The Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship
渡邉利三寄付奨学金

For Japanese Students’ International Study in the U.S.

www.usjapan council.org/watanabe-scholarship
Objectives

In this document, participants will learn:

• About the U.S.-Japan Council & Watanabe Scholarship
• Features of the Watanabe Scholarship
• Eligibility criteria
• What is covered
• Scholarship application process (incl. Requirements and Timeline)
• What makes the Watanabe Scholarship unique
• Tips for completing the application
**About USJC**

- *develops and connects* diverse leaders to create a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship

- USJC *brings together leaders* of the United States and Japan from across backgrounds, sectors, and generations to *partner for a better future* for the Asia-Pacific region and beyond

- USJC invests in the *next generation* of leaders from the United States and Japan

- Learn more at [www.usjapancouncil.org](http://www.usjapancouncil.org)
About

• Created in 2016
• Made possible by a $10 million endowment gift
• Named for Mr. Toshizo Watanabe, a successful Japanese businessman who had a life-changing SAB experience in the United States
• To support international study in either the U.S. or Japan
• Decrease financial burden of international study
• Give opportunity to those with leadership experience/potential
Eligibility

- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Degree-seeking & exchange program students
- Any field of study or major
- Any school or approved program (*no language schools*)
- A minimum one (1) semester up to one (1) year of study (*No summer or January term support*)
- Japan ➔ U.S.
- Students with financial need
- No fixed scholarship amount
Eligibility

1) Japanese citizens and permanent residents

2) Currently enrolled student in good standing at a high school, college or university in Japan, or degree-seeking student currently studying in the U.S. (If going to grad school and currently not enrolled, must have proof of undergrad degree)

3) Will be in a credit-bearing course at a college, university or approved study center
   **Language schools are not eligible**

4) Has financial need

5) **Preference** given to students who are:
   a) from single parent households
   b) orphans (or wards of the state)
   c) first-generation
Application Requirements

• Online Application Form
  Deadline: February 20, 2023 Eastern Time (subject to change)

• All materials in English

• Essay(s)

• Resume

• Recommendation letter (1)

• SAB certification form*

• Financial certification form*

• Transcripts (optional)

• Language proficiency scores (not required)

• No interview required
## Application Timeline 2023-2024*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9 – Feb. 20, 2023</td>
<td>Application Period (Online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 18 – May 18, 2023</td>
<td>Finalist Notification</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22 – June 2, 2023</td>
<td>Scholarship Decisions Announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 2023</td>
<td>Scholarship Acceptance Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2023</td>
<td>Scholarship Disbursement Begins</td>
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*Schedule subject to change

- We only have one application cycle
  (If studying abroad only for Fall 2023 or Spring 2024, you must apply for this cycle. Same deadlines apply.)
- Apply for study abroad between Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
- Link to the online application will be posted on our Watanabe webpage
- If selected, you cannot defer the scholarship
Most Frequently Asked Questions

• What is the possibility of receiving the scholarship? (How many people apply yearly?)
  → We are not able to disclose that information. You have a chance to get the scholarship if you apply!

• When is the application deadline?
  → February 20, 2023 @ 11:59 pm (Eastern US Time)
    (日本時間: 2月21日午後1時59分)

• Is the Watanabe Scholarship limited to certain schools?
  → No, it can be for any schools of your choice and the ranking of the school does not matter.
    However, scholarship CANNOT be applied for language schools.

• I am a degree-seeking student. Can I get the scholarship for 4 years straight?
  → Each application covers for one academic year. You must reapply every year.
IMPORTANT APPLICATION COMPONENTS

**Essay** (subject to change)

**Prompt #1 (required)**
- Motivation to study abroad
- Long & short-term goals
- Skills you want to develop during study abroad
- Financial barriers

**Prompt #2 (optional)**
- Chance for student to share unique feature/fact about yourself
- This help us learn what is special about you

**Prompt #3 (required for some)**
- Explain if you have previous international experience
- How will this time be different?
- Why should we support you going abroad again?

**Recommendation Letter**
- **ASK YOUR RECOMMEDER IN ADVANCE**
- Written in English
- Address the prompts
- Position doesn’t matter, how well they know the student does
- Do **NOT** send more than one, it will not help and may harm your chances of getting the scholarship
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>APPROVED</strong></th>
<th><strong>NON-APPROVED</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Home School Tuition <em>(max $6,000/year)</em></td>
<td>❌ Visa application/Passport Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Program Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>❌ Domestic Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Room &amp; Board</td>
<td>❌ Activity Fees <em>(formal or informal)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Health Insurance</td>
<td>❌ Work-Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Books and School Supplies <em>(max $1000/year)</em></td>
<td>❌ Testing Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Travel <em>(max $1600/year)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Miscellaneous <em>(max $1000/year)</em></td>
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Calculating Need (i.e. How much to apply for)

Total Cost of Attendance (TCOA) – Total Existing Financial Resources you Have (EFR) =

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM WATANABE (ARW) // FINANCIAL NEED (FN)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Estimated SAB Cost of Attendance (COA)</th>
<th>minus</th>
<th>Amount of confirmed financial resources</th>
<th>equals</th>
<th>Amount to request for the Watanabe Scholarship (Gap/Financial Need)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
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**Important!**

Know your study abroad program costs.

You can find this information on:
- Home school study abroad office
- Host school website/study abroad office

**Don’t know which school you will go to?**

**That’s OK!**

- Search the tuition for the schools you are interested in
- Pick the program/school with the highest tuition for your calculation
- Scholarship amount can be lowered, but not increased
What Makes the Watanabe Scholarship Unique?

• Connected to the U.S.-Japan Council Network
• Dedicated leadership opportunities during the SAB year:
  → Watanabe Scholars Leadership Program
  → Regional USJC Events
  → TOMODACHI Program Opportunities
  → TOMODACHI Generation
What Makes the Watanabe Scholarship Unique? (cont’d)

- You can **reapply** for more than one year (degree-seeking students/graduate students)
- You **can combine** the Watanabe Scholarship with other scholarships (up to the full cost of attendance)
- **No repayment/work requirements** after the completion of your study period
- Can apply at **any stage** of your study abroad planning
- **You apply for the scholarship directly.** School has no role in the application process.
- Scholarship is **paid directly to the school**, not the student.
- Scholarship is **paid in one lump sum.** No monthly payments
Application and General Scholarship Tips

• **Be honest.** In your essay, don’t write what you think we want to hear.

• **One Recommendation is required** (DO NOT SEND EXTRAS, they won’t increase your chances and they may cause problems with your application)

• Scholarship is about opportunity and access. Tell us **how this scholarship can make a difference** for your life (short-term and long-term).

• **Know your SAB budget early.** Need to be accurate in your cost of attendance estimates.

• **Ask for the amount you need.** Asking for less won’t increase your chances.

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**Resources**

- FAQ page
- USJC Website
- Recommenders who know you as a person
- Yourself
For More Information

Check out the FAQ page and any related updates visit the webpage

https://www.usjapan council.org/ja/watanabe-faq/

http://www.usjapan council.org/watanabe-scholarship

Japanese Webpage↓

https://www.usjapan council.org/ja/watanabe-scholarship/