



The 6th TOMODACHI MUFG International Exchange Program

Program Announcement

U.S. – Japan Council
Japan America Society of Southern California
Japanese Association of The Experiment in International Living

The 6th TOMODACHI MUFG International Exchange Program

1 Purpose

The purpose of this exchange program is to help build stronger ties between Southern California high school students and their Japanese counterparts and Japanese citizens through a two-week visit to Japan. It will provide the opportunity for the Southern California high school students to experience a home stay 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. Additionally, the Southern California high school students will experience the Japanese culture and learn about disaster prevention, crisis management and leadership.

Host	TOMODACHI Initiative (the U.S.-Japan Council-Japan)
Sponsor	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG)
Implementer	Japanese Association of The Experiment in International Living (EIL)
Recruitment	Japan America Society of Southern California (JASSC)

2 Program period (14 days)

Sat., June 24	Pre-Departure Welcome/Orientation in L.A.
Sun., June 25	Departure from LAX
Mon., June 26	Arrival in Japan
Tue., June 27 – Sat., July 8	Program in Japan
Sun., July 9	Departure from Japan
Sun., July 9	Arrive at LAX

3 Number of Participants

20 American Students

4 Program Location and Accommodations (tentative)

Tokyo, Miyagi, Hiroshima, and Kyoto

5 Contents of the program

- People-to-people exchange with Japanese through a home stay experience, visits to high schools and other cultural experiences
- Learning about disaster preparedness and crisis management through visits to Disaster Prevention Institutions
- Learning about the status of reconstruction efforts in the Tohoku region
- Visits to Japan's leading high tech industries
- Volunteer activities

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6 Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- A U.S. Citizen
- Between 15 and 18 years old at the time of departure (Sun., June 25, 2017)
- Enrolled in a high school in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino or Riverside County
- In good physical and mental health
- Willing to learn about the Japanese culture and interact and engage with the Japanese people
- Able to take part in the entire program including the orientation in Los Angeles on Sun., May 21, 2017.

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
- Japanese language ability is preferred but not required

7 Expenses covered by the Host

- Airfare (round-trip, economy-class ticket)
- Meals during the program
- Accommodations in Los Angeles (Sat., June 24, 2017) and in Japan (Mon., June 26, 2017 through Sat., July 8, 2017)
- Group activities and excursions
- Transportation in Japan
- 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 Host. 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 Host cannot bear any responsibility beyond the coverage of this insurance.

- Departure Orientation in Los Angeles

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8 Participants are responsible for the following fees and expenses:

- Transportation from home to Los Angeles area hotel for an in-person interview on Sat., April 29 or Sun., April 30, 2017
- Transportation from home to Los Angeles area hotel for mandatory orientation on Sun., May 21, 2017
- Transportation from home to Los Angeles area hotel for departure orientation on Sat., June 24, 2017 (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 with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) from Los Angeles International Airport to home on July 9, 2017

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 employment, etc.
- Participate in the exchange program as scheduled:
 - a. Arrive in and depart from Japan on the exchange program's scheduled dates. No early departure, or travel extensions will be allowed.
 - b. Not to visit any other country 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)
- Not be accompanied by family members during the stay in Japan, nor have visits by family members while in Japan
- Submit a one to two page written report to Japan America Society by July 31, 2017, reflecting on the trip
- Authorize the use of exchange program participant's photos and/or video images, free of charge, for future promotional materials by the exchange program Host, Implementer, Recruiter, Sponsor and other partners.
- Report to an exchange program 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)

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- Complete any follow-up exchange participant surveys regarding the TOMODACHI MUFG International Exchange Program
- To the best of the program participant's ability, share his/her experiences in Japan with family, friends, schoolmates and his/her community.

10 Program withdrawal

The program may be terminated for a participant 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 participating in the program.
- If the participant has seriously violated the conditions of participation 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.

11 Application Procedure

Application Timeline

Mon., March 27	Completed application due by 11:59pm (PDT)
Tue., March 28 - Mon., April 3	Application review period
The week of April 3	Notification of applicants selected for in-person interviews
Sat., April 29 – Sun., April 30	In-person interviews for selected applicants
Mon., May 1 – Fri., May 5	Notification of Selection for the Program
Sun., May 21	Pre-departure Orientation (Mandatory)

Required Documents

- a. Application Form: The form can be downloaded from Japan America Society of Southern California's website at www.jas-socal.org/Tomodachi-MUFG
 - b. One page, single-spaced essay
 - c. Copy of high school transcript (from Grade 9 to present)
 - d. Teacher recommendation form and evaluation letter
- Application Deadline is **Monday, March 27, 2017, 11:59pm (PDT)**.
 - Applications with missing components or are otherwise incomplete will NOT be considered

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- Only select applicants will be invited for the in-person interviews

12 Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact Kentaro Moridaira program coordinator in the U.S., by email at TOMODACHI.MUFG@jas-socal.org or by phone at (310) 965-9050 ext. 106.