

FY2027 Academic Year

Okinawan Emigrants' Descendant and Asian
Scholarship Program

Application Requirements



1. Purpose of the Program

In this program, outstanding individuals will be selected from descendants of Okinawan emigrants and Asian countries (hereinafter referred to as “international students”). The international students shall receive education and training at universities, businesses, and institutions for traditional arts in Okinawa Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as “universities and other institutions”). They will be provided with opportunities to understand Okinawan history, culture, and customs, gain work experiences at local businesses, and promote exchange with local people. The program aims to develop human resources capable of serving as a bridge between Okinawa and their home countries/regions for the preservation of the Uchinā Network for the next generations and of contributing to international exchange with Okinawa.

2. Definition of the International Students

The international students eligible for this program are descendants of emigrants from Okinawa Prefecture living abroad and individuals from Asian countries. Additionally, “Asian countries” refers to Fujian Province of China and Taiwan, which are the countries and regions conducting mutual student exchange programs with Okinawa Prefecture.

3. Facilities of Study/Training and Number of Applicants to be Accepted

- (1) Host Universities: University of the Ryukyus, Meio University, Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts,
Okinawa International University

*Starting from FY2027, applicants to the University of Ryukyus, Okinawa Prefectural University of Art, or Okinawa International University must have a CEFR level of B2 or higher to be eligible to apply.

- (2) Host Institutions: Japanese language schools, other training institutions

- (3) Courses: Credited Non-Degree Student Course A: 1 year

Detail: Enroll in a local university as a credited non-degree student.

Credited Non-Degree Student Course B: 1 year (6 months as a non-degree student, 6 months as a trainee at local businesses)

Detail: In principle, after 6 months of study as a non-degree student at a local university, the student will receive training at local businesses.

Traditional Arts Training Course: 1 year

Detail: Japanese language school + Traditional performing arts and crafts training

After studying at a local Japanese language school for a few months, the student will receive technical training at a school, class or institution that teaches traditional performing arts and crafts.

- (4) The Number of Applicants to be Accepted:

The number of applicants to be accepted is roughly as follows:

(This number may be revised depending on the FY2027 budget.)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| a. Descendants of Okinawan emigrants residing abroad | around 7 people |
| b. Applicants from Fujian Province (China) | around 1 person |
| c. Applicants from Taiwan | around 2 people |

4. Period of Study/Training

The period of study or training shall be within 1 year from April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2028.

However, depending on various reasons and circumstances, the program may be cancelled, or the acceptance period and the method of program implementation may be revised.

5. Scholarship Details

5-1 Provision of Scholarship

The international students shall be provided with the expenses necessary for this program, as follows.

Expense	Amount	Details
Travel Expenses	Actual Amount	Roundtrip airfare (economy class) between an international airport in their country/region of residence and Naha Airport and any domestic transportation costs for transfer in Japan.
School Expenses	Actual Amount	Application fees, admission fees, tuition fees, etc.
Living Expenses	JPY 70,000	Monthly provision (does not include actual amount of housing expenses, which will be provided separately) *If dormitory facilities are available at the host institution, students shall live in its dormitory.
Social Welfare Expenses	Actual Amount	National Health Insurance, Basic Accident Insurance, and Comprehensive Home Insurance, etc.
Other	Actual Amount	Expenses deemed necessary approved by the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture.

*Expenses for application of passport and visa shall be borne by the applicant.

*The living expenses for the first month of study/training shall be calculated based on the number of days from the date of arrival in Okinawa to the end of the month (JPY 2,300 per day × ○ days).

*The living expenses of the final month of study/training (in March) shall be calculated based on the number of days until the date of departure from Okinawa (JPY 2,300 per day × ○ days).

*Since the first provision of living expenses may not be made until around June or July after all the necessary procedures have been completed, please prepare and bring with you the funds needed to cover your immediate living expenses and initial costs associated with setting up your new life (approx. \$2000).

5-2 Revocation of the Scholarship

During the period of study/training, the scholarship may be revoked in full or in part in the following cases:

- (1) In the event that the student requests to withdraw from the scholarship program.
- (2) In the event that the student takes a leave of absence, gets suspended, or withdraws from their institution.
- (3) In the event that the student violates the clauses of the written pledge.
- (4) In the event that the student is deemed to be unfit to be an international student, in addition to the above.

