

2022 Academic Year

**Okinawan Emigrants' Descendant and Asian
Scholarship Program
Application Requirements**



Okinawa Prefectural Government

Uchinā Network Concierge (UNC)

A joint venture of the World Youth Uchinanchu Association (WYUA) &
Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA)

1. Purpose of the Program

Exemplary 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 learning traditional arts in Okinawa Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as “universities and other institutions”). Students will be provided with opportunities to understand Okinawan history, culture, and customs, gain work experience at local businesses, and promote exchange with local people. The aim of the program is to cultivate human resources capable of serving as a bridge between students’ home countries and Okinawa, foster the preservation of the Uchinā Network for the next generation and contribute to international exchange with Okinawa Prefecture.

The implementation of this program has been entrusted to the Uchinā Network Concierge (hereinafter referred to as “UNC”) by the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

2. Definition

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 countries and regions with mutual student exchange programs with Okinawa Prefecture (China’s Fujian Province and Taiwan).

3. Place of Study or Training

Students will study as credited non-degree students or traditional arts training students at universities and other institutions or trainees at businesses in Okinawa Prefecture.

Host Universities : University of the Ryukyus, Meio University, Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts

Host Institutions : Japanese language schools, other training institutions

Courses: 1. Credited Non-Degree Student Course A (6 months)

Enroll in a university in Okinawa Prefecture as a credited non-degree student.

Content: Japanese language + subjects of choice

2. Traditional Arts Training Course (6 months)

After studying at a Japanese language school in Okinawa Prefecture for 3 months, receive technical training at a school, class or institution that teaches traditional performing arts.

Content: Japanese language school + traditional performing arts / crafts training

Training examples: Lacquerware, bingata, sanshin making, taiko making, Ryukyuan cooking (Okinawan cooking), etc.

4. Period of Study or Training

The period of study or training shall be for 6 months from September 1, 2022 (or October) until

March 31, 2023. However, the acceptance period and method of program implementation may be changed or the program may be cancelled, depending on the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Scholarship Details

5-1 Provision of Scholarship Funds

The UNC shall provide international students with the expenses necessary for studying abroad, as follows.

Expense	Provision Amount	Details
Travel Expenses	Actual Amount	Roundtrip airfare (economy class) between an international airport in the international students' country of residence and Naha Airport and any domestic transportation costs for transfers in Japan.
School Expenses	Actual Amount	Application fees, admission fees, tuition fees, etc.
Living Expenses	JPY 70,000	Monthly provision (does not include provision of actual amount of housing expenses, which will be provided separately) *Those enrolled at a university with a dormitory shall live in the university dormitory.
Social Welfare Expenses	Actual Amount	National Health Insurance, Basic Accident Insurance, Comprehensive Home Insurance
Other Expenses	Actual Amount	Expenses deemed necessary by the Okinawa Prefectural Governor

*Expenses for obtainment of passports and visas shall be borne by the applicant.

*The living expenses for the first month of study in Okinawa shall be based on the number of days from the date of arrival in Okinawa Prefecture to the end of the month.

*The living expenses of the final month of study in Okinawa (March) shall be calculated based on the number of days until the date of departure from Okinawa.

5-2 Revocation of the Scholarship

During the period of study or training, the scholarship funds 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 from school, or withdraws from school
- (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 of the following qualifications are eligible to apply.

