



**The Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship**  
**渡邊利三寄付奨学金**

*For Japanese Students' International Study in the U.S.*

[www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-scholarship](http://www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-scholarship)

# Objectives

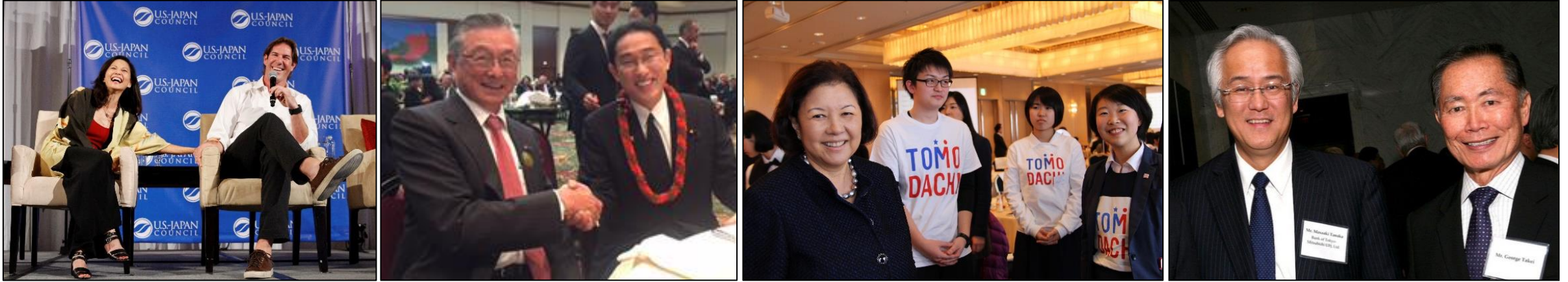
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In this document, participants will learn:

- About the U.S.-Japan Council & Watanabe Scholarship
- Features of the Watanabe Scholarship
- Eligibility criteria
- What is covered
- Scholarship application process (incl. Requirements and Timeline)
- What makes the Watanabe Scholarship unique
- Tips for completing the application



# About USJC



- ***develops and connects*** diverse leaders to create a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship
- USJC ***brings together leaders*** of the United States and Japan from across backgrounds, sectors, and generations ***to partner for a better future*** for the Asia-Pacific region and beyond
- USJC invests in the ***next generation*** of leaders from the United States and Japan
- Learn more at [www.usjapancouncil.org](http://www.usjapancouncil.org)

# About the Scholarship

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- Created in 2016
- Made possible by a \$10 million endowment gift
- Named for Mr. Toshizo Watanabe, *a successful Japanese businessman who had a life-changing SAB experience in the United States*
- To support international study in either the U.S. or Japan
- Decrease financial burden of international study
- Give opportunity to those with leadership experience/potential



# Eligibility



- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Degree-seeking & exchange program students
- Any field of study or major
- Any school or approved program  
**(\*no language schools\*)**
- A minimum one (1) semester up to one (1) year of study  
**(\*No summer/winter only programs or internships\*)**
- Japan → U.S.
- Students with financial need
- No fixed scholarship amount

# Eligibility

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- 1) Japanese citizens and permanent residents
- 2) Currently enrolled student in good standing at a high school, college or university in Japan, or degree-seeking student currently studying in the US (If going to grad school and currently not enrolled, must have proof of undergrad degree)
- 3) Will be in a credit-bearing course at a college, university or approved study center  
**\*\*Language schools are not eligible\*\***
- 4) Has financial need
- 5) **Preference** given to students who are:
  - from single parent households / orphans
  - first-generation

# Application Requirements

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- Online Application Form
- All materials in English
- Essay(s)
- Resume
- Recommendation letter (1)
- SAB certification form\*
- Financial certification form\*
- Transcripts **(optional)**
- Language proficiency scores **(optional)**
- No interview

# Scholarship Statistics

## Scholarship Statistics



67% Female  
33% Male



90% Undergraduate  
10 % Graduate



Average Award: \$9,480  
Total Awarded: \$1,858,111



39% from Single  
Parent Households



11% TOMODACHI  
Program Alumni

Data reflects cohorts 2016-17 through 2023-24.



