



Japan's Friendship Ties Programs "MIRAI" Application Guidelines

1. Overview

Japan's Friendship Ties Programs 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 politics, security policies, economics, science and technology, arts and culture, international relations, Asian studies, Japan Studies 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".

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

- (1) To promote mutual-understandings
- (2) To enhance intellectual discussions
- (3) To build strong networks among future leaders of Japan and the world.

Mandatory Assignments for All Participants

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

- (1) Presentation and implementation of your action plan

At the reporting session, all participants will present their action plans after they return home based on what they learned in this program and how they might stay connected to Japan. The action plan will be presented by groups at the reporting session, and the contents will be collected from consultation with all participants during the workshop. After presentation of the action plan, each member will implement the plan within 3 months. 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) Messaging your experience

Each participant will actively share his/her 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 questionnaires (after the online pre-exchange program, during the program in Japan and after 3 months via the Internet) to JICE on time.



* 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.

2. Program

(1) Themes and duration of each group

Group #	Theme	Travel Period	# of Participants
1	Peacebuilding	May 10 – May 18, 2021	11
2	Politics and Security	May 11 – May 19, 2021	29
3	Economy and Business	May 18 – May 26, 2021	27
4	Science and Technology	May 25 – June 2, 2021	28
5	Arts and Culture	June 1 – June 9, 2021	5
6	Rule of Law	June 8 – June 16, 2021	26

(2) Contents: (Please see the Annex 3)

i. Online pre-exchange program (two days) (The first program is scheduled in April and the second program is scheduled about one month before the departure.)

All participants are required to attend an online pre-exchange program in their countries before they leave for Japan. The online pre-exchange program may cover the followings.

- Orientation including guidance on how to share their learning and finding about Japan by utilizing social media such as Facebook, Instagram, etc.,
- Lecture on the theme-related contents,
- Virtual exchange and discussion with Japanese students / experts

ii. Program in Japan

The program may contain the follows JICE will arrange the program in consideration for the theme of each group.

- Attending lectures on the theme-related contents and discussions with Japanese students at one of the most prestigious universities in Japan.
- Visiting educational sites and institutions, high-tech and traditional industries and cultural succession sites; and having discussions with experts.
- Visiting to local areas which offers a courtesy visit to the local government, guided tour of the local featured industry, traditional culture experience and exchange with local people.
- Workshop and reporting session

(3) Language used during the program: English

(4) JICE coordinators (Interpreter/Escorts)

JICE will arrange its own unique expert staff called as “the coordinators” throughout the program in Japan, from participants’ arrival to departure. JICE coordinators (interpreter/escorts) shall carry out a wide range of tasks and duties including interpretation and supervision. They have a good command of English, and will be good accompanies for the participants in terms of their learnings, living and health.

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



3. 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] Belarus, Iceland, Moldova, Norway, 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
1	Peace-building	[West Balkans] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	University students and graduate students
2	Politics and Security	[EU] Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain [Others] Belarus, Norway, Ukraine, United Kingdom	University students and graduate students
3	Economy and Business	[EU] Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden [Others] Iceland, Moldova, United Kingdom	University students and graduate students
4	Science and Technology	[EU] Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden [Others] Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom	University students and graduate students
5	Arts and Culture	[European Capital of Culture] Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Romania, Serbia	University students and graduate students
6	Rule of Law	[Central Asia] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan [Caucasus] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	University students, graduate students who preferably study legal field related to business and administrative cases, young professionals who are preferably engaged in large scale business on administrative cases, lawyers, legal administrative officers, or private company



			staff in charge of law.
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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” and/or similar programs funded by the Japanese government are not eligible.
- (6) The applicant must be in good health conditions.
 - i. The applicant is healthy physically and mentally.
 - ii. If the applicant’s body temperature is 37.5°C (99.5°F) or higher on the day of departure, he/she cannot depart for Japan and is not eligible to participate the program in Japan.
 - iii. The Applicant should be physically capable of keeping up with a busy program schedule requiring extensive walking each day.
- (7) The applicant must be 20 years old or older (for Group 6, between 20 and 30.).
- (8) The applicant must have a satisfactory command of English to discuss relevant topics with fellow participants.
- (9) The applicant must have good academic achievement such as top 20%.

4. Requirements for Application and Deadline for Application

The applicants must fill out the entry form with his/her correct information in English and upload the following documents from (1) to (4) at <https://form.----->

Application deadline is **February 14, 2021**. Please note that duplicate application will be invalid.

- (1) Valid passport copy
The applicant must upload a copy of the photo page of his/her passport (color or black and white). The copy should be clear, complete and large enough to find everything on the page legible. If the applicant does not have a passport that is valid during the period of the program, the applicant must immediately extend the validity period of the passport and submits its copy by no later than one month prior to the program date.
- (2) “Letter of Understanding” (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 Date Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy Policy” (Please see the Annex 2)
The applicant must read “Handling of Personal Information and the General Date 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 Date 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 his/her university/graduate school.
- (5) Photo
The applicant must upload a photo taken within three months.