- (1) Must be a descendant of an emigrant from Okinawa Prefecture or an overseas student from an Asian country. "Asian countries" refers to countries and regions with mutual student exchange programs with Okinawa Prefectural Government (Fujian Province, China and Taiwan).
- (2) Person of sound physical and mental health recommended by the head of a nominating organization in each country (see below)
 - 1) For descendants of Okinawan emigrants:
Nomination by the president of an Okinawan organization in respective country/region.
 - 2) For applicants from Asian countries:
Nomination by a government agency as well as a person in a position of authority over the applicant at his or her current or most recent institution of education or place of employment.
- (3) Must have completed 12 years of school education in home country or possess academic ability equivalent to or greater than 12 years of school education and must meet the enrollment requirements set by the host university.
- (4) Must be under 35 years of age as of April 1, 2022. (Those whose date of birth is on or after April 1, 1987 are eligible to apply.)
- (5) Must have adequate Japanese language proficiency for study or 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 ability equivalent to or greater than Level N2 of the JLPT. Applicants may also be required to meet the criteria set by the host organization.)
*Applicants that wish to study at the University of the Ryukyus must have Japanese ability equivalent to or greater than JLPT Level N2.
- (6) Must have the ability to bear any necessary expenses that exceed the scholarship amount provided by Okinawa Prefecture during the period of study or training.
- (7) Must have a family member, relative, or other person residing in Okinawa Prefecture who understands and provides support and can act as a guarantor during the period of study or training in Okinawa. The guarantor of students from Asian countries does not need to be a resident of Okinawa Prefecture.
- (8) After the completion of the program, students are 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 and the activities of their local Okinawan organizations, and contribute to the friendship and goodwill between Okinawa Prefecture and their home countries.

7. Application Process

7-1 Application Materials (For Credited Non-Degree Student Course)

(1) The nomination organization should recommend candidates by providing the following application materials.

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. Study Abroad Consent Form & Recommendation Form (Form 9)
9. Medical Examination Report (Form 10)
10. Course Selection Form (Form 11)
11. Desired Field of Study (Form 11, Attachment 1 For University Course)
12. Letter of Proxy (Form 12) For those with dual citizenship, please submit both Japanese passport and passport of country of residence.
13. Copy of passport
14. Facial photograph of the applicant taken in the past 3 months (4 cm tall x 3 cm wide, 8 prints)
15. Essay about Reason for Studying Abroad (Form 25, must be at least 4 pages long and written by the applicant in Japanese language)
16. Any application documents required by the host university

*Each university's application guidelines will be sent separately, as soon as they are issued. We will request the application documents for the applicants' university of choice separately, once the application guidelines have been issued.

17. Other Required Documents for Selection and Study Abroad

*Please use the prescribed forms.

*Fill out the forms in Japanese language.

*Those with dual citizenship must submit copies of their Japanese passport and passport of country of residence, as well as a Letter of Proxy (Form 12).

*Those with Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) certification must submit a copy of their JLPT certificate.

7-2 Application Materials (Traditional Arts Training Applicants)

(2) The nomination organization should recommend candidates by providing the following application materials.

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. Study Abroad Consent Form & Recommendation Form (Form 9)
9. Medical Examination Report (Form 10)
10. Course Selection Form (Form 11)
11. Desired Field of Study (Form 11, Attachment 1 For Traditional Arts Training Course)
12. Letter of Proxy (Form 12) For those with dual citizenship, please submit both Japanese passport and passport of country of residence.
13. Copy of passport *Please submit a copy of a valid passport.
14. Facial photograph of the applicant taken in the past 3 months (4 cm tall x 3 cm wide, 8 prints)
15. Essay about Reason for Studying Abroad (Form 25, must be at least 4 pages long and written by the applicant in Japanese language)

*Please use the prescribed forms.

*Fill out the forms in Japanese language.

*Those with dual citizenship must submit copies of their Japanese passport and passport of country of residence, as well as a Letter of Proxy (Form 13).

*Those with Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) certification must submit a copy of their JLPT certificate.

8. Submission Deadline

The head of the nominating organization must submit the aforementioned application documents and nomination documents **by e-mail** to the following e-mail address by Thursday, March 17, 2022 (Japan time). (Please keep the original documents.)

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

*2: Please do not submit incomplete applications.

In past years, there have been application delays due to incomplete application documents.

Please use the application document checklist to carefully check the contents of applications prior to submission to the UNC.

*3: Recommendation does not guarantee acceptance.

