-yen youth exchange programme, inviting about 6,000 young people to Japan mainly from the EAS member states (ASEAN, Australia, China, India, New Zealand, the

ROK) every year for the next five years, with a view to establishing and/or reinforcing a basis for Asia's stalwart solidarity by expanding youth exchange. Based on this plan, the Government of Japan launched the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme in 2007. The 2009 Invitation Programme for Japanese- Learning Students at Australian Universities is formulated to be an integral part of the JENESYS Programme.

(3) JICE

JICE (Japan International Cooperation Center) is an authorized public organisation established in 1977 under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Since its inception, JICE has been closely working with Japanese aid agencies and government ministries as well as foreign governments and United Nations organisations such as UNESCO and UNDP to support the implementation of international cooperation programmes.

JICE is an official agent of this JENESYS Programme, which has undertaken all the necessary arrangements for the 2009 Invitation Programme for Japanese-Learning Students at Australian Universities, such as pre-departure orientation, travel procedures and the whole schedule of events in Japan under the guidance of the Government of Japan.

2. Tentative Programme Schedule

Date	Day	Schedule	Stay
30 th -Nov	Mon	Arrival at Sydney Pre-departure orientation	Sydney
1 st -Dec	Tue	(AM) Departure from Sydney (PM) Arrival at Tokyo	Tokyo
2 nd -Dec 4 th -Dec	Wed Fri	- Visits to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Australian Embassy - Lectures on Japanese society, politics, economy, etc - Japanese culture experiences and language lessons - Company visits	Tokyo
5 th -Dec	Sat	Tokyo Observation accompanied by Japanese volunteers	Tokyo
6 th -Dec	Sun	(AM) Move to Beppu (PM) APU orientation	Beppu
7 th -Dec 9 th -Dec	Mon Wed	- Lectures - Facility visits - Interactions with Japanese students - Presentation	Beppu
10 th -Dec	Thu	(PM) Move back to Tokyo	Tokyo
11 th -Dec	Fri	- Lecture - Group discussion and individual research	Tokyo
12 th -Dec	Sat	(PM) Departure from Tokyo	On board
13 th -Dec	Sun	(AM) Arrival at Sydney	

*(*The above schedule is subject to change.*

*JICE's unique expert staff called "programme coordinators" will carry out a wide range of tasks and duties throughout the programme including supervision, coordination and interpretation. They will accompany to all the event of the schedule and will provide support in terms of their living arrangements and health.

* The local programme in Beppu, shaded in the itinerary, is arranged and implemented in cooperation with Ritsumeikan APU (Asia Pacific University). APU is the first Japanese university to devote all of its resources toward the pursuit of international education. Their bilingual curriculum structure and highly multicultural campus make it a unique institution, not only within Japan, but also worldwide. With approximately fifty percent of resident students and faculty hailing from countries outside Japan, students at APU receive not only a top-notch education, but also an opportunity to study in an environment that fosters an unbiased worldview and encourages critical thinking that integrates a wide range of perspectives.

3. Application Process

(1) Application Eligibility

Applicants must meet all the following requirements and must be willing to pursue a career that foster Japan – Australian relations in the future.

(a) Applicants should be a student or recent graduate (within a year) from an Australian University (undergraduate school or post-graduate school) at the time of the application.

*Employed applicants should submit a letter of permission for participation from their employer.

(b) Applicants should be currently taking a Japanese course or has obtained a certificate in Japanese language from an Australian university, with fairly good Japanese proficiency.

(c) Applicants should be an Australian citizen, in principle, under the age of 35. Those with Japanese citizenship are excluded.

(d) In addition, restrictions may be imposed to the applicants with a criminal record as well as a health problem.

Up to 48 participants will be selected and notified by 23rd October, 2009.

(2) Documents to be submitted

Applicants must submit the following documents as digital data attachments via e-mail addressed to the Embassy of Japan by 2nd October, 2009.

For those applicants without the means to convert documents (b)-(e), make sure to post them in advance to meet the deadline.

E-mail address: cultural@japan.org.au

Postal Address: Cultural Section

Embassy of Japan

112 Empire Circuit, Yarralumla, Canberra A.C.T. 2600, Australia

(a) Application form with passport-size photo

Fill in the blanks with the necessary information and answers.