6. Eligibility Requirements

Only individuals who meet all the following qualifications are eligible to apply.

- (1) Must be a descendant of an emigrant from Okinawa Prefecture or an individual from the countries and regions (Fujian Province of China and Taiwan) conducting mutual student exchange programs with the Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG).
- (2) An individual who is physically and mentally healthy, recommended by the head of nominating organizations in each country (as mentioned below).

For descendants of Okinawan emigrants

Nominated by the president of an Okinawan association in the respective country/region.

For applicants from Asian countries

Nominated by a government agency, or a person who supervises the applicant at his/her current or most recent institution of education or place of employment.

- (3) Must have completed 12 years of school education in home country/region or possess academic ability equivalent to or greater than 12 years of school education and must meet the enrollment requirements set by the host institution.
- (4) Must be under 35 as of April 1, 2027. (Those whose date of birth is on or after April 2, 1992, are eligible to apply.)
- (5) Must be able to arrive in Okinawa in April 2027 if accepted.
- (6) Must have adequate Japanese language proficiency for study/training. (Descendants of Okinawan emigrants must have Japanese language ability equivalent to or greater than Level N4 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test [JLPT]. Applicants from Asian countries must have Japanese proficiency equivalent to or greater than Level N2 of the JLPT. Applicants may also be required to meet the criteria set by the host institution.)
- (7) Must have the ability to bear any necessary expenses that exceed the scholarship amount provided by Okinawa Prefecture during the period of study/training.
- (8) Must have a family member, relative, or other person residing in Okinawa Prefecture who understands and provides support as a guarantor during this program. (If the guarantor does not reside in Okinawa, please consult with us in advance.) The guarantor of students from Asian countries does not need to be a resident in Okinawa.
- (9) After the completion of the program, students will be expected to actively utilize what they gained through the program to serve as leaders in passing on the Uchinā Network to the next generation, actively participate in the development of their home countries/regions and the activities of their local Okinawan associations as well as contribute to the friendship and goodwill between Okinawa Prefecture and their home countries/regions.

7. Application Documents

The head of the nominating organization should recommend candidates by providing the following application documents.

- (1) Recommendation Form (Form 1) and Statement of Reasons for Recommendation (Form 2)
- (2) Application Form for Study Abroad (Form 3)
- (3) Resume (Form 4) *Please clearly indicate admission and graduation dates.
- (4) Pledge (Form 5)
- (5) Guarantor Form (Form 6)
- (6) Questionnaire About Post-Study Abroad Plans (Form 7)

(7) Japanese Language Comprehension Survey (Form 8)

*Please attach a copy of a Japanese language proficiency test certificate.

(8) Recommendation Form for Study Abroad (Optional) (Form 9) *Submission is optional.

(9) Medical Examination Report (Form 10)

(10) Course Selection Form (Form 11)

(11) Desired Field of Study (Form 11)

(12) Letter of Proxy (Form 12)

(13) Copy of passport *For those with dual citizenship, please submit both passports.

(14) Essay about Reason for Studying Abroad (Form 22, must be no more than 4 pages long and written by the applicant in Japanese)

(15) Other Required Documents for Selection and Study Abroad

*Required to use the prescribed forms.

*Please fill out these forms in Japanese.

8. Submission Deadline

The head of the nominating organization must submit the application documents and nomination documents as mentioned above **by e-mail** to the following e-mail address **by Sunday, November 8, 2026 (JST)**. (Please keep the original documents.)

*1: Applicants from Taiwan should submit the application documents themselves.

*2: In past years, there have been application delays due to incomplete documents. Please use the Application Documents Checklist to review the details of each document carefully prior to submission to the OPG.

*3: Please note that recommendation does not guarantee acceptance.

Some applicants believe that they are guaranteed to be able to participate once they have been nominated and take a leave of absence from school or work. Please be aware that the final decision will be determined by (1) document screening by the OPG (including an online interview, if necessary), and (2) admission acceptance from their university of choice or training institution.

*4: If you no longer meet the requirements for application after submission (for health reasons or prospective university graduation, etc.), please contact the OPG at your earliest convenience.

