



Japan's Friendship Ties Program "MIRAI" Application Guidelines (Online Program)

1. Overview

Japan's Friendship Ties Program "MIRAI" (**M**utual understanding, **I**ntellectual **R**elations and **A**cademic Exchange **I**nitiative) invites groups of promising young leaders from Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus who study **D**iplomacy, **S**ecurity **P**olicies, **E**conomics, **S**cience and **T**echnology, **A**rts and **C**ulture, **I**nternational **R**elations, **E**nvironmental **S**ciences, **S**DGs related studies, **A**Asian **S**tudies, **J**apan **S**tudies or other related fields, and also who are expected to play an active role in international society and provides opportunities to have intellectual exchanges with Japanese students of the same generations and scholars. This program is entitled as the "MIRAI" with the Japanese word MIRAI (pronounce like / "me-rye") which means "Future".

2. Objectives

The program aims to deepen participants' understanding of Japan and its policy, to promote mutual understandings, and thus build a basis for future friendship and cooperation between Japan and their regions. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) hopes that the program would offer a great opportunity to

- (1) Promote a deeper understanding of Japan's economy, society, history, diverse cultures, politics, and diplomatic relations among participants,
- (2) Foster supporters and experts of Japan,
- (3) Strengthen public relations through proactive dissemination of Japan's diplomatic policy and attractive points by participants,
- (4) Strengthen relations between Japan and the participants' regions, and build a basis for future friendship and cooperation

3. Program Overview

Themes: MIRAI (Group 7) Discovering Regions and Cultures *

- (1) Duration: TBD; The program will be conducted on approximately 10 consecutive days or on designated dates between October 1st and October 20th, 2023, from 7:00 am to 11:00 am (UTC) / from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm (JST)
- (2) Number of Participants: 63

*Group 7 "Discovering Regions and Cultures" will be conducted entirely online (Zoom meetings) without traveling to Japan.

*If you will apply for the MIRAI Visiting Japan Program (Group 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6), please refer to the "Application Guidelines for the MIRAI Visiting Japan Program".

*Applicants may only apply for either MIRAI online program or the MIRAI Visiting Japan Program (in-person).

- (3) Contents:
 - a) Online Orientation (The program is scheduled in September/October)
All participants are required to attend an online orientation.



- Orientation including guidance on how to share their learning and finding about Japan by utilizing social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.
- Lecture on the theme-related contents

b) Program

The program may contain the following.

- Online Lectures on the theme-related contents and discussions with Japanese students.
- Virtual site visits to educational and research institutions, related to the program theme or specific area, cutting-edge technology, traditional industries, exhibitions, cultural heritage, local governments, etc. Exchange events such as workshops and exchanges of opinions with persons related to the above virtual site visits.
- Workshop and reporting session (presentation of “action plans”, i.e., activity plan after the program)
- Dissemination of information on what participants learned in the program and the attractions of Japan, during/after the program through reporting sessions and Social Networking Services (online).

(4) Language used during the program: English

(5) Due to unforeseen events, the program may be suspended, or the implementation period/format may be changed.

4. Qualifications for Participants

Applicants should meet the entire criteria as follows.

- (1) The applicant must understand the aims of “MIRAI” and are expected to disseminate information on Japan’s attractions through various communication tools including social media and/or their publications after the online pre-exchange program, during their stay in Japan and after returning to home countries. Publication results should be shared with Japan’s Foreign Missions.
- (2) The applicant must have a nationality of one of the following countries and do not have a Japanese nationality.

[EU] Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
[West Balkans] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia,
[Others] Andorra, Belarus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom
[Central Asia] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
[Caucasus] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

- (3) The applicant must attend a university/organization located in the following countries. The location is not necessarily the same as the applicants’ nationality.

Group	Theme	Target Countries	Target Group
7	Discovering Regions and Cultures (Online)	[EU] Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta,	Graduate and undergraduate students



		<p>Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden [West Balkans] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, [Others] Andorra, Belarus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom [Central Asia] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan [Caucasus] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia</p> <p>[European Capitals of Culture 2022/2023] Hungary, Austria, Norway, Lithuania, Estonia, Luxembourg</p>	
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- (4) Those who have an experience of residing in Japan for more than 6 months are not eligible.
- (5) Those who have participated in “MIRAI” Visiting Japan Program and/or similar programs funded by the Japanese government are not eligible.
* Those who were selected for MIRAI 2020 & 2021 and were unable to participate in the inbound program (in-person program) and who meet the application requirements for this Fiscal Year 2023 are eligible to reapply.
- (6) The applicant must be 20 years old or older.
- (7) The applicant must have a satisfactory command of English to discuss relevant topics with fellow participants.
- (8) The applicant must have good academic achievement such as top 20%.
- (9) The applicant must be able to effectively share the charms of Japan based on the experiences in Japan from the pre-exchange program, during the stay in Japan and after returning home. Methods of dissemination include the use of various social media, contributions to public relations publications and presentations at one’s institutions.
- (10) The applicant with ties to Japan-related fields will be preferred in the selection process.

5. Mandatory Assignments for All Participants

Each participant must implement all the requirements from (1) to (3).

