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

For American Students to study abroad in Japan

www.usjapan councillors.org/watanabe-scholarship
Objectives

In this document, participants will have learned:

• 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.usjapan council.org](http://www.usjapan council.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*)
• U.S. → Japan
• Students with financial need
• No fixed scholarship amount
Eligibility

1) U.S. citizens and permanent residents

2) Currently enrolled student in good standing at a college or university in the U.S. or degree-seeking student currently studying in Japan (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: Feb. 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>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 9 – Feb. 20, 2023</td>
<td>Application Period (Online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 18 – May 18, 2023</td>
<td>Finalist Notification</td>
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<td>May 22 – June 2, 2023</td>
<td>Scholarship Decisions Announced</td>
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<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 Time)

• 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 RECOMMENDER 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
Direct Costs of Attendance for International Study

**APPROVED**

- Program Fees
- Room and Board
- Health Insurance
- Books and School Supplies (up to $1000/year)
- Travel (max $1600)
- Miscellaneous (max $1000/year)

**NON-APPROVED**

- Home school tuition (U.S.)
- Domestic Travel
- Activity Fees (formal or informal)
- Work-Study
- Visa application/Passport Fees
- Testing Fees
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)

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<th>Total Cost of Attendance</th>
<th>Total Existing Financial Resources</th>
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<th>TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM WATANABE // FINANCIAL NEED</th>
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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!

• Pick the most expensive school 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

• 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 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.

**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

http://usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-faq
http://www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-scholarship