

JAPAN SOCIETY JUNIOR FELLOWS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

**JULY 1—JULY 16, 2025
AUGUST 21, 2025**

Application Deadline (postmarked): FEBRUARY 14, 2025

The Junior Fellows Leadership Program

is a culturally immersive learning experience for high school students who possess the potential for strong leadership and demonstrate the skills necessary to be future leaders. During this program conducted in New York and Japan, Junior Fellows have the opportunity to build networks with current industry leaders and program alumni, stay with a host family, participate in activities at a local high school and experience Japanese history and culture through hands-on experiences and historical site visits.



Program Schedule (Tentative)*

- **February 14** Application deadline (postmarked)
- **April 5 (tentative)** Group interviews
- **May 17 (tentative)** Program orientation at Japan Society, New York
- **July 1—2** Pre-departure orientation at Japan Society, New York
- **July 3—4** Departure for and arrival in Japan
- **July 4—16** In-Japan program
- **July 16** Return to the U.S.
- **August 21** Post-program Presentation & Networking Reception

*Program contents and dates are subject to change.

“The Junior Fellows Program was the most singular experience I have ever had in my life. My experience in the Japan program has been invaluable in preparing me for my future goal of collaborating with diverse groups to tackle humanity’s greatest challenges. Through cultural immersion and teamwork with Japanese peers, I’ve honed my ability to communicate and cooperate across cultural boundaries. The program taught me to appreciate different perspectives and problem-solving approaches, skills crucial for addressing global issues.”

– Participant from Greenwich, CT

Program Highlights

- Meet and learn from industry leaders in business, arts and sciences, nonprofit organizations and government entities
- Visit leading companies to learn and compare what they value and look for in building our future
- Live with a Japanese host family and explore local communities in Japan
- Experience Japanese high school life
- Carry out a team project focused on a global issue
- Visit significant cultural and historic sites
- Learn basic Japanese in an immersion setting
- Join the Junior Fellows Alumni Association (JFAA)

Qualifications

- U.S. high school students from 9th to 11th grade are eligible to apply.
- All participants must be fully immunized against COVID-19 for safe international travel.
- Junior Fellows will be selected based on demonstrated leadership potential and skills, as well as the qualities necessary to have a successful and engaging experience with other program participants, including (but not limited to): ability to adapt to a foreign culture, emotional and interpersonal maturity, strong academic background and a demonstrated interest in Japan.
- Knowledge of Japanese language is helpful, but not required.
- Priority is given to students from the New York Metropolitan Area (NY, NJ, CT).

Guidelines for Application

Application and recommendation forms are available at:
japansociety.org/teacher-k-12/junior-fellows

All application packets must include the following documents:

1. **Completed application form**
2. **Two (2) signed letters of recommendation (at least one from a teacher or faculty member at the student's school)**
3. **Copy of school transcript**
4. **Two (2) short essays answering the following questions (500 word limit for each question):**

Essay 1. **How are you qualified to participate in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program?**

Essay 2. **How will this program help you to achieve your career goals?**

5. **Application checklist**

- **Applications are accepted by postal mail ONLY (no electronic submissions accepted). In order to avoid lost mail, we strongly recommend your application be sent via certified mail.**
- **Only complete application packets will be considered. Please send all required documents as a set.**

Mailing Address

**Attn: Junior Fellows Program
Japan Society
333 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017**

Application & Selection Timeline (Tentative)

- February 14 (Friday), 2025: Application Deadline (postmarked)
- Mid-March: Announcement of 1st selection
- April 5 (Saturday): Group interviews with finalists (invitation only)
- Mid-April: Final selection and announcement of 2025 Junior Fellow participants

Notes

- Application documents will not be returned.
- Applications submitted by ineligible participants or postmarked after the deadline will not be considered.
- Each applicant is responsible for ensuring that their application is complete. Only complete applications will be considered for review.
- Due to the large number of applications received, we are unable to provide feedback to applicants who are not admitted.

“My time with the Junior Fellows Program allowed me to see the world from a completely different perspective and has allowed me to gain a far more mature understanding of Japanese culture, business, and society than I would have ever imagined. It was an experience that has truly changed my life for the better and I will never forget it!”

