

Japan's Friendship Ties programs

**MIRAI 2021/2022**

**Outline**



Implementing agency of MIRAI 2021/2022

JTB Corp.

(hereafter, abbreviated as JTB)



Perfect moments, always

Serial number : 3 2 8

## 1. Program Overview

In 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has launched “Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs”, which promote people-to-people exchanges between Japan and the various nations of the Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, to encourage an understanding of Japan’s economy, society, history, diverse culture, politics, and diplomatic relations among participants. Participants are expected to proactively disseminate information on Japan’s attractions and contribute to promoting sustained attention to Japan. The Europe regional component of this exchange program is called “MIRAI” (Mutual-understanding, Intellectual Relations and Academic Exchange Initiative) .

“MIRAI 2021/2022” is a short-term youth exchange program to invite 121 graduate/undergraduate students and young professionals from Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, who study Politics, Law, Security Policies, Economics, International Relations, Asian Studies, Japan Studies, Science and Technology or other related fields. The title of the program “MIRAI” (未来) (pronounced “me-rye”) means “future” in Japanese.

### 〔Objectives〕

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) aims to outline the program would offer a great opportunity

- (1) To promote mutual understandings
- (2) To enhance intellectual discussions
- (3) To build strong networks among future leaders of Japan and the world.

Also, MOFA would strongly encourage all participants to disseminate information about Japan’s attractions learned throughout the program through SNS (Social Network Services) (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube).

## 2. Program Outline

### i . Themes and number of the participants:

6 groups under below mentioned theme would be formulated from 121 participants (university / graduate school students and young professionals) over the age of 20.

《Theme》	《Number of Participants》
【Group 1】 Peace-building	12
【Group 2】 Politics and Security	26
【Group 3】 Economy, Business and Green	26
【Group 4】 Science, Technology and Innovation	26
【Group 5】 Culture and Art	5
【Group 6】 Rule of Law	26

ii . Online Pre-exchange program (a couple of days in January - February)

All participants are required to attend an online pre-exchange program in their countries before they depart for Japan. The online pre-exchange program may cover the followings.

- Orientation including guidance on how to share their learning and finding about Japan by utilizing social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.,
- Lecture on the theme-related contents,
- Virtual exchange and discussion with Japanese students / experts

iii . Visiting Japan program (6-day travel visit to Japan)

- To attend lectures on Japanese politics, society, history, and diplomatic relations to gain a deeper understanding of Japan.
- To visit education and research institutions, high-tech and traditional industries, fine arts and traditional crafts exhibitions, cultural heritage sites. Participants will interact and exchange ideas with people in these various sites through workshops and other events.
- Workshop and reporting session.
- To disseminate information about Japan's attractions through the implementation of Action Plan(※) .  
(※) Action Plan is to convey the Japan's appeals that participants take after returning to their respective countries.

**NOTICE:**

**The visiting Japan programs may not be implemented due to the situation of the novel coronavirus diseases (COVID-19) or unforeseen events.**

### **3. Qualification for Participation**

All applicants should meet all conditions of the following criteria.

- i . Applicants must understand the aims of this program and commit to sharing and disseminating their experiences and the attractions of Japan through various communication tools including social media and/or their publications after the online pre-exchange program, during their stay in Japan and after returning to home countries. Publication results should be shared with Government of Japan's Foreign Missions located in participants' residential countries.
- ii . Those who have an experience residing in Japan for more than 6 months are not eligible.
- iii . Those who have participated in "MIRAI" and/or similar programs funded by the Japanese government are not eligible.
- iv . Applicants must have a nationality of one of the following countries and do not have a Japanese nationality.

***Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia,***

**Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, North Macedonia, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan**

- v . Applicants must be 20 years old or older (for Group 6, between 20 and 30.).
- vi . Applicants can communicate and discuss relevant themes and topics with other participants in English without difficulty.
- vii. Applicants must have good academic achievement with their academic record being within 20% of all students counted from the top.
- viii. Applicants must be in good health both physically and mentally.
  - If the applicant's body temperature is 37.0°C (98.6°F) or higher on the day of departure, the person will not be permitted to participate the Visiting Japan program.
  - The Applicant should be physically capable of keeping up with the program schedule.
- ix. Applicants belong to one of the university or organization /company located in the following countries below:

Group	Theme	Target Countries	Target Group
1	Peace-building	[Western Balkans] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	University students and graduate students
2	Politics and Security	[EU] Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden [Others] Belarus, Norway, Ukraine, United Kingdom	University students and graduate students
3	Economy, Business and Green	[EU] Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain [Others] Andorra, Moldova, Monaco, United Kingdom	University students and graduate students
4	Science, Technology and Innovation	[EU] Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden [Others] Liechtenstein, San Marino, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom	University students and graduate students
5	Arts and Culture	[European Capital of Culture] Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Romania, Serbia	University students and graduate students

6	Rule of Law	[Central Asia] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan [Caucasus] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	University students, graduate students who preferably study legal field related to business and administrative cases, young professionals who are preferably engaged in large scale business on administrative cases, lawyers, legal administrative officers, or private company staff in charge of law.
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**NOTICE:**

- The location is not necessarily the same as your nationality.
- You must be enrolled in your affiliation until the end of this program.
- Please contact RYCO if you apply for 【Group1】

**〔Mandatory Assignments〕**

All participants must implement all the requirements from (1) to (3).

