



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

*For American Students' International Study in Japan*

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

# Objectives

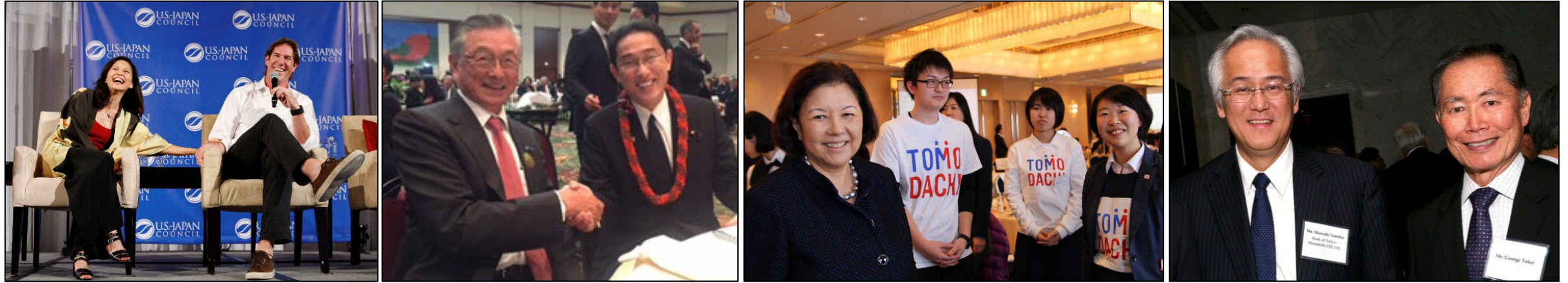
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In this document, participants will learn:

- 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\*)**
- U.S. → Japan
- Students with financial need
- No fixed scholarship amount

# Eligibility

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- 1) U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- 2) Currently enrolled student in good standing at a high school, college or university in the U.S., or degree-seeking student currently studying in Japan (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)**
- No interview

# Scholarship Statistics

## Scholarship Statistics



69% Female  
31% Male



90% Undergraduate  
10 % Graduate



Average Award per Scholar  
\$8,070  
Average Total Award  
\$267,632



39% from Single  
Parent Households

**TOMO  
DACHI**

8% TOMODACHI  
Program Alumni

Data reflects cohorts of past five cycles.



# 2025-2026 Cycle Application Timeline\*

Date	
Jan. 13 - Feb. 21, 2025	Application Period (Online)
Apr. 14 – Apr. 25, 2025	Finalist Notification
June 2 – June 6, 2025	Scholarship Decisions Announced
June 27, 2025	Scholarship Acceptance Deadline
July 1, 2025	Scholarship Disbursement Begins

\*Schedule subject to change

- **There is only one application cycle**  
(If studying abroad only for Fall 2025 or Spring 2026, you must apply for this cycle. Same deadlines apply.)
- **Apply for study abroad between Fall 2025 – Spring 2026**
- **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 21, 2025 @ 11:59 pm (Eastern Time)
- **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 RECOMMENDER 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

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

## NON-APPROVED

- ✗ Home School Tuition
- ✗ 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:

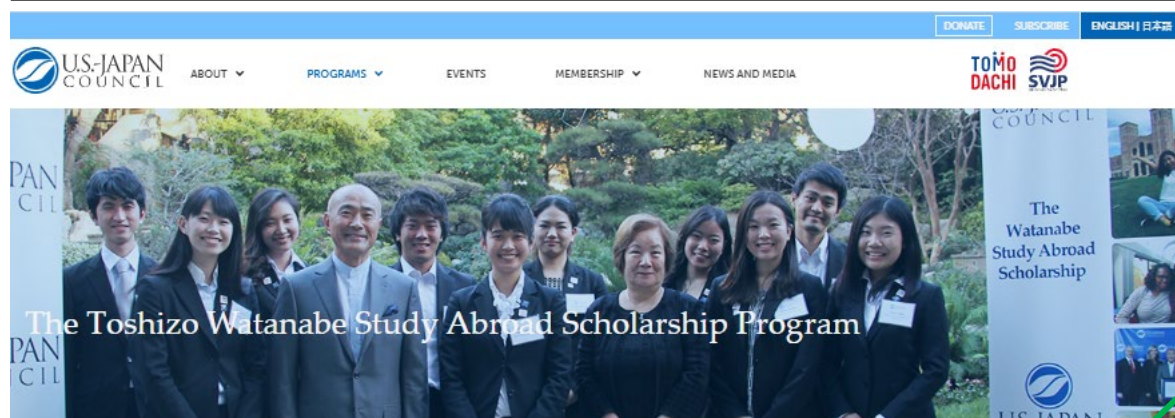
- Home school study abroad office
- Host school website/study abroad office

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



## Overview

The Toshizo Watanabe Endowed Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to undergraduates/graduate students for a semester or year-long study abroad program in either the United States or Japan. A generous endowment gift of \$10 million from Mr. Toshizo (Tom) Watanabe to the U.S.-Japan Council makes it possible to award scholarships to students for whom study abroad would not be possible without financial support.

