**2025 Academic Year**

Okinawan Emigrants’ Descendant and Asian

Scholarship Program

Application Requirements

 Okinawa Prefecture

1. Purpose of the Program

　Exemplary 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 learning traditional arts in Okinawa Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as “universities and other institutions”). Students will be provided with opportunities to understand Okinawan history, culture, and customs, gain work experience at local businesses, and promote exchange with local people. The aim of the program is to cultivate human resources capable of serving as a bridge between students’ home countries and Okinawa, foster the preservation of the Uchinā Network for the next generation and contribute to international exchange with Okinawa Prefecture.

2. Definition

　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 countries and regions with mutual student exchange programs with Okinawa Prefecture (China’s Fujian Province and Taiwan).

3. Place of Study or Training and the Number of Applicants to Be Accepted

　Students will study as credited non-degree students or traditional arts training students at universities and other institutions or trainees at businesses in Okinawa Prefecture.

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: a. Credited Non-Degree Student Course A: 1 year
 Content: Enroll in a university in Okinawa Prefecture as a credited non-degree student.

 b. Credited Non-Degree Student Course B: 1 year (6 months as a non-degree student, 6 months as a trainee at a company)

Content: In principle, after 6 months of study as a non-degree student at a university in the prefecture, the international student will receive training at local businesses.

c. Traditional Arts Training Course: 1 year

　　　　　　　Content: Japanese language school + Training for learning traditional performing arts and crafts
After studying at a Japanese language school in Okinawa Prefecture for few months, 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 changed depending on the 2024 budget.）

　　　　　　 　a.　Descendants of Okinawan emigrants living abroad 　no more than 7 people

　　　　　　　　b.　Applicants from Fujian Province 　no more than 1 person

　　　　　　　　c.　Applicants from Taiwan　 no more than 2 people

4. Period of Study or Training

　The period of study or training shall be within 1 year from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. The period of study or training may be able to extend until August 31, 2025 depending on the 2025 budget.

However, the acceptance period and the method of program implementation may be changed or the program may be cancelled, depending on various reasons.

5. Scholarship Details

5-1 Provision of Scholarship Funds

　International students shall be provided with the expenses necessary for studying abroad, as follows.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Expense Provision | Amount | Details |
| Travel Expenses | Actual Amount | Roundtrip airfare (economy class) between an international airport in the international students’ country of residence and Naha Airport and any domestic transportation costs for transfers in Japan. |
| School Expenses | Actual Amount | Application fees, admission fees, tuition fees, etc. |
| Living Expenses | JPY 70,000 | Monthly provision (does not include provision of actual amount of housing expenses, which will be provided separately) \*Those enrolled at a university with a dormitory shall live in the university dormitory. |
| Social Welfare Expenses | Actual Amount | National Health Insurance, Basic Accident Insurance, Comprehensive Home Insurance |
| Other | Actual Amount | Expenses deemed necessary by the Okinawa Prefectural Governor |

\*Expenses for obtainment of passports and visas shall be borne by the applicant.

\*The living expenses for the first month of study in Okinawa shall be based on the number of days from the date of arrival in Okinawa Prefecture to the end of the month (JPY 2,300×number of days).

\*The living expenses of the final month of study in Okinawa (March) shall be calculated based on the number of days until the date of departure from Okinawa (JPY 2,300×number of days).

5-2 Revocation of the Scholarship

　During the period of study or training, the scholarship funds 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 from school, or withdraws from school

(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 of the following qualifications are eligible to apply.

(1) Must be a descendant of an emigrant from Okinawa Prefecture or an overseas student from an Asian country. “Asian countries” refers to countries and regions with mutual student exchange programs with Okinawa Prefectural Government (Fujian Province, China and Taiwan).

(2) Person of sound physical and mental health recommended by the head of a nominating organization in each country (see below)

1) For descendants of Okinawan emigrants:

Nomination by the president of an Okinawan organization in respective country/region.

2) For applicants from Asian countries:

Nomination by a government agency as well as a person in a position of authority over the applicant at his or 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 years of age as of April 1, 2025. (Those whose date of birth is on or after April 1, 1990 are eligible to apply.)

(5) Must have adequate Japanese language proficiency for study or 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 ability equivalent to or greater than Level N2 of the JLPT. Applicants may also be required to meet the criteria set by the host organization.)

\*Applicants that wish to study at the University of the Ryukyus must have Japanese ability equivalent to or greater than JLPT Level N2.

(6) Must have the ability to bear any necessary expenses that exceed the scholarship amount provided by Okinawa Prefecture during the period of study or training.

(7) Must have a family member, relative, or other person residing in Okinawa Prefecture who understands and provides support and can act as a guarantor during the period of study or training in Okinawa (If the guarantor does not reside in Okinawa prefecture, please consult us in advance). The guarantor of students from Asian countries does not need to be a resident of Okinawa Prefecture.

(8) After the completion of the program, students are 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 organizations as well as contribute to the friendship and goodwill between Okinawa Prefecture and their home countries.

7. Application Materials

The nomination organization should recommend candidates by providing the following application materials.

(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 language)

(15) Other Required Documents for Selection and Study Abroad

\*Please use the prescribed forms.

\*Fill out the forms in Japanese language.

8. Submission Deadline

The head of the nominating organization must submit the aforementioned application documents and nomination documents **by e-mail** to the following e-mail address **by Thursday, October 31, 2024 (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 application documents.

Please use the application document checklist to carefully check the contents of applications prior to submission to the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

\*3: Recommendation does not guarantee acceptance.

Some applicants believe that they are guaranteed to be able to study abroad once they have been nominated and take a leave of absence from school or work, but the final decision will not be made unless the applicant clears both the Okinawa Prefectural Government document screening and receives admission acceptance from their university of choice or training institutions.

\*4: Regarding Application Requirements

If you no longer meet the requirements for application (for health reasons or prospective university graduation, etc.), please contact the Okinawa prefecture right away.

[Contact for Submission & Inquiries]

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　※Please send to both the above-noted e-mail addresses.

　※Please note that the attached files are large and may not be received by e-mail, so please send them in multiple e-mails.

9. Notification of Results

The head of the nomination organization shall notify applicants of acceptance or rejection to the study abroad program.

Special Notes:

1. Guidance of International Students

(1) International students may be given advice on behavior and lifestyle during their stay in Okinawa.

(2)When traveling outside of Okinawa Prefecture, international students must submit an application form (Form 13) to Okinawa prefecture in advance.

(3) In principle, the operation of cars, motorcycles, etc. by international students will not be approved.

(4) In principle, international students will not be allowed to have part-time jobs for the financial purposes. If an international student must have a part-time job for unavoidable reasons, he/she 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 Okinawa prefecture and obtain approval from the governor prior to starting the part-time 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 their period of study or training. However, if they must travel outside of Japan for unavoidable reasons, they must submit the Application for Temporary Return to Home Country (Form 14) to the Okinawa Prefecture 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 and if they have already received the 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 networking services and other means of sharing information about life in Okinawa during their period of study or training 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 wish to extend their stay in Japan must submit the following documents to the Okinawa Prefecture.

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, international students 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 by the governor, until they are able to 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 Okinawa Prefecture every 3 month after the start of their period of study or training.

(2) International students must submit the Okinawan Emigrants’ Descendants and Asian Scholarship Program Completion Report (Form 20) to the Okinawa Prefecture within 10 days of completion of their study or training.

4. Other

（1） Depending on various reasons, such as the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in prices, the program budget, the program may be cancelled or the period of acceptance or method of implementation of the program may be changed.