**(1) Presentation and implementation of your action plan**

At the reporting session, all participants will present their action plans after they return home based on what they learned in this program and how they might stay connected to Japan. The action plan will be presented by groups at the reporting session, and the contents will be collected from consultation with all participants during the workshop. After presentation of the action plan, each member will implement the plan within 3 months. If it is difficult to implement the action plan in 3 months. (e.g., Writing graduate/research thesis including this program experience, work/study in Japan, and in other comparatively medium- or long-term situations), please report the reason and expected implementation schedule to JTB of the MIRAI Program within 3 months.

**(2) Sharing your experience**

All participants will actively share his/her experiences during both the pre-exchange program and visiting Japan program as well as convey information about Japan including one regarding Japanese society, history, culture, politics, economics, and diplomatic relations through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and so on, both during the program and within 3 months after the program.

**(3) Responding to questionnaires**

All participants will submit answers to questionnaires (after the pre-exchange program, during and after 3 months of the visiting Japan program, and alumni Association event) to JTB on time.

## 4. Necessary Procedure

### i .Preparations for the application

The application includes the following items, and they are particularly important for selecting participants.

#### **- Reasons for application**

Required to express and describe your thought including viewpoints of this program or related matter (within 200 words)

#### **- Plan of dissemination**

Required to express and describe how to convey Japan's appeals and relation with Japan (within 200 words)

#### **- Latest transcript of academic record**

Required to upload the copy from his/her university. In case, if you cannot submit, upload a copy of your latest enrollment certificate.

#### **- Copy of employment letter, valid company ID card, other documents, etc. 【Young Professionals of Group 6 only】**

Required to upload the copy of any of the above to certify your affiliation/employment/profession.

#### **- Some applicants will be required to other documents from the Embassy/Consulate-General of Japan.**

### ii .Requirements for Application and Deadline for Application

Fill out the entry forms on the website in English and upload the necessary documents during the application period.

<https://req31.smp.ne.jp/regist/is?SMPFORM=mftj-ldobsc-45cc2250db62de6aafbbabf8ba408cea>

**\*The application deadline is 7, November 2021. (No extension allowed)**

\*Please note that duplicate application will be invalid.

\* If there is a serial number on the cover of this outline, please be sure to enter the number in the application form.

### iii .The selection of participants 【Group 2-6】

All participants are required to fill out the additional forms on the website for participating to visiting Japan Program.

\*The results will be announced by the end of December.

\*All participants will be required to upload the photocopy of the photo page of his/her valid passport.

## **NOTICE:**

**The data of your registration will be removed from the database and never backed up after the completion of the selection.**

## 5. Terms and Conditions

### i . The following arrangements and expenses are covered by the program.

- Round trip international air tickets from/to Gateway- Airport, the nearest airport from State/Province (Current Address) of your current address, to/from Japan in Economy class.

**NOTICE:**

**\*No cabin class upgrade available.**

**\*Excess baggage charge will be paid at one's own expense.**

- Overseas travel accident insurance

Insurance	Coverage	Amount (10,000 JPY)
Accident	Death Benefit	2,500
	Physical Impediment Benefit	2,500
	Medical Expense	1,000
Sickness	Medical Expense	1,000
Rescuer's Expense		300
Personal Liability		5,000

**NOTICE:**

**\*Chronic diseases, dental diseases and pregnancy diagnosed by a Japanese medical doctor and cases disapproved by the insurance company will NOT be covered by insurance.**

**\*Individuals will be liable for the expenses mentioned above.**

- For scheduled activities in Japan

- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Meals
- Admission fees

**NOTICE:**

**\*No cash allowance is provided to participants.**

**\*Participants are expected to cover personal expenses, such as passport fees, fees for vaccinations and certificates, excess baggage charges, travel expenses between their home and Gateway-airport, fees for accommodation and meals in your countries, and purchase of souvenirs /personal goods before or during the program.**

### ii . Cancellation Policy

If a participant chooses to cancel the participation in this program due to any reason other than medical or other unavoidable circumstances, the participant shall be fully responsible for any costs associated with this cancellation. The cancellation fees will be charged to the participant if his/her application has already been accepted and the flight and/or other bookings are completed.

\*In the event of cancellation due to a medical or other unavoidable circumstance, cancellation fees may be waived upon presentation of a relevant certificate or evidence requested by JTB.

iii. The following is not permitted.

