

Application Guidelines for Overseas Participants in the FY2026 Uchinā Junior Study Program

1 Program Objective

Youths of Okinawan descent from around the world will learn about Okinawan history, culture, and nature while experiencing daily life alongside local Okinawan youths of the same age group. Through this shared experience, they will build strong bonds and deepen their understanding of their Okinawan roots. At the same time, local Okinawan students will broaden their international outlook, fostering the next generation that will shoulder the Uchinā Network.

2 Program Details

(1) Program Timeline

For the 1st and 2nd part of the program, overseas participants will not come to Okinawa, but will participate in the online programs.

Program dates (Japan [Okinawa] standard time, tentative schedule):

Part 1 Sunday, June 28, 2026 9:00 - 11:00

Part 2 Sunday, July 19, 2026 9:00 - 11:00

Part 3 Sunday, August 2 – Saturday, August 8, 2026 7 days

Note: The local time in each country corresponding to Japan Standard Time (9:00 to 11:00) is as follows.

(Example: The local time in each region at the time of the 1st part of the program)

1. New Caledonia	Sunday, June 28, 2026	11:00 - 13:00
2. Hawaii	Saturday, June 27, 2026	14:00 - 16:00
3. San Francisco	Saturday, June 27, 2026	17:00 - 19:00
4. New York	Saturday, June 27, 2026	20:00 - 22:00
5. Peru	Saturday, June 27, 2026	19:00 - 21:00
6. Campo Grande	Saturday, June 27, 2026	20:00 - 22:00
Bolivia		
7. Sao Paulo	Saturday, June 27, 2026	21:00 - 23:00
Buenos Aires		
8. France	Sunday, June 28, 2026	2:00 - 4:00

*Since it is difficult for those in European countries and regions to participate in the first and second part of the program, as the local time would fall at midnight, we are currently exploring program content that ensures equal opportunities for exchange with other participants and access to the same learning materials.

(2) Study Programs

① Nature Study

Learn about the importance of the natural environment of Okinawa, its flora, and fauna.

② History Study

Learn about historic Okinawan landmarks, history, and the Ryukyu Dynasty era.

③ Culture Study (Traditional Crafts and Performing Arts Activities)

Learn about crafts and performing arts born from Okinawa's history.

④ Peace Study

Learn about the history of the war in Okinawa and think about peace.

⑤ Social Study

Learn about the daily life and the current social situation in Okinawa.

⑥ Emigration Study

Learn about the history of emigration in Okinawa, the Worldwide Uchinānchu Festival, and World Uchinānchu Day while reaffirming Uchinānchu identities.

(3) Other

- ① Present the immigration history of your family, region or Kenjinkai where you live during the program.
- ② Participate in social media (SNS) and interact with other participants.
- ③ Answer questionnaires and submit study reports during the program and submit program feedback after the program.

3 Number of Participants

Overseas Participants	10 people	
Overseas Youth Leader	1 person	
Local Okinawan Participants	15 people	
Non-Okinawan Participants	2 people	
Local Youth Leader	1 person	29 people in total (tentative)

4 Application Requirements

(1) Participants

- ① Okinawan descendants
- ② Have not participated the Okinawa Prefecture-sponsored Uchinā Junior Study Tour and Uchinā Junior Study Program in the past.

*As a special exception, those who meet the requirements in ③ and participated the online program in FY2021 or FY2022 can also be available to apply and participate.

- ③ The following requirements must be met.

As of April 1, 2026, applicants must be currently enrolled in junior high school

or high school, and between the ages of 12 and 20.

***According to the airline's policy, participants aged 15 or younger might have to be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or to be dropped off or picked up at the airport (including at connecting airports).**

In such cases, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to respond appropriately. All costs associated with the accompaniment are to be borne by the parent or guardian.

(2) Qualifications

- ① The applicant must be in good health and able to cope with the training and group living.
- ② Recommended by the President of the Kenjinkai as someone who can shoulder the next generation of the Uchinā Network.
- ③ Make use of social media before and during the program and actively interact with participants from other countries.
- ④ The applicant who possesses a personal computer with a web cam or a smartphone at home and can secure a stable internet connection to participate in part of the program via video conferencing.

