



The 2nd TOMODACHI • MUFG International Exchange Program

Program Announcement

U.S.-Japan Council (USJC)

Japan America Society of Southern California (JAS)

Japanese Association of The Experiment in International Living (EIL Japan)

The 2nd TOMODACHI • MUFG International Exchange program

The 2nd TOMODACHI • MUFG International Exchange Program is a three-year exchange program for students and educators from the disaster-affected areas in Japan and the United States. This exchange program is part of the “TOMODACHI Initiative”, a public-private partnership, led by the U.S. Government and the U.S.-Japan Council and supported by the Japanese Government. The TOMODACHI Initiative supports Japan’s recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and invests in the next generation of Japanese and Americans in ways that strengthen cultural and economic ties and deepen the friendship between the United States and Japan over the long-term.

The TOMODACHI • MUFG International Exchange Program is hosted by U.S.-Japan Council, sponsored by MUFG, implemented by EIL Japan and Japan America Society of Southern California. All travel arrangements are made by Japan Travel Bureau. It is generously sponsored by Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG), which includes The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ and Union Bank, N.A.

1 Purpose

This exchange program’s purpose is to help build stronger ties between high school students in Southern California and Japanese students and citizens through a two-week visit to Japan. Additionally, they will experience Japanese culture and learn about disaster prevention, crisis management and leadership. The program will also provide the opportunity for American students to experience a homestay with a family in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, to interact with Japanese high school students, and to engage in volunteer activities in the region.

2 Program period (16 days)

June 29	Pre-Departure Welcome/Orientation in L.A.
June 30	Departure from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
July 1	Arrival in Japan
July 1 – 14	Program in Japan
July 14	Departure from Japan
July 14	Arrival in LAX

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3 Number of Participants

26 high school students (accompanied by about 4 chaperones)

4 Accommodations

Hotels and homestay (tentative destinations: Tokyo, Miyagi, Hiroshima, Kobe and Kyoto)

5 Contents of the Program(tentative)

- People-to-people exchange with Japanese people through a home-stay experience, visits to high schools and other cultural experiences
- Learning about disaster preparedness and crisis management
- Visits to Japanese institutions known for leading technology
- Volunteer activities

6 Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- A U.S. Citizen
- Between 15 and 18 years old at the time of departure (June 30, 2013)
- Enrolled in a high school in Los Angeles County, Orange County or San Diego County
- In good physical and mental health
- Willing to learn about the Japanese culture and interact and engage with the Japanese people
- Be able to take part in the entire itinerary

Applicants must also:

- Have not visited Japan for more than seven consecutive days within the past three years
- Have the consent of a parent(s) or a guardian(s)
- Not have plans to participate in any other program to study in or visit Japan prior to this program
- Be a native speaker of English
- Some Japanese language ability is preferred but not required

7 Expenses Covered by the Program

- Air fare (economy-class, round-trip)

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- Meals during the program
- Accommodations in Los Angeles (June 29, 2013) and in Japan (July 1, 2013 through July 13, 2013)
- Expenses related to group activities
- Transportation fees in Japan
- Departure Orientation in Los Angeles
- Overseas Travel Insurance (with an upper limit on coverage)

The participants will be insured with an overseas travel insurance policy during the period of the program. The detailed coverage conditions are defined in the contract between the insurance company and the sponsor. Chronic or preexisting diseases or injuries, as well as dental care, pregnancy, childbirth and any short or long term ailments arising from premature childbirth or miscarriage are not included in the coverage. The Sponsor can not bear any responsibility beyond the coverage of this insurance.

8 Participants are responsible for the following fees and expenses:

- Transportation from home to a designated Los Angeles area hotel on June 29, 2013 (Hotel to be announced)
- Application fees for a U.S. Passport (A travel visa is not required for this exchange program)
- Medical Certificate
- Personal expenses prior to and during the exchange program
- Transportation from LAX to home on July 14, 2013

9 Obligations

Participants must:

- Obey the laws of Japan
- Attend all the activities of the exchange program
- Not make use of this program to stay in Japan for any other purpose or activity
- Not take part in any activity that is not permitted under Japan's laws for tourists visiting the country, such as seeking or engaging in employment, etc.
- Participate in the exchange program as scheduled:
 - a. Arrive in and depart from Japan on the scheduled dates of the program. No early departure or extension of stay will be allowed.
 - b. Not to visit any other countries except Japan.
 - c. Not to return to the U.S. during the program (an exception may be made in the event of an unforeseen or extreme circumstance)

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- Not be accompanied by family members during the stay in Japan, nor have visits by family members while in Japan
- To live as a member of the host family during homestay and accept normal family responsibilities; and to adapt to and live within the rules and customs of the host family, showing respect for the host parents.
- Submit a written report about the trip to Japan America Society within two months after the program's completion
- Authorize the use of photos and/or video images of the participants taken during the program, free of charge, for future promotional materials of the organizers, sponsors and other partners of the exchange program
- Report immediately to staff member any possible contraction of an infectious disease during the exchange program, in accordance to Japan's "New Infectious Diseases Control Law" (1998, Law #114)
- Complete surveys for follow-up and feed-back regarding the TOMODACHI • MUFG International Exchange Program
- The participants are encouraged to share their experiences in Japan with the family, friends, classmates and the community after the trip

10 Program withdrawal

The participation in the program may be terminated under the following circumstances and a participant will be required to leave the program and return home:

- If his/her physical or mental health has made it impossible or unsuitable for him/her to continue to participate in the program.
- If the participant has seriously violated the terms and conditions of the program including those stated in section 9 (above).
- If a false description in the application form or any other application document is found.
- If the participant has accepted an opportunity to study in or visit Japan with a different program prior to this program.
- If the participant shows inappropriate behavior in a way which is judged by the organizer as being detrimental to the program.

11 Application procedure

- Required Documents
 - a. Application Form
 - b. Liability release form

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c. Teacher Recommendation:

If you are currently studying Japanese, please ask your Japanese language teacher to complete the teacher recommendation form in the attachment.

If you are not studying Japanese, please ask one of your high school teachers to complete the teacher recommendation in the attachment.

We request that the teacher submit the recommendation electronically directly to JAS at tomodachi.MUFG@jas-socal.org. Recommendations submitted by students will not be accepted.

d. Single-spaced essay on three topics stated in the form

All forms can be downloaded from Japan America Society of Southern California's website at www.jas-socal.org

- Application Deadline is **Sunday, March 31, 2013**
- Candidates selected for in-person or internet interviews will be notified by April 8, 2013.
- In-person or internet interviews will be scheduled during the period from Saturday, April 13, 2013 to Sunday, April 21, 2013.
- Notification to the selected candidates for the Program will be made on Friday, April 26, 2013

12 Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Makiko Nakasone, program coordinator of the Japan America Society of Southern California by email at TOMODACHI.MUFG@jas-socal.org or by phone at (818) 523-2866.