- To come early to Japan before this program or remain in Japan after this program
- To change the flight designated by this program
- To change accommodation designated by this program
- To be accompanied by someone else
- To skip any elements of the official program, including scheduled meals or visits, for personal or business reasons such as meetings with relatives, friends, business partners in Japan, etc.
- To travel to a third country on the way to Japan or back to participant's country

iv. Conditions for the stay in Japan

- All the participants must attend all the programs planned by JTB and follow the rules/guidelines set by JTB.
- Participants that cause hindrance to the program may be dismissed, and will subsequently be responsible for leaving Japan at their own expense.
- The implementing agency will try to prepare the following when necessary for religious reasons, however, JTB cannot guarantee their availability in all locations.
  - \*time and place for prayers
  - \*meals suitable for food restriction for religious reasons

v. Photos and videos taken during the Program

While participating in the program, photos and videos, participants' comments, etc. may be recorded by the JTB or other participating organizations.

In addition, all participants must agree that these photos and comments and content posted to SNS by participants may be used in various media for the purpose of introducing MIRAI program or in business reports.

vi. Respect for Japanese Law and Regulations

During the stay in Japan, participants must respect the laws and regulations of Japan, and any offenders will be subject to penalties under Japanese law. Any dispute arising out of the application and admission of, or relating to, this program between the participants and the Japanese Government or JTB shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the domestic laws of Japan, without regard to principles of conflicts of laws, and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the applicable courts in Japan.

vii. The attribution of responsibility during the program

All participants agree to release JTB (including its employees and agents) of and from any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, liabilities, and expenses including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, and expenses (collectively, "Claims") arising from or relating to a participant's participation in MIRAI Program; provided, however, that this release shall not apply to any Claims related to or arising from JTB's gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct. Finally, all participants agree to indemnify JTB (including its employees and agents), and hold it harmless, of and from any and all Claims arising from or relating to their breach of the terms and conditions of this Application Guideline.

viii. Important Notice for the Prevention of the Novel Coronavirus

In response to the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), JTB has been taking the following effective measures to prevent infection and protect the health and safety of participants and JTB staff members.

- (1) Please wear face masks and cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or a sleeve of your clothing if you have to cough or sneeze
- (2) If you have symptoms of fever (about 37.0°C), fatigue or cold during the program, please avoid going out and consult with JTB staff immediately
- (3) Please avoid the "Three Cs"
  - 1) Closed spaces with poor ventilation
  - 2) Crowded places with many people nearby
  - 3) Close-contact settings such as close-range conversations
- (4) Please keep physical distance
- (5) Please wash your hands frequently with hand sanitizer and gargle
- (6) Please drink a bottle of water (500 ml per day) provided by JTB
- (7) Please check your health condition and measure body temperature before breakfast, in the daytime and evening
- (8) Please eat well and sleep well

## 6. Handling of Personal Information

Personal information collected under MIRAI Program shall be treated in compliance with the Personal Information Protection Law of Japan and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). JTB ensures the appropriate handling of personal information.

JTB may provide personal information to travel agencies, publishers, cooperating organizations, schools, host families, and so on in order to operate and report the program by means of post, fax or E-mail. The disclosure of personal information to JTB is at the sole discretion of the participants. If you do not agree with this, it might cause some difficulties in the operation of the program, therefore you are requested to understand and consent to the provision of personal information.

### \*JTB Corp. (JTB)

JTB Corp., called JTB, is an implementing agency of MIRAI Programs, and has undertaken all the necessary arrangements for this program, such as travel procedures and the entire schedule of events in Japan.

### \*The JTB Group

- Established: November 12, 1963 (Founded: March 12, 1912)
- Number of employees: 23,785 (JTB Group employees as of March 31, 2021)

The JTB Group was founded as the “Japan Tourist Bureau” in 1912, with the objective of contributing to Japan’s economy by welcoming overseas travelers to Japan. For over 100 years since then, the JTB Group has been the driving force behind Japan’s tourism industry.

The JTB Group is building an expansive network that currently covers 143 cities and 510 offices across 39 countries/regions. In keeping with the JTB Group philosophy of “Contributing to the realization of a peaceful and enriched society by creating opportunities for human exchange and interaction across the world stage”, around 29,000 JTB Group employees worldwide work in close coordination to offer high value services.

### The JTB Group

<https://www.jtbcorp.jp/en/>

To a Wonderful Japanese-aiding the Escape of Jewish Refugees

[https://www.jtbcorp.jp/jp/colors/detail/0058/img/chronicle\\_04.pdf](https://www.jtbcorp.jp/jp/colors/detail/0058/img/chronicle_04.pdf)

Further Story about "Visas for Life "Remembering JTB Employee Tatsuo Osako Today ... Part I

<https://www.jtbcorp.jp/jp/colors/detail/0116/>