[Contact for Submission & Inquiries]

Okuma

International Exchange Division

Department of Culture, Tourism, and Sports

Okinawa Prefectural Government

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TEL: +81(98)866-2479

E-mail: okumary@pref.okinawa.lg.jp

*Please note that the attached files may be too large to be sent as a single attachment. Please send them in multiple emails.

9. Notification of Results

The OPG will notify the head of the nominating organization of the selection results.

Special Notes

1. Guidance for International Students

- (1) International students may be given advice on behavior and lifestyle during their stay in Okinawa.
- (2) When traveling outside of Okinawa, international students must submit the Application for Travel Outside Okinawa Prefecture (Form 13) to the OPG in advance.
- (3) In principle, international students will not be approved to use an automobile and motorcycle.
- (4) In principle, international students will not be allowed to do part-time jobs. If an international student must have a part-time job for unavoidable reasons, they must submit the Application for Permission to Engage in Activity Other Than That Permitted Under the Status of Residence Previously Granted (Form 21) to the OPG and receive approval from the Governor prior to starting the job.
- (5) In principle, international students will not be allowed to temporarily return to their home countries/regions or travel to countries outside of Japan during the program. However, if they must travel outside of Japan for inevitable reasons, they must submit the Application for Temporary Return to Home Country (Form 14) to the OPG and receive approval from the Governor ahead of time. If a student returns to their home countries/regions temporarily, they will not be provided with living expenses while they are in their home country. If they have already received living expenses for that period, they may be required to return the amount received for the corresponding number of days.
- (6) International students should actively utilize social media and other means of sharing information about life in Okinawa during the program and inform relevant people in their home countries/regions of the current situation in Okinawa.

2. Obligation of International Students to Return to Their Home Countries/Regions

- (1) International students must promptly return to their home countries/regions once their period of study or training has ended or otherwise when they have lost their status as international students. However, special exceptions may be made with approval from the Governor.
- (2) In principle, those who desire to extend their stay in Japan must submit the following documents to the OPG.
 1. Application for Extension of Stay (Form 15)
 2. Request for Extension of Stay (Form 16)
 3. Pledge (Form 17)
 4. Guarantor Confirmation Form (Form 18)
- (3) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions, those who are unable to return to their home countries/regions due to natural disasters and other unavoidable circumstances shall be permitted to extend their stay in Japan until the situation has been deemed to be resolved. As former international students, they shall be provided with the necessary travel expenses to return to their home countries/regions as well as for living expenses (only the actual expenses necessary for living), social welfare expenses, and other expenses deemed necessary and approved by the Governor, until they return to their home.

3. Submission of Study Abroad Report and Completion Report

(1) International students must submit the Okinawan Emigrants' Descendant and Asian Scholarship Report (Form 19) to the OPG every 3 months once they start the program.

(2) International students must submit the Okinawan Emigrants' Descendants and Asian Scholarship Program Completion Report (Form 20) to the OPG within 10 days of completion of the program.

4. Other

(1) Depending on various reasons and circumstances, such as the situation of a rise in prices and the program budget, the program may be cancelled or the period of acceptance or method of implementation of the program may be revised.

Application Documents Checklist for Okinawan Emigrants' Descendants and Asian Scholarship Program

Please make sure that you have prepared all the documents and that they are filled out accurately and completely.

All application documents should be written in Japanese.

Document	To Be Completed By	☒	Remarks
Recommendation Form (Form 1)	Nominating organization		
Statement of Reasons for Recommendation (Form 2)	Nominating organization		
Application Form for Study Abroad (Form 3)	Applicant		
Resume (Form 4)	Applicant		Please clearly indicate the dates of admission and graduation.
Pledge (Form 5)	Applicant		Please carefully read and comprehend the contents of the Pledge before signing.
Guarantor Form (Form 6)	Guarantor		Please fill out the applicant's name and date of birth below the "Notes" section.
Questionnaire About Post-Study Abroad Plans (Form 7)	Applicant		
Japanese Language Comprehension Survey (Form 8)	Japanese Language Teacher or Employee of a Public Institution who Understands Japanese		If you have taken any Japanese language proficiency tests (JLPT, BJT, etc.), please submit a copy of your certificate(s).
Recommendation Form for Study Abroad (Form 9)	University Professor or Work Manager		If your university professor or manager at work is willing to recommend you, please submit this form. (Optional)
Medical Examination Report (Form 10)	Medical institution		
Course Selection Form (Form 11)	Applicant		Please also indicate 2nd and 3rd preferences.