– Participant from Demarest, NJ

“The Junior Fellows Program has given me the opportunity to better myself and grow in many areas. Throughout the program, I have matured as a person and have wrestled with the ideas of independence and responsibility. My understanding of Japan has been deepened and so has my love for the country. After my experience in Japan, I will never see the world in the same way I did before.”

– Participant from Belleville, NJ

Program Costs & Participation Fee

- The Junior Fellows Leadership Program is made possible by the generous underwriting of Japan Society donors and supporters. Tuition offsets the partial cost of the 2.5-week program: orientation and arrangements, all international and domestic travel, meals and accommodations as well as all admissions during study trips. Fellows are responsible for additional expenses, such as pocket money and additional meals/snacks that are not taken with host families or program staff.
- Tuition: \$3,500

Financial Aid

Japan Society offers need-based financial aid to provide support for students facing financial barriers who are participating in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program. We are committed to ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent students from participating in this program. Once you are selected as a Junior Fellow, Japan Society will work closely with you and your family to understand your family's needs and situation so that we can provide as much financial support as possible. After your selection, you will be requested to submit official financial information such as IRS Form 1040.

“Meeting leaders from various fields was eye-opening and provided me with valuable insights into how they manage themselves and the people they work with to achieve success. Experiencing first-hand presentations from these leaders and learning about their work deepened my understanding of what true leadership means.”

– Participant from New York, NY

Program Details

Leader Meetings & Networking Reception

Junior Fellows will meet with current leaders and professionals from various fields through company visits, individual meetings and a post-program reception. Previous Junior Fellows have had the opportunity to speak with senior business executives, government representatives, media personalities, entrepreneurs, ranking UN policy advisors, leading photojournalists, architects, artists, educators and nonprofit executives.

Homestay & School Experience

Fellows will experience Japanese life through a homestay with a local host family. Fellows will attend a local high school and participate in various activities as they complete their team research projects. Program leaders will facilitate programs that allow the Junior Fellows to gain a better understanding of local cuisine, traditions and history.

Team Research Project

Prior to departure, Junior Fellows will conduct research in teams on a topic based on one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each team will select a topic from the SDGs and develop a survey related to the topic. Fellows will administer their surveys in the U.S. and Japan for a comparative study of the two countries. During their homestay, Fellows will continue to study, discuss and further explore their topic through personal engagement with the local community.

Post-Program Reception & Project Presentation

After their return to the U.S., Fellows will present their research projects to leaders and their cohort at the post-program reception in August. Upon returning to school, Fellows are also encouraged to share their experiences and projects on-campus, as well as create an online exhibition about the town and school in which they stayed.

Junior Fellows Alumni Association (JFAA)

Throughout the program, Junior Fellows will meet with program alumni. As mentors, alumni will share tips on how to successfully complete the program and how to make the most out of their experience. Alumni also discuss their post-program experiences with the college selection process, finding internships and career planning. After completion of the program, all Junior Fellows will actively participate in Japan Society programs and continue to expand their network and develop their leadership skills as members of the JFAA.

Japan Society

Japan Society is the leading U.S. organization committed to deepening mutual understanding between the United States and Japan in a global context. Now in its second century, Japan Society serves audiences across the United States and abroad through innovative programs in arts and culture, public policy, business, language, and education. For more information about Japan Society, please visit us at japansociety.org.

For more information, contact the Japan Society Education Department at Japan Society at **(212) 715-1275/1216** or at jfellows@japansociety.org.

“This trip changed who I am as a person; it gave me a whole new thought process. Japan Society helped me create lasting connections across the world, grow as a leader, and change the course of my entire future... My life will never be the same after being a Junior Fellow.”

– Participant from Rapid City, SD



“My experience with the Junior Fellows Program was unforgettable and a turning point in my professional growth. I learned invaluable lessons about leadership, career paths, and cross-cultural communication. It has inspired me to take charge of what I do and become a leader in whatever career path I pursue.”

– Participant from Maplewood, NJ

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

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