(1) **Presentation and implementation of your action plan**

Participants are required to make action plans about what they learned in this program and how they might stay connected to Japan after returning to their home country and report their implementation to JICE. Participants will wrap up their findings in Japan and each group will present action plans in the reporting session. The contents of the presentation will be collected from consultation with all participants during the workshop.

Each member will implement the action plan within 3 months after returning to their country, and send an After-Action Report (AAR) on their implementation to JICE through an online submission link. If it is difficult to implement the action plan in 3 months, (e.g. Writing graduate/research thesis including this program experience, work/study in Japan, and in other comparatively medium- or long-term situations), please report the reason and expected implementation schedule to the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), an implementing agency of the MIRAI Program within 3 months.



(2) **Share Experiences through social media**

Each participant will actively share their one's experience during both the online pre-exchange program and the stay in Japan as well as convey information about Japan including one regarding Japanese society, history, culture, politics, economics, and diplomatic relations through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and so on, during both the program and within 3 months after the program.

(3) **Responding to questionnaires**

Participants will submit answers to online questionnaires (after the online pre-exchange program, during the program in Japan, and after 3 months) to JICE on time. The survey link will be sent to their email address.

* MIRAI is one of the people-to people exchange programs promoted and 100% backed by the Japanese government. Please contribute to the program with your inputs through your action plans and reporting so we can assure the effectiveness of the program into the future.

6. Requirements for Application and Deadline for Application

[Application Form]

The applicants must fill out the entry form with their correct information in English and upload the following documents from (1) to (4) at

<https://jice.form.kintoneapp.com/public/mirai-o-2023>

(1) **Valid passport copy**

The applicant must upload a copy of the photo page of their passport (color or black and white). The copy should be clear, complete and large enough to find everything on the page legible.

(2) **“Letter of Understanding” for Online Visiting Japan Program (Please see the Annex 1)**

The applicant must read carefully the conditions described in the “Letter of Understanding” before applying for the program. The applicant must sign it and upload the documents.

(3) **“Handling of Personal Information and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy Policy” (Please see the Annex 2)**

The applicant must read “Handling of Personal Information and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy Policy” before applying for the program. The applicant must sign it and upload the documents.

Personal information obtained in “MIRAI” shall be treated in compliance with the Personal Information Protection Law and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). JICE ensures the appropriate handling of personal information. JICE may provide personal information to travel agencies, publishers, cooperative organizations, schools, host families, and so on in order to operate and report the program by means of post, fax or email. Personal information will not be used for any purposes other than operating and reporting on the program.

(4) **“Academic Transcript” or “Certificate of Enrolment”**

The applicant must upload either “Academic transcript” or “Certificate of enrolment” from their university/graduate school. Young professionals are not required to submit above-mentioned document.

(5) **A Headshot**

The applicant must upload a photo taken within three months.



Deadline for Application

Application deadline is **August 30, 2023, at 24:00 (Universal Time Coordinated) / Aug 31st, 2023, at 9 am (Japan Standard Time)** .

*Please note that duplicate applications will be invalid.

7. Terms and Conditions

(1) Photos/videos taken during the program

The participant agrees to grant permission to JICE and organizations participating in the program to use their voice and likeness in any writings, photographs, films, and recordings collected during the program. The participant authorizes the publication of, for all purposes, their name, pictures in film or electronic (video) form, sound and video recordings of their voice, and printed and electronic copy of the above in any and all media including, without limitation, cable and broadcast television, the internet, and the brochures and other print media for promotion, advertising, meetings, or educational conferences. This permission extends to all languages, media, or formats now or hereafter devised and shall continue forever unless the participant revokes the permission in writing to JICE.

(2) Attribution of responsibility during the program

The participant agrees to release JICE (including its employees and agents) of and from any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, liabilities and expenses including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses (collectively, "Claims") arising from or relating to the participant's participation in the program, provided, however, that the release shall not apply to any claims related to or arising from JICE's gross negligence, bad faith or wilful misconduct. The participant agrees to indemnify JICE (including its employees and agents), and hold it harmless, from any and all claims arising from or relating to the participant's violation of Japanese laws or regulations or breach of the terms and conditions of this Application Guidelines.

(3) Post-Program Activities and Questionnaires

The participant is required to share their experiences and discoveries about Japan and its attractiveness as a destination for travel, study, or work with their family, relatives, friends, and peers at school or in their communities by delivering presentations, publishing their writings, or posting their photos and text on social or other media. The participant will be asked to complete a questionnaire and submit the report of their post-program activities to JICE via an online submission form link sent to their email address three months after the program. They will be also requested to stay connected with Japan and Japanese people through the online community sites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)* and JICE**.

Please follow the following Facebook pages,

*Facebook of Youth Exchange Program of MOFA:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086143020661>

** JICE Youth Exchange Program (MIRAI/ KAKEHASHI Project / JENESYS2023 / Juntos!!):

<https://www.jice.org/exchange/en/>



*** Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)**

JICE is the official agent for MIRAI, which has undertaken all the necessary arrangements for this program, such as travel procedures and the whole schedule of events in Japan under the guidance of the Japanese Government.

<https://www.jice.org/en/about/>

Annex

- 1 –Letter of Understanding for Online Visiting Japan Program
- 2 - Handling of Personal Information
- 3 – Overview of Japan's Friendship Ties Program “MIRAI ” [000371655.pdf \(mofa.go.jp\)](#)