Desired Field of Study (Form 11)	Applicant		Credited Non-Degree Course A Credited Non-Degree Course B Traditional Arts Training Course
Letter of Proxy (Form 12)	Applicant		*Only for those with dual citizenship. The “proxy” refers to the person who retrieves the documents and the “authorizer” refers to the applicant.
Passport	—		Must be valid at the time of entry to Japan in April 2027. For those with dual citizenship, please submit passports of both home country and Japan.
Essay	Applicant		Must be written by the applicant. (Please use Form 22 and write no more than 4 pages)
Application Documents Required by the Host University	It may take time to obtain some of the documents required by the university. Application forms and other documents for your university of choice will be sent to you once the university issues the application guidelines. Please request the following items at the time of application to make sure you have all the required documentation.		
Graduation Certificate from Last School Attended			Please check to make sure there is an embossed seal, stamp, or handwritten signature.
Japanese Translation of the Graduation Certificate from Last School Attended			If there are multiple pages, please make sure that all pages are signed or stamped.
Transcript from Last School Attended			Please check to make sure there is an embossed seal, stamp, or handwritten signature.
Japanese Translation of the Transcript from Last School Attended			Please include the name, affiliation, and signature or seal of the person who translated the document. If there are multiple pages, please make sure that all pages are signed or stamped.
Certificate of Enrollment from Current School			Please make sure that there is an embossed seal, stamp, or handwritten signature.
Japanese Translation of the Certificate of Enrollment from Current School			Please include the name, affiliation, and signature or seal of the person who translated the document. If there are multiple pages, please make sure that all pages are signed or stamped.

*In principle, submitted documents will not be returned.

*In addition to the documents listed above, the Okinawa Prefecture may request other documents to expedite acceptance process.

*In principle, please complete all documents in Japanese.

*If the person who fills out the consent form and/or medical examination report is unable to write in Japanese, please have the document(s) translated into Japanese by the nominating organization or a public institution.

*If you are unable to submit the original copies of certificates, please submit certified copies (must be certified as an authentic copy of the original document by the issuing school or a public organization).

*Depending on the public organization that issues the certified copy, the format and method of certification may vary. Please double-check with each organization.

*If you have any questions or inquiries, please contact the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

Important Points Regarding Application

*Please read this document.

- 1 . Contacting Your Guarantor
- 2 . Individuals with Japanese Citizenship
- 3 . Living Expenses
- 4 . Admissions Requirements for
Japanese Universities
- 5 . Application Documents for
Universities
- 6 . Part-Time Jobs for International
Students
- 7 . Schedule of Acceptance Decision

1. Contacting Your Guarantor

Every year, we receive many inquiries from people saying that they were asked to be a guarantor but do not know what kind of person the applicant is.

Mutual trust between the guarantor and applicant is significantly important.

The applicant must contact their guarantor directly, explain the following contents, and obtain their approval.

- Most Important: Relationship between the applicant and the guarantor
- Explanation about the scholarship program: Objective and period of study/training, course details (Please refer to the application guidelines).
- The responsibilities of a guarantor:
 - ◇ Serve as a guarantor and emergency contact if the student encounters an accident or disaster during their stay in Okinawa.
 - ◇ If the applicant holds Japanese citizenship, the guarantor must obtain an Abstract of the Family Register (*Koseki Shohon*) as well as a Supplementary Family Register (*Koseki no Fuhyo*) from a municipal office of the applicant's hometown, on behalf of the applicant.

Provision of expenses such as living expenses and school expenses (scholarship), arrangement of housing in Okinawa, university application and admission procedures, and procedures at municipal offices shall be supported by the Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG).

If you have any other questions regarding the program, please contact the OPG.

2. Individuals with Japanese Citizenship

We will only accept applicants who have a reliable address listed on their family register.