Some applicants believe that they are guaranteed to be able to study abroad once they have been nominated and take a leave of absence from school or work, but the final decision will not be made unless the applicant clears both the Okinawa Prefectural Government (UNC) document screening and receives admission acceptance from their university of choice.

*4: Regarding Application Requirements

If you no longer meet the requirements for application (for health reasons or prospective university graduation, etc.), please contact the UNC right away.

*5: Regarding COVID-19

Depending on the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, accepted students may be required to take PCR tests prior to departure and quarantine for a certain amount of time after arrival in Japan. There also may be entry restrictions in place. Also, please bear in mind that the program may be cancelled or changed.

[Contact for Submission & Inquiries]

Uchinā Network Concierge

Japan International Cooperation Agency Okinawa Center (JICA Okinawa)

1143-1 Aza Maeda, Urasoe City, Okinawa Prefecture 901-2102

Phone: 070-3801-8668 / E-mail : info1@wun.jp

9. Notification of Results

The head of the nomination organization shall notify applicants of acceptance or rejection to the study abroad program.

Special Notes:

1. Guidance of International Students

- (1) The governor may give advice to international students on behavior and lifestyle during their stay in Okinawa based on consultation from the UNC.
- (2) In order to travel outside of Okinawa Prefecture, international students must submit the Application for Travel Outside of the Prefecture (Form 15) to the UNC and obtain the approval of the governor prior to travel.
- (3) In principle, the governor will not approve of the operation of cars, motorcycles, etc. by international students.
- (4) In principle, international students will not be allowed to have part-time jobs for the financial purposes. If an international student must have a part-time job for unavoidable reasons, he/she must submit the Application for Permission to Engage in Activity Other than that Permitted Under the Status of Residence Previously Granted (Form 23) to the UNC and obtain approval from the governor prior to starting the part-time job.
- (5) In principle, international students will not be allowed to temporarily return to their home countries or travel to countries outside of Japan during their period of study or training. However, if they must travel outside of Japan for unavoidable reasons, they must submit the Application for Temporary Return to Home Country (Form 16) to the UNC and receive approval from the governor ahead of time. If a student returns to their home country temporarily, they will not be

provided with living expenses while they are in their home country and if they have already received the 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 networking services and other means of sharing information about life in Okinawa during their period of study or training and inform relevant people in their home countries of the current situation in Okinawa.

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

- (1) International students must promptly return to their home countries 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) Those who wish to extend their stay in Japan must submit the following documents to the UNC.
 1. Application for Extension of Stay (Form 17)
 2. Request for Extension of Stay (Form 18)
 3. Pledge (Form 19)
 4. Guarantor Confirmation Form (Form 20)
- (3) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions, international students who are unable to return to their home countries 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 as well as for living expenses (only the actual expenses necessary for living), social welfare expenses, and other expenses deemed necessary by the governor, until they are able to return to their home countries.

3. Submission of Study Abroad Report and Completion Report

- (1) International students must submit the Okinawan Emigrants' Descendant and Asian Scholarship Report (Form 21) to the UNC every quarter after the start of their period of study or training. The report may be substituted by posting an article on social networking services and other platforms designated by the UNC and submitting a copy of the said article. The submission deadline shall be within 20 days counting from the end of each quarter. Additionally, the quarterly reports may serve as a substitute for the completion report mentioned in Section 2 of this article.
- (2) International students must submit the Okinawan Emigrants' Descendants and Asian Scholarship Program Completion Report (Form 22) to the UNC within 10 days of completion of their study or training.

4. Other (Related to COVID-19)

- (1) Depending on the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program may be cancelled or the period of acceptance or method of implementation of the program may be changed.

- (2) It is possible for international students who were accepted to the program for the 2021 academic year to be re-nominated for the 2022 academic year. However, they must resubmit all of the designated required documents. (Copies of documents submitted last year will not be accepted.)