(3) Language Proficiency

Those with some level of Japanese proficiency in order to be able to facilitate active exchange with local Okinawan participants.

(4) Costs covered by Okinawa Prefecture

- ① Round trip ticket from the participant's nearest international airport to Okinawa Naha Airport (economy class)
- ② Accommodation, travel insurance, and admission fees for different facilities during the 3rd part of the program

***1 Meal expenses (approx. 20,000 yen per person) during the program are to be borne by the participant and will be collected in cash (Japanese Yen) during Part 3 of the program.**

***2 If the participant extends their stay in Japan after the 3rd part of the program, they will be responsible for the expenses of travel insurance incurred the period exceeding the program duration.**

***3 In relation to the above, the participant will be responsible for all expenses incurred during their stay outside of the program period.**

***4 When traveling between the participant's home country and Okinawa, in principle, stays outside Okinawa will be permitted only when necessary for transit. Personal sightseeing or travel at transit locations will not be allowed for safety reasons.**

5 Necessary Documents for Application

(1) Required Documents

- ① Recommendation Letter (Form 1)
- ② Overseas Participant Application Form (Form 2-1, 2-2)
- ③ Essay (Form 3, or within two sheets of A4 or letter size paper)

Topic: "Identity as an Uchinānchu and participation in Kenjinkai activities."

* One copy of each form must be completed and submitted for each applicant.

* Form 1 to be filled out in Japanese; the Kenjinkai will attach Japanese translations of forms 2 and 3.

(2) Application Deadline

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 (JST) strictly enforced

(3) Submission Address:

International Exchange Division
Department of Culture, Tourism, and Sports
Okinawa Prefectural Government
Attn: Chinen
1-2-2 Izumizaki, Naha, Okinawa JAPAN 900-8570
Tel: +81-98-866-2479

Email: ① chinenn@pref.okinawa.lg.jp
② aa082400@pref.okinawa.lg.jp

*When submitting via email, please ensure that the application forms are attached to both addresses ① and ② mentioned above, in Microsoft Word, Excel, or PDF format.

*We recommend sending the application via email.

6 Upcoming Schedule (tentative)

(1) Application deadline: **Tuesday, March 31, 2026 (JST)**

(2) Notification of selection results: Late April 2026

* If you have been accepted to participate and do not have a passport, please obtain one at your earliest convenience.

(3) Preliminary contact and preliminary tasks for participation (tentative)

【Accepted candidates only】 Early May to Mid-June 2026

7 Other Points to Note

- ① This application is for nominating applicants for participation, not all applicants will be accepted.
- ② After reviewing all applications, Okinawa Prefecture will select and notify accepted applicants.

- ③ From the application stage to the completion of the program, such as support of the assignments during the program and submission of the feedback and final report after the program, the Kenjinkai will take responsibility and guide the participants. The Kenjinkai will also attach Japanese translations of the applicant's documents.
- ④ The currently scheduled date and time of the program are tentative and subject to change.
- ⑤ Personal information collected through this application will be used for contact, guidance, selection, and other initiatives relating to the Uchinā Junior Study Program. In addition, to ensure the program runs smoothly, this information may be shared with contractors, other participants, and those involved in the program. After participating in the Uchinā Junior Study Program, a survey about the program, as well as information about prefecture-sponsored international exchange events, will be sent to the participants and guardians. Any collected information will be used appropriately and within the scope of the program's objectives.
- ⑥ Okinawa Prefecture will utilize publicity platforms such as social media, pamphlets, and other mediums for program announcements. To ensure the content is easily understood by the local people and related organizations, participants' photos and videos may be published.
- ⑦ For homestay arrangements outside the program period, students must arrange their own accommodations. In principle, the stay is limited to one week before and after the program due to airline ticket arrangements.
(Maximum period of stay: July 26 to August 15, 2026.)
- ⑧ This recruitment procedure is a preparatory step conducted before the start of the next fiscal year, based on the assumption that the budget will be approved. It will take effect only after the budget is approved. If the initial budget is rejected by the Prefectural Assembly, the project may not be able to proceed as planned.