If we are unable to determine your permanent address, you will not be able to register as a resident of Japan; therefore, you will not be accepted to the program.

There are four documents required by those with Japanese citizenship to register as a resident of Japan.

1. A document indicating the date of entry into Japan
2. Japanese passport
3. Abstract of the Family Register (*Koseki Shohon*)
4. Supplementary Family Register (*Koseki no Fuhyo*)

Resident registration procedures must be completed within two weeks of arrival in Okinawa, so documents 3 and 4 above must be obtained in advance.

Please prepare a Letter of Proxy (Form 12) and ask your guarantor to obtain these two documents for you.

3. Living Expenses

We are planning to provide JPY 70,000 per month to each student as living expenses. Living expenses include the cost of utilities (including electricity, gas, and water), food, phone bill, and transportation fees.

4. Admissions Requirements for Japanese Universities

To enroll in a Japanese university, an individual must have completed 12 years of school education outside of Japan in accordance with the university entrance qualifications set by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

Although some countries require less than 12 years of education, including high school or vocational school, an individual will have been deemed to be qualified for university entrance in the following cases:

- (1) If you have completed 11 years of school education until graduation from high school, in addition to at least one year of university education
- (2) If you have completed at least 11 years of school education and meet the standards specified by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- (3) If you have a GCEA Level qualification or have graduated from a high school accredited by International Baccalaureate (IB), WASC, or CIS, it is considered equivalent to Japanese high school.

If you are unsure whether you meet the requirements, please check with the nearest Japanese Embassy or Japanese Consulate.

Also, please note that the current requirements may be subject to change.

5. Application Documents for Universities

Those who have been accepted to the credited non-degree courses at a university in Okinawa will be required to submit various certification documents to the host university.

[Regarding Japanese Language Proficiency]

- 1 . If you have taken any Japanese language proficiency tests (such as JLPT and BJT), please submit a copy of your certificate(s). If you have taken the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU), please submit a copy of your certificate.
- 2 . If you have not taken any Japanese language proficiency tests, please submit documents that indicate your Japanese language ability.
(Japanese Language Comprehension Survey submitted to the OPG or other survey/questionnaire requested by the host university)
*All universities except Meio University require Japanese language proficiency of at least CEFR level of B2, which is indicated as a highly independent level to understand and use Japanese.

[Certificates from Former or Current Schools]

- 3 . Certificate of Graduation from the highest level of school attended, and the one with Japanese translation
- 4 . Academic transcript from the highest level of school attended and the one with Japanese translation
- 5 . Certificate of Enrollment from your current school and the one with Japanese translation (only for those enrolled in school at time of application)
- 6 . Academic transcript from your current school and the one with Japanese translation (only for those enrolled in school at time of application)
- 7 . Items 3 to 6 should be issued by a public organization. (If submitting copies, please provide certified copies.)

[Other]

Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts requires submission of a portfolio of work created by the applicant for admission to the Faculty of Arts & Crafts and a DVD or CD of your performance of a specified dance or song for admission to the Faculty of Music.

The submission deadline for application documents is November 8, 2026 (JST). Please send the required certificates and the Japanese translations of each certificate to the OPG in PDF format via email by the submission deadline. However, if you are unable to prepare certified copies in time, please contact us individually to discuss.

*Please note that the information may be revised at the time of university application.

6. Part-Time Jobs for International Students

In principle, international students will not be allowed to have part-time jobs.

7. Schedule of Acceptance Decision

The schedule from application submission to notification of acceptance (a document required for visa application in the applicant's home country) follows as below:

1.	Submission of application documents to the OPG	By November 8, 2026 (JST)
2.	Document screening and selection	Mid-November
3.	Notification of screening result	Early December
4.	Application to university of choice	Early January – Mid-February
5.	Notification of acceptance from universities	Mid-February – Early March
6.	Enrollment procedures for universities	Begin after receiving notification of acceptance.
7.	Application for and obtainment of Certificate of Eligibility for residential status	Early March – Late March *It will take about two to three weeks.
8.	Notification of acceptance decision	Mid-March
9.	Airline ticket arrangement and coming to Okinawa	Mid-March – Late March

*The schedule for items 3 to 9 may vary depending on host universities and courses.