

Application Guidelines for U.S.-Based Participants For High School Summer Program in Japan

1. Program Overview

The *High School Summer Program in Japan* is a residential summer program designed to bring together high school students from the United States and Japan to learn, dialogue, and explore global issues collaboratively. The program will be held in the Hakodate area of Hokkaido, Japan. U.S.-based high school students will travel to Japan, while Japanese high school students will participate domestically. Through immersive language practice, cross-cultural dialogue, group projects, and fieldwork, participants will engage with diverse perspectives and develop meaningful connections that go beyond surface-level cultural exchange.

The program is organized and administered by:

- Hokuto Community Collage
- Hokuto City Tourism Association
- K&Y Education LLC

2. Program Dates

Saturday, July 25 – Friday, August 7, 2026 (14 days / 13 nights)

3. Program Objectives

The program aims to:

- Strengthen practical Japanese communication skills through daily use and collaboration
- Deepen understanding of social issues in Japan
- Foster critical thinking and problem-solving through discussion, presentation, and group work
- Build lasting friendships across national and cultural boundaries

4. Program Structure & Key Activities

Sat, 7/25	Sun, 7/26	Mon, 7/27	Tue, 7/28	Wed, 7/29	Thu, 7/30	Fri, 7/31
Departure to Japan	Arrive in Hokkaido, Japan	Japanese language practice & exchange Explore climate change in Japan	Japanese language practice & exchange Explore demographic challenges in Japan	Climate change lecture at Hokkaido University Agriculture & food production field work (climate & demographics)	Japanese language practice & exchange Explore DEI in Japan	Japanese language practice & exchange Visit teamLab (Art x Tech x Education)
Sat, 8/1	Sun, 8/2	Mon, 8/3	Tue, 8/4	Wed, 8/5	Thu, 8/6	Fri, 8/7
Japanese language practice & exchange Explore U.S.-Japan history (field work prep)	Day trip to Hakodate Historic Area (U.S.-Japan History) Regional dance & music exposure	Japanese language practice & exchange Group project work Anime night (field work prep)	Walk through real anime filming locations Group project work	Japanese language practice & exchange Group project work	Group presentation Explore Onuma Quasi National Park Campfire reflection	Return to the United States

**Subject to change*

Main learning experiences:

- Language exchange with Japanese high school students
- English-based group discussions and presentations on Japan's challenges
- Collaborative group projects to propose solutions in final presentations
- Fieldwork and site visits related to program themes
- Cultural exchange activities and shared living experiences

5. Information Sessions & Application Timeline

Online Information Sessions	All sessions cover the same content. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Saturday, February 28 4:00 - 5:00 PM (PT) ● Sunday, March 15 10:00 - 11:00 AM (PT) ● Saturday, April 4 10:00 - 11:00 AM (PT)
Application Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority consideration & preferred fee: Applications submitted by March 20 ● Rolling review & regular fee: Applications accepted March 21 – April 20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must submit the online application form by the deadline. • A confirmation email will be sent automatically upon successful submission.
<p>Selection Process</p>	<p>For applications submitted by March 20, 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications will be reviewed together after March 20. If the total number of applications exceeds the program capacity of 15 U.S.-based participants, a selection process will be conducted. In such cases, applicants will be notified of the selection method and timeline by March 22, 2026. <p>For applications submitted on or after March 21, 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications will be accepted only if the number of accepted applicants has not yet reached capacity. • These applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. • Once capacity is reached, the application portal may close without prior notice.
<p>Notification of Results</p>	<p>For applications submitted by March 20, 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the number of applications does not exceed the program capacity, acceptance letters will be sent by email by March 22, 2026. • If the number of applications exceeds the program capacity, applicants will be notified of their result by email after the selection process is completed. The timing of notification will be communicated separately. <p>For applications submitted on or after March 21, 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions will be communicated by email as each application is reviewed. <p>Accepted participants must confirm participation by the specified deadline. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the offer and</p>

	admission of waitlisted applicants.
Pre- and Post-Program Sessions	Online pre-program orientation sessions and a post-program online session are mandatory. Dates will be announced after finalizing participants.

6. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be enrolled in a high school in the United States at the time of the program
- Be able to participate in the entire program period (no late arrival or early departure permitted)
- Be in good physical and mental health
- Obtain consent from a parent or legal guardian and their school
- Agree to all required consent forms, including:
 - Program Participation Consent Form
 - Personal Information Handling Agreement
 - Cancellation Policy Agreement

7. Number of Participants

- 15 students from the United States
- 15 students from Japan

8. Program Fee

- Preferred fee: USD 3,000
- Regular fee: USD 3,500

The Program Fee Includes:

- Accommodation during the program period
- Meals (three meals per day: from dinner on July 26 through breakfast on August 7)
- Local transportation during the program

- Tuition and educational programming
- Program-related activities and excursions
- Travel and accident insurance arranged by the Organizer

The Program Fee Does Not Include:

- International airfare between the participant's home and the Hakodate area, Japan
- Passport and visa-related costs
- International roaming fees, travel SIM cards, eSIMs, or other mobile data services
- Personal expenses

Payment instructions will be provided to accepted participants. Full payment must be completed by April 30, 2026.

9. Cancellation Policy (U.S.-Based Participants)

Cancellation after acceptance is generally not permitted without penalty.

The following cancellation fees apply:

- On or before April 30, 2026: USD 500
- May 1 – May 31, 2026: USD 1,500
- June 1 – June 30, 2026: USD 2,500
- On or after July 1, 2026, or no-show: USD 3,500 (or 100% of the program fee)

Details are outlined in the official Cancellation Policy for Participants Residing in the United States, which applicants must review and agree to prior to applying.

10. Travel, Visa, and Entry Requirements

Participants are solely responsible for:

- Holding a valid passport
- Obtaining any required visa (U.S. citizens do not need visa to enter Japan)
- Complying with all Japanese immigration, customs, and entry regulations

The Organizer may provide supporting documents upon request but is not responsible for visa issuance or entry approval.

11. Contact Information

For questions regarding the program or application process, please use the contact form on the website or email at info@kyeducation.org.