

The Western Australian Japanese Studies Scholarship

The Western Australian/Hyogo Prefecture Japanese Studies Scholarship

Study in Japan in 2009

The Department of Education Services administers two Western Australian Government scholarships: The Western Australian Japanese Studies Scholarship; and The Western Australian/Hyogo Prefecture Japanese Studies Scholarship. These most prestigious and well-funded scholarships are awarded annually and the winners are expected to study in Japan in the following academic year which commences in April. The scholarships have been sponsored by the Western Australian Government for over thirty years.

The scholarships aim to provide promising students or graduates, who have a knowledge of the Japanese language, with the opportunity to study at a university in Japan. The scholarships may be used to progress relevant undergraduate or postgraduate studies including appropriate research that forms part of a postgraduate degree in which the student is or will be formally enrolled at one of the Western Australian public universities.

Though academic achievement is regarded very highly, the scholarships are not awarded on academic merit alone, nor are the financial circumstances of the candidates taken into consideration. Following an initial Japanese language proficiency test, short listed applicants will be asked to discuss their proposed study program in Japan with a selection committee. The committee will expect the candidates to have a well developed study plan and provide an indication of how they expect their experience in Japan will benefit the Western Australian community on their return.

At the end of the period of study in Japan it is expected that the scholarship recipients will have achieved the following objectives:

- developed considerable fluency in the Japanese language;
- built a broad knowledge of the specified field or discipline in the Japanese context; and
- established a range of academic or professional contacts in the specified field or discipline.

It is a goal of the Western Australian Government that scholarship recipients will help to strengthen professional ties between Japan and Western Australia.

To maximise your chances of securing a scholarship you are encouraged to apply for both scholarships and select an institution and study plan that will suit both scenarios.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. have Australian citizenship, or evidence that Australian Citizenship status will be approved prior to departure for Japan;
2. a) be a student of a higher education institution in Western Australia, or an institution of equivalent standing, and have completed at least two years of full-time study (or equivalent of part-time study) in an appropriate Japanese language course;
or
b) be a graduate from a university, having a reasonable command of the Japanese language and developed an interest in Japan through employment or further studies; and
3. be planning to attend a university or college of higher education in Japan in the 2009 academic year.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must be able to:

1. demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the Japanese language to enable them to effectively carry out a study program in Japan (this will be done in the oral language test to be held on Friday 8 August 2008);
2. in the case of a student applying for a scholarship to undertake postgraduate or research studies, demonstrate a high level of Japanese language proficiency equivalent to Level 1 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test;
3. demonstrate a high level of academic achievement in their current or completed program of study;
4. provide details of the course they wish to study or research project they wish to undertake as well as some knowledge of the university they plan to attend (including evidence that they have researched university and course offerings in Japan);
5. establish that the proposed study program can be completed in a twelve month period and guarantee that they will return to Western Australia on completion of the proposed study program;
6. satisfy the Scholarship Selection Committee that they are eligible for enrolment at the preferred university;
7. if applicable, satisfy the Scholarship Selection Committee that they have secured a guarantor for the duration of their study in Japan. (Students enrolling through exchange arrangements organised by their own university, may have the guarantor arranged by the university);
8. indicate how their experience gained in Japan could contribute to the Western Australian community on their return; and
9. satisfy the Scholarship Selection Committee that they will be a worthy ambassador for Western Australia.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

Scholarship winners will receive the following:

- a return economy airfare from Perth to Japan;
- a maintenance allowance of 226,600Yen per month; and
- an initial allowance of A\$3,000 for fees and other expenses.

REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Scholarship recipients will be required to:

- sign a formal agreement with the Department to undertake to complete their program within a twelve month period and to abide by the conditions of the scholarship;
- advise the Department of their current address at all times whilst living in Japan;
- forward academic results to the Department at the conclusion of each semester; and
- forward a report to the Department detailing their study program, academic achievements, cultural and social experiences during their stay and future career aspirations, on their return from Japan.

INFORMATION ON STUDY PROGRAMS

Applicants are required to show substantial evidence of having sought information on relevant courses of study in both the Japanese language area and a specific discipline area if appropriate. It is suggested that applicants make contact with the university in Japan as soon as possible as the admission process is quite lengthy. Applicants should be aware that some universities require students to have a guarantor before enrolment and that this is their own responsibility.

Information on courses available at Japanese universities can be obtained from:

Languages and Intercultural Education,
Curtin University
9266 7617
(http://www.humanities.curtin.edu.au/languages_and_intercultural_education.cfm)

Asian Studies,
Murdoch University
9360 2504
(www.ssh.murdoch.edu.au/asianstudies)

International, Cultural and Community Studies,
Edith Cowan University
9370 6628
(<http://www.sca.ecu.edu.au>)

Asian Studies
The University of Western Australia
6488 2080
(www.asianstudies.arts.uwa.edu.au)

Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre
9321 8536
(www.hyogo.com.au)

Consulate General of Japan, Perth
9480 1800
(www.perth.au.emb-japan.go.jp)

Applicants must indicate which scholarship they are applying for or whether they are applying for both. The Western Australian Japanese Studies Scholarship is valid throughout Japan while the Hyogo Prefecture Scholarship is valid only in that Prefecture.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The following items must be included with all applications:

1. a completed application form, including responses to the headings listed in the pro forma attached to the application form;
2. a transcript of academic record from all relevant higher education institutions in Western Australia, or institutions of equivalent standing, for completed and current courses; and
3. two written references, one of which refers specifically to competency in the Japanese language and the other a personal reference.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

The first part of the selection process consists of an oral interview conducted in Japanese. All applicants participate in this interview and are ranked according to their level of Japanese language proficiency. Applicants who demonstrate a level of Japanese language competency required to study at a university in Japan, are short listed and invited to participate in a more formal interview. This second interview is conducted in English and applicants are given the opportunity to expand on their written submission and to discuss their plans for a study period in Japan.

Applications are reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee and rated against the selection criteria as advertised. The recommendation of the Committee is forwarded to the Minister for Education and Training whose decision will be final.

APPLICATIONS FOR BOTH SCHOLARSHIPS CLOSE ON MONDAY 28 JULY 2008

Applicants should ensure they are available to attend a Japanese language proficiency test to be scheduled in late August 2008. A short list of candidates will be interviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee shortly thereafter.

Application forms and selection criteria can be viewed and downloaded at:
www.des.wa.gov.au/pages/higher_ed_scholarships.php

For further information please contact:

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