

Japan's Friendship Ties programs

MIRAI - 2019

2019 April – 2020 March

Outline



Implementing agency of MIRAI :

JTB Corp.

(hereafter, abbreviated as JTB)



Perfect moments, always

MIRAI · 2019



Mutual-understanding,
Intellectual **R**elations and
Academic exchange **I**nitiative

1. Program Overview

In 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has launched “Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs” which promote people-to-people exchanges between Japan and the various nations of the Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and to encourage an understanding of Japan’s economy, society, history, diverse culture, politics and diplomatic relations among participants. Since 2015 to 2018, the programs count 24,480 participants would be sent to or from Japan and these countries. Participants are expected to proactively disseminate information on Japan’s attractions and contribute to promoting sustained attention to Japan. The Europe regional component of this exchange program is called “MIRAI”.

“MIRAI · 2019” is a short-term youth exchange program to invite 165 graduate/undergraduate students and young professionals from Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, who study Politics, Law, Security Policies, Economics, International Relations, Asian Studies, Japan Studies, Science and Technology or other related fields. The program is entitled as the “MIRAI” with a play on the Japanese word “MIRAI” (未来) (pronounced “me-rye”) which means “Future”.

MOFA hopes that the program will offer a great opportunity to

- i. Promote mutual-understanding
- ii. Promote a global understanding of Japan’s economy, society, history, diverse culture, politics and foreign policy
- iii. Disseminate information on Japan’s attractions through communication devices including SNS

2. Program Outline

- i. Period of the Program:
 - First group would be in Japan November 2019
 - Last group would be in Japan March 2020
- ii. Number of the participants:
 - 5 groups :165 university / graduate school students and young professionals over 20 years old aged.
 - Group 2,3 and 5 are for university / graduate school students aged over 20 years old only. No young professionals.
- iii. Program in Japan:
 - To attend lectures on Japanese politics, society, history, and diplomatic relations to gain a deeper understanding of Japan.
 - To visit education and research institutions, high-tech and traditional industries, fine arts and traditional crafts exhibitions, cultural heritage sites. Participants will interact and exchange ideas with people in these various sites through workshops and other events.
 - To convey information about Japan's attractions through reporting sessions or Social Network Services after the program, e.g. Facebook and Instagram.

3. Qualification for Participation

Applicants should meet all the following criteria.

【All Participants】

- i. Applicants must understand the aims of this program and commit to sharing and disseminating their experiences and the attraction of Japan through communication devices including Social Media and/or their writing for publication after returning to their countries.
- ii. Applicants do not have experience of residing in Japan for more than six months. Applicants have never been accepted Japanese government sponsored scholastic exchange programs before.
- iii. Applicants are nationals of the countries below and do not have Japanese nationality.

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

- iv. After completing the program, applicants must answer the questionnaires which will be conducted at the end of the program and three months later.
- v. Applicants must be in good health.
 - Applicants are healthy physically and mentally.
 - If a participant's body temperature is 37.5°C (99.5 °F) or higher on the day of departure, she/he cannot depart for Japan and will NOT BE ELIGIBLE to join in the inbound program in Japan.
- vi. Applicants belong to one of the schools located in the following countries below :
Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom
(the location is not necessarily the same as their nationality)
- vii. Applicants must be aged 20 or over.
- vii. Applicants can communicate with other participants in English without difficulty.

4. Necessary Procedure

- i. The Application Form and Confirmation for the Participant for MIRAI Program

Fill out the forms on the website with the required information and answers during the application period.

【Online application】

URL : <https://reg31.smp.ne.jp/regist/is?SMPFORM=mftj-lbmcof-44a4691f325629c254b1033194711533>

Application Deadline :

Group 2 : by 5 October, 2019

Group 3 : by 15 October, 2019

Group 5 : by 20 January, 2020

- ii . Valid passport
Applicant must possess a valid passport when she/he applies.
Apply the application after obtaining a valid passport.
- iii. Essay - Personal Statement
Each applicant is required to express and describe their thoughts including viewpoints of this program or related matters in the "Personal Statement for MIRAI · 2019". Within 500 words in the Online Application.
- iv. Photocopy of certification of the Applicant's latest academic grade
Prepare the latest academic grade certificated copies.
Applicants' grades must be in the top 20% percentile.

