**FY2026 Academic Year**

Okinawan Emigrants’ Descendant and Asian

Scholarship Program

Application Requirements

 Okinawa Prefecture

**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 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

\*As of now, we have not confirmed that Okinawa International University will accept applicants, but we will accept requests.

1. Host Institutions: Japanese language schools, other training institutions
2. Courses: ① Credited Non-Degree Student Course A: 1 year
 Detail: Enroll in a local university as a credited non-degree student.

② 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.

③ 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.

1. 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 FY2026 budget.)

　　　　　　 　a.　Descendants of Okinawan emigrants residing abroad up to 7 people

　　　　　　　　b.　Applicants from Fujian Province (China) 　 up to 1 person

　　　　　　　　c.　Applicants from Taiwan　 up to 2 people

**4. Period of Study/Training**

The period of study or training shall be within 1 year from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

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.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Expense | Amount | Details |
| Travel Expenses | Actual Amount | Roundtrip airfare (economy class) between an international airport in their country 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) \*Those who enrolled at a university with dormitories 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).

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 overseas student from Asian countries. “Asian countries” refers to Fujian Province of China and Taiwan, which are the countries and regions 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).

① For descendants of Okinawan emigrants

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

② For applicants from Asian countries

Nominated by a government agency, as well as a person in a position of authority over 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 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 as of April 1, 2026. (Those whose date of birth is on or after April 2, 1991, are eligible to apply.)

(5) Must be able to arrive in Okinawa in April 2026 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 and the activities of their local Okinawan associations as well as contribute to the friendship and goodwill between Okinawa Prefecture and their home countries.

**7. Application Documents**

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) \*For those with dual citizenship, please submit both Japanese passport and passport of country of residence.

(13) Copy of passport

(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 Friday, October 31, 2025 (JST).** (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 documents.

Please use the application document checklist to review the details of each document carefully prior to submission to the OPG.

\*3: 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 note that the final decision will be determined by the document screening of the OPG and admission acceptance from their university of choice or training institutions.

\*4: Regarding Application Requirements

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]

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\*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 head of the nominating organization shall notify applicants of acceptance or rejection to the study abroad program.

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 form (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 for financial purposes. 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 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 country 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 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 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 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 and approved by the Governor, until they 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 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.