# 2024-2025 Cycle Application Timeline\*

Date	
Jan. 8 - Feb. 19, 2024	Application Period (Online)
Apr. 22 – May 17, 2024	Finalist Notification
May 20 – May 31, 2024	Scholarship Decisions Announced
June 28, 2024	Scholarship Acceptance Deadline
July 1, 2024	Scholarship Disbursement Begins

\*Schedule subject to change

- There is only one application cycle  
(If studying abroad only for Fall 2024 or Spring 2025, you must apply for this cycle. Same deadlines apply.)
- Apply for study abroad between Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
- Link to the online application will be posted on the [Watanabe webpage](#)
- If selected, you cannot defer the scholarship to the next cycle



# Most Frequently Asked Questions

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- **What is the possibility of receiving the scholarship? (How many people apply yearly?)**
  - We are not able to disclose that information. You have a chance to get the scholarship if you apply!
- **When is the application deadline?**
  - February 19, 2024 @ 11:59 pm (Eastern Time)  
(日本時間: 2月20日午後1時59分)
- **Is the Watanabe Scholarship limited to certain schools?**
  - No, it can be for any schools of your choice and the ranking of the school does not matter.  
However, scholarship CANNOT be applied for language schools.
- **I am a degree-seeking student. Can I get the scholarship for 4 years straight?**
  - Each application covers for one academic year. You must reapply every year.

# IMPORTANT APPLICATION COMPONENTS

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## Essay (subject to change)

### Prompt #1 (required)

- Motivation to study abroad
- Long & short-term goals
- Skills you want to develop during study abroad
- Financial barriers

### Prompt #2 (optional)

- ❑ Chance for student to share unique feature/fact about yourself
- ❑ This help us learn what is special about you

### Prompt #3 (required for some)

- Explain if you have previous international experience
- How will this time be different?
- Why should we support you going abroad again?

## Recommendation Letter

- ❖ ASK YOUR RECOMMEDER IN ADVANCE
- ❖ English
- ❖ Address the prompts
- ❖ Position doesn't matter, how well they know the student does
- ❖ Do **NOT** send more than one, it will not help and may harm your chances of getting the scholarship

# What is covered with this scholarship?

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## APPROVED

- ✓ Home School Tuition (max \$6,000/year)
- ✓ Program Tuition & Fees
- ✓ Room & Board
- ✓ Health Insurance
- ✓ Books and School Supplies (max \$1000/year)
- ✓ Travel (max \$1600/year)
- ✓ Miscellaneous (max \$1000/year)

## NON-APPROVED

- ✗ Visa application/Passport Fees
- ✗ Domestic Travel
- ✗ Activity Fees (formal or informal)
- ✗ Work-Study
- ✗ Testing Fees

# Calculating Need (i.e. How much to apply for)

Total Cost of Attendance (TCOA) – Total Existing Financial Resources you Have (EFR) ==  
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM WATANABE (ARW) // FINANCIAL NEED (FN)

Total Estimated SAB Cost of Attendance (COA) 合計費用の推定額	minus	Amount of confirmed financial resources 財政援助(確定済み)	equals	Amount to request for the Watanabe Scholarship (Gap/Financial Need) 申請額
\$ 0.00	—	\$ 0.00	=	\$ 0.00

## Important!

Know your study abroad program costs.

You can find this information on:

- Home school study abroad office
- Host school website/study abroad office

Don't know which school you will go to?

**That's OK!**

- Search the tuition for the schools you are interested in
- Pick the program/school with the highest tuition for your calculation
- Scholarship amount can be lowered, but not increased

# Online Application and Additional Information

Watanabe Scholarship Webpage: <https://www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-scholarship/>

FAQ page for Japanese applicants: <https://www.usjapancouncil.org/ja/watanabe-faq/>

# What Makes the Watanabe Scholarship Unique?

- Connected to the U.S.-Japan Council Network
- Dedicated leadership opportunities during the SAB year:
  - Watanabe Leadership Weekend
  - Regional USJC Events
  - TOMODACHI Program Opportunities
  - TOMODACHI Generation



# What Makes the Watanabe Scholarship Unique? (cont'd)

- You can **reapply** for more than one year (degree-seeking students/graduate students)
- You **can combine** the Watanabe Scholarship **with other scholarships** (up to the full cost of attendance)
- **No repayment/work requirements** after the completion of your study period
- Can apply at **any stage** of your study abroad planning
- **You apply for the scholarship directly.** School has no role in the application process.
- Scholarship is **paid directly to the school**, not the student.
- Scholarship is **paid in one lump sum**. No monthly payments





## Application and General Scholarship Tips

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- **Be honest.** In your essay, don't write what you think we want to hear.
- **One Recommendation is required** (DO NOT SEND EXTRAS, they won't increase your chances and they may cause problems with your application)
- Scholarship is about opportunity and access. Tell us **how this scholarship can make a difference** for your life (short-term and long-term).
- **Know your SAB budget early.** Need to be accurate in your cost of attendance estimates.
- **Ask for the amount you need.** Asking for less won't increase your chances.



### Resources

FAQ page

USJC Website

Recommenders who know you as a person

Yourself

# For More Information

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Check out the FAQ page and any related updates visit the webpage

<https://www.usjapancouncil.org/ja/watanabe-faq/>

<http://www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-scholarship>

Japanese Webpage ↓

<https://www.usjapancouncil.org/ja/watanabe-scholarship/>