(b) Copy of Passport

Attach a copy of your passport in PDF, JPEG, or BMP format. If you don't have a passport, you can substitute it with another form of photo ID (e.g. a driver's license). Once accepted to this programme, you will be requested to obtain your passport immediately.

- (c) Copy of student card or proof of graduation from the applicant's highest level of schooling

Attach a copy of your student card or proof as a student or graduate in PDF, JPEG, or BMP format.

- (d) Copy of proof of Japanese - learning

Attach a copy of proof that you are learning or have learnt Japanese at an Australian University, such as a grade report from your university. In addition, you may also submit a certificate of Japanese proficiency exams (JLPT or BJT) in PDF, JPEG, or BMP format.

- (e) Letter of Permission (If the applicant is employed)

Print out a letter of permission and obtain your employer's handwritten signature. Send it in PDF, JPEG, or BMP format.

4. Travel matters

The Japanese Government will make the necessary arrangements and bear the total cost for the programme. Any other arrangement shall be made by participants at their own expense.

(1) Arrangements and expenses to be covered by the programme.

- ✓ Return international air tickets (Sydney-Tokyo, Economy class)
** Excess baggage charge will be paid at one's own expense.*
- ✓ Overseas travel accident insurance
**Please note that pregnancy-related diseases, chronic diseases and previous diseases diagnosed by a Japanese medical doctor and cases disapproved by the insurance company will NOT be covered by insurance. Individuals will be liable for such costs*
- ✓ Domestic transportation from/to Sydney
**If you reside in a location other than Sydney, two way domestic flight tickets (between your nearest domestic airport and Sydney) will be made at your request.*
- ✓ Accommodation in Japan
- ✓ Transportation in Japan
- ✓ Meals in Japan
- ✓ Accommodation for the day before the departure.
**Other personal expenses will be paid at one's own expense.*

(2) Notes and Regulations during the Programme

【Influenza A (H1N1, or so called Swine Flue)】

Due to the outbreak of Influenza A in Japan, application from those suffering underlying diseases (*) or pregnancy is not accepted because they are likely to

develop serious illness with the novel influenza.

However, if such applicants except latter case strongly wish to apply nevertheless, they could do so by submitting "Letter of Consent (attached form)" with a full understanding of its risk. (Those who are pregnant are not accepted regardless of the reason.)

(*) Chronic lung disease (Asthma, Chronic obstructive lung disease etc.), Immunodeficiency state (T cell immunodeficiency etc.), Chronic heart disease (congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease etc.), Metabolic disease (Diabetes), Renal dysfunction, Obesity, Myasthenia gravis etc.

Other important notes are as follows.

- ✓ According to the past cases, when a person with chronic disease is infected with the new influenza virus, the risk of the symptom becoming worse is high, compared with other infected patients without chronic diseases.
- ✓ When a participant with the chronic disease receives medical treatment or medication due to symptoms caused by the chronic disease, medical expenses will not be covered by the overseas travel accident insurance provided by JICE. Therefore, the participant will have to pay all the medical expenses by him/herself in such case.
- ✓ The participant must understand the above conditions and agree to bear all the medical expenses and be responsible for all risks after arriving in Japan.

【Others】

- ✓ Any change of the designated schedule is not accepted.
- ✓ Smoking and drinking alcohol are prohibited during the programme.
(Please be informed that smoking and drinking under 20 years old are prohibited by Japanese law)
- ✓ Strict punctuality is required.

5. Pre-departure Orientation

Participants will attend the pre-departure orientation that will be held in Sydney on 30th November, 2009. Further information about the pre-departure orientation will be sent to participants at a later date.

6. Obligations

(1) Obligation for participants

Participants should understand thoroughly the significance of this programme, which is to facilitate Japanese-learning students' understanding of Japan. Participants are requested to submit the post-programme evaluation sheet

reporting about their experiences gained in this programme and to cooperate in any further follow-up programmes in the future.

(2) General notes in Japan

During the stay in Japan, participants should respect the laws and regulations of Japan, and offenders are subject to penalties under Japanese laws and regulations.

7. Inquiries

Contact the Embassy of Japan for any inquiries.

Embassy of Japan in Australia

112 Empire Circuit, Yarralumla,

Canberra A.C.T. 2600, Australia

Tel: (02) 6273-3244

Fax: (02) 6273-1848

E mail: cultural@japan.org.au

<http://www.au.emb-japan.go.jp/>