5. Terms and Conditions

- i. The following arrangements and expenses are covered by the program
 - Round trip international air tickets from/to the nearest airport (Gateway Airport) from your school and to/from Japan in Economy class. No cabin class upgrade available.
(*Excess baggage charge will be paid at your own expense.)
 - Overseas travel accident insurance
(*Please note that chronic diseases, dental diseases and pregnancy diagnosed by a Japanese medical doctor and cases disapproved by the insurance company will NOT be covered by insurance. Individuals will be liable for the expenses mentioned above.)

➤ For scheduled activities in Japan

- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Meals
- Admission fees

(*No cash allowance is provided to participants.)

(*Participants are expected to cover personal expenses, such as passport fees, fees for vaccination, excess baggage charges, travel expenses between their home and departure port, fees for accommodation and meals in your countries.)

ii. The following is not permitted;

- To remain in Japan after the program
- To change the flight designated by the program
- To change accommodation designated by the program
- To be accompanied by someone
- To travel to a third country on the way to Japan or back to participant's country

iii. Conditions for the stay in Japan

- All the participants must attend all the programs planned by JTB and follow the rules/guidelines set by JTB.
- Participants that cause hindrance to the program may be dismissed, and will subsequently be responsible for leaving Japan at their own expense.
- JTB will try to prepare the followings when necessary for religious reasons, however, they may not always be provided depending on local circumstances.

*time and place for prayers

*meals suitable for food restriction for religious reasons

iv. Photos Taken During the Program

While participating in the program, photos and videos, participants' comments, etc. may be recorded by JTB or other participating organizations. In addition, all participants must agree that these photos and comments and content posted to SNS by participants may be used in various media for the purpose of introducing MIRAI program or in business reports.

v. Respect for Japanese Law and Regulations

During the stay in Japan, participants must respect the laws and regulations of Japan, and any offenders will be subject to penalties under Japanese law. Any dispute arising out of the application and admission of, or relating to, this program between the participants and the Japanese Government or JTB shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the domestic laws of Japan, without regard to principles of conflicts of laws, and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the applicable courts in Japan.

vi. The attribution of responsibility during the program

All participants agree to release JTB (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 a participant's participation in MIRAI Program; provided, however, that this release shall not apply to any Claims related to or arising from JTB's gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct. Finally, all participants agree to indemnify JTB (including its employees and agents), and hold it harmless, of and from any and all Claims arising from or relating to their breach of the terms and conditions of this Application Guideline.

vii. Post-Return Activities and Questionnaires (Obligatory) program

All participants are required to share their experiences/knowledge acquired on the visit to Japan with friends, family, people in local communities, etc. in order to disseminate the current/accurate conditions in Japan, and report their activities to the Embassy/Consulate-General of Japan in their countries. Each participant must submit questionnaires on his/her experience/impression on the visit to Japan before and after returning to their country.

6. Handling of Personal Information

Personal information collected under MIRAI Program shall be treated in compliance with the Personal Information Protection Law of Japan. JTB ensures the appropriate handling of personal information.

JTB may provide personal information to travel agencies, publishers, cooperating organizations, schools, host families, and so on in order to operate and report the program by means of post, fax or E-mail. The disclosure of personal information to JTB is at the sole discretion of the participants. If you do not agree with this, it might cause some difficulties in the operation of the program, therefore you are requested to understand and consent to the provision of personal information.

*JTB Corp. (JTB)

JTB Corp., called JTB, is an implementing agency of MIRAI Programs, and has undertaken all the necessary arrangements for this program, such as travel procedures and the entire schedule of events in Japan.

The JTB Group

- Established: November 12, 1963 (Founded: March 12, 1912)
- Number of employees: 29,153 (JTB Group employees as of March 31, 2018)

The JTB Group was founded as the “Japan Tourist Bureau” in 1912, with the objective of contributing to Japan’s economy by welcoming overseas travellers to Japan. For over 100 years since then, the JTB Group has been the driving force behind Japan’s tourism industry.

The JTB Group is building an expansive network that currently covers 143 cities and 510 offices across 39 countries/regions. In keeping with the JTB Group philosophy of “Contributing to the realization of a peaceful and enriched society by creating opportunities for human exchange and interaction across the world stage”, around 29,000 JTB Group employees worldwide work in close coordination to offer high value services.

<https://www.jtbcorp.jp/en/>

https://www.jtbcorp.jp/jp/colors/detail/0058/img/chronicle_04.pdf

<https://www.jtbcorp.jp/jp/colors/detail/0116/>