The scholarship will support up to the full cost of attendance to the study abroad program of the applicant's choice. The scholarship program grants awards to recipients in amounts determined by financial need and other qualifications. 2020 marks the third year to support American students studying abroad in Japan, and the fifth year for Japanese students studying abroad in the United States.

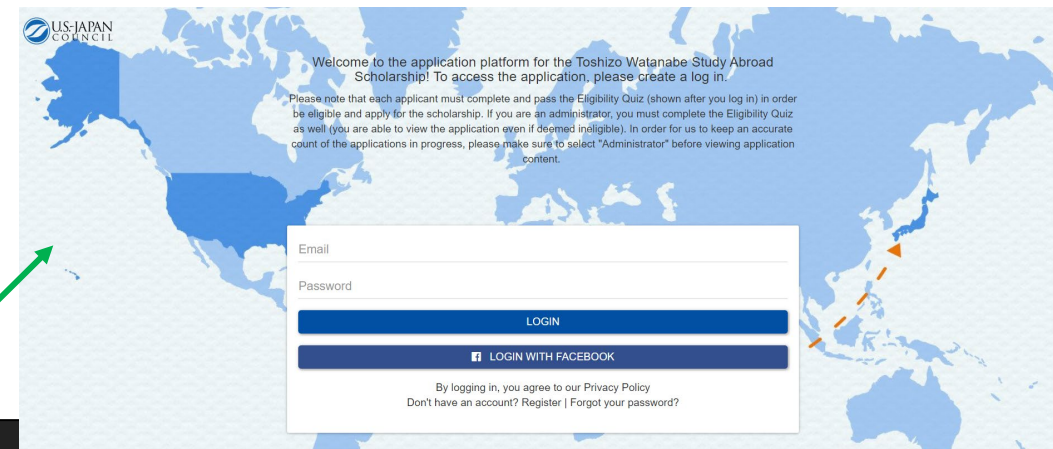
2020-21 Applications Now Available!

2020-21 Watanabe Scholarship Applications

Applications are due on February 17, 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions  
(For Study Abroad in Japan)

Please join our mailing list for more information.



## U.S.-Japan Council Watanabe Scholarship 2020-2021

Applicant Type

Instructions

General Information

Academic Background

Financial Information

Personal Statement Essay

Supplemental Materials

Register Recommenders

Review

### About the Scholarship

The Toshizo Watanabe Endowed Scholarship provides financial assistance to undergraduates or a semester or year-long abroad program in either the United States or Japan. This scholarship is also open to degree-seeking undergraduate or students in the U.S. or Japan. A generous endowment gift of \$10 million from Mr. Toshizo (Tom) Watanabe to the U.S. Council funds these scholarships for students for whom study abroad would not be possible without financial support.

The scholarship will support up to the full cost of attendance to the study abroad program/institution of the applicant's choice. The scholarship amount will be determined by the applicant's financial need and other qualifications.

*From 2018, scholarships will support Japanese and American students studying abroad in either the United States or Japan, respectively.*

### Eligibility

The scholarship will be awarded to college/university students who meet the following criteria:

1. U.S. or Japanese citizens
2. Currently in good academic standing at an accredited college or university in either the United States or Japan
3. Has applied, been accepted or plans to apply to a college/university or approved academic center outside of their country as part of a credit-bearing course of study.

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

FAQ page: <https://www.usjapancouncil.org/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





# Dos and Don'ts For University/College Admins

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## Do:

- ✓ Complete the SAB Certification Forms (if applicable)
- ✓ Direct student to Financial Aid Admin for Finance Forms
- ✓ Help student Identify the admin office to support scholarship payment
- ✓ Promote the scholarship to all eligible students and encourage to apply
- ✓ Let the students navigate the application process on their own

## Do NOT:

- ✗ Submit application on behalf of the student
- ✗ Request student application status or details w/o student consent
- ✗ Limit to whom you promote the scholarship

# Application and General Scholarship Tips for Students

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



## Resources

FAQ page

USJC Website

Recommenders who know the student

Students themselves

# For More Information

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

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

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