U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL

The Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Program

The Watanabe Scholarship provides financial assistance to American undergraduate and graduate students for semester- or year-long study abroad or international study in Japan.
This year marks the 10th anniversary of the scholarship, which was established in 2016 thanks to a generous $10 million endowment gift from Mr. Toshizo (Tom) Watanabe to the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC).
The scholarship program grants awards to recipients in amounts determined by financial need and other qualifications.



Eligibility Criteria

1. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
2. Be in good academic standing in school
3. Will be enrolled in an exchange program or credit-bearing course of study at a university in Japan. (*Language schools are not eligible.)*
4. Demonstrates financial need for international study
5. Preference is given to applicants:
(1) who are from single-parent households or orphans
(2) whose parents didn't graduate from college
(3) who have never been abroad, including travel or study abroad

How to Apply

Please apply through the online application portal on our website. Submit all required documents in English. Selection will be based solely on application materials; there will be no interviews.

- Application Form
- Letter of Recommendation (recommender)
- Study Abroad & Financial Certification Form (applicant and school administrator)
- Personal Statement Form
- Resume
- Transcript
- Proof of Residency

Scholarship Timeline

2026

- November-December : Virtual Information Sessions

2027

- January : Online Application Opens
- February : Online Application Deadline
- June : Scholarship Decisions Announced
- July : Scholarship Disbursement Begins

All times are in U.S. Eastern Time. Schedule is subject to change. Please visit our website for details and the most up-to-date information

What makes the Watanabe Scholarship Unique?

- This scholarship is not a loan and covers up to the full amount of semester- or year-long tuition/program fees for international study or study abroad.
- Students may combine this scholarship with other scholarships, depending on their financial need. (See our website for information on how to calculate the requested amount)
- Scholars can join USJC member events as well as USJC TOMODACHI Alumni network.

For most up-to-date information, please scan the QR code.

Questions?

Visit our FAQ page at:
https://www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-faq/

For questions not in the FAQ page, please email:
WatanabeScholarship@usjapancouncil.org