5. Terms and Conditions

(1) The following arrangements and expenses are covered by the program

- 1) Round trip economy class international air tickets to/from Europe, to/from Japan.
JICE will arrange economy class tickets but upgrading to business class at the expense of the participant payment will be accepted. Excess baggage fees shall be paid by the participant. Travel between the participant's home and the designated airport and any excess baggage fees incurred during the program shall be paid by the participant. It is not allowed to change the designated flight even if the participant pays the cost. The designated airport may NOT be the nearest airport to each participant.
- 2) Accommodation in transit countries
- 3) Accommodation in Japan
- 4) Transportation in Japan
- 5) Meals in Japan
- 6) Admission fees for scheduled activities in Japan
- 7) Overseas travel accident insurance

Chronic diseases, dental diseases, pregnancy or those already ill or injured prior to the program are NOT covered. In such cases and in some other cases when the insurance company disapproves the payment request, the participant shall be responsible for medical expenses in Japan. Any loss or damage to personal belongings is NOT covered.

Insurance	Coverage	Amount (10,000 JPY)
Accident	Death Benefit	1,000
	Physical Impediment Benefit	1,000
	Medical Expense	1,000
Sickness	Medical Expense	1,000
Rescuer's Expense		300
Personal Liability		5,000

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.

* No cash allowance is provided to participants.

* Participants shall pay their personal expenses, including passport, transit visa acquisition, vaccination, excess baggage charge, travel between their home and the designated airport, accommodation and meals in their home country, transport and meals in transit countries, and purchase of souvenirs/personal goods before or during the program.

(2) Cancellation Policy

If a participant chooses to cancel the participation in the program due to any reason other than a medical or other unavoidable circumstances, the participant shall be fully responsible for any costs associated with this cancellation. The cancellation fees will be charged to the participant if his/her application has already been accepted and the flight and/or other bookings are completed.

In the event of cancellation due to a medical or other unavoidable circumstances, cancellation fees may be waived upon presentation of a relevant certificate or evidence requested by JICE.

(3) The following are NOT permitted.

- To come early to Japan before the program or remain in Japan after the program
- To take a flight other than designated one by the program
- To change accommodation (hotel or room assignment) designated by the program



- To skip any elements of the official program, including scheduled meals or visits, for personal or business reasons such as meetings with relatives, friends, business partners in Japan, etc.
- To be accompanied by someone else
- To travel to a third country on the way to Japan or back to home

(4) Conditions in Japan

- All participants, including supervisors, must attend all scheduled programs and follow the rules/guidelines/directions given by JICE.
- Participants who are disruptive to the program may be dismissed and are responsible for leaving Japan at their own expense.
- Participants will stay in a single room at a hotel. When conducting a homestay, the participants may share a room at a host family's house.
- When requested, JICE will try to arrange the following* for religious reasons. However, JICE cannot guarantee their availability in all locations.

*time and place for prayers

*meals suitable for food restriction for religious reasons

(5) Photos/videos taken during the program

The participant agrees to grant permission to JICE and organizations participating in the program to use his/her voice and likeness in any writings, photographs, films, and recordings collected during the program. The participant authorizes the publication of, for all purposes, his/her name, pictures in film or electronic (video) form, sound and video recordings of his/her 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.

(6) Japanese laws and regulations

The participant must observe the laws and regulations of Japan. Offenders are subject to penalties under Japanese law. Any dispute arising out of the application for, or participation in, or anything relating to, the program between a participant and the Japanese government or JICE should be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Japan, without regard to the principles of conflict of laws, and should be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the applicable courts in Japan.

(7) 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.

(8) 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 his/her family, relatives, friends and peers at school or in their communities by delivering presentations, publishing his/her writings, or posting their photos and text on social or other media. The participant will be asked to complete a questionnaire sent to his/her email address three months after the program. The participant is requested to report their post-program activities and stay connected with Japan and Japanese people through the online community sites of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)* and JICE**.

* Facebook of Youth Exchange Program of MOFA: <https://www.facebook.com/youthexchange.mofa>

** JICE Youth Exchange Program: <https://www.jice.org/exchange/en/>

7. Important Notice for the Prevention of the Novel Coronavirus Disease

In response to the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), JICE has been taking the following effective measures to prevent infection and protect the health and safety of participants and JICE staff members.

- (1) Please wear face masks (provided by JICE) and cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or a sleeve of your clothing if you have to cough or sneeze
- (2) If you have symptoms of fever (about 37.5°C), fatigue or cold during the program, please avoid going out and consult with JICE staff immediately
- (3) Please avoid the “Three Cs”
 - i. Closed spaces with poor ventilation
 - ii. Crowded places with many people nearby
 - iii. Close-contact settings such as close-range conversations
- (4) Please keep physical distance
- (5) Please wash your hands frequently with hand sanitizer (available at JICE) and gargle
- (6) Please drink a bottle of water (500 ml per day) provided by JICE
- (7) Please check your health condition and measure body temperature before breakfast, in the daytime and evening
- (8) Please eat well and sleep well

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

JICE is official agent, 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
- 2 - Handling of Personal Information
- 3 - Overview and Model Itinerary