

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Eligibility

Q: I am not sure if my degree course makes me eligible for category 1 or category 2. What should I do?

A: Candidates doing singles or joint honours degrees with Japanese, or degrees with Japanese as a subsidiary subject (e.g. Business with Japanese) are only eligible for Category 1. If you are still unsure, please contact speechcontest@jpf.org.uk, specifying the name of your degree course, Japanese course and your university.

Q: Japanese is not my degree subject but I have spent two years in Japan so I am not eligible for Category 2. What should I do?

A: In this case, you may apply for Category 1.

Q: I attended an international school in Japan for two years. Am I still eligible for Category 1?

A: Yes.

Q: I have attended a full-time Japanese school in the UK for two years. Am I still eligible?

A: No.

2. General FAQs for all applicants:

Q: Should my essay be handwritten or word-processed?

A: Either format is fine. Please note that we prefer to receive applications by email; although post is also acceptable. Therefore, if you are submitting a handwritten essay, please scan this and email it as an attachment if possible.

Q: What is the format of the telephone interview? What will I be judged on?

A: All applicants will undergo a telephone interview which will be recorded and evaluated, resulting in the selection of 5-6 finalists in each category. The telephone interview will be conducted in Japanese. During the interview you will be asked to talk for around one minute about the speech theme which you wrote on your application form. You will also be asked some questions on this theme. The interview will last between 5 and 8 minutes in total. Your interview will mainly be evaluated on your Japanese language ability, the content of what you say, and appropriate politeness

Q: Can I change the theme of my speech after the telephone interview?

A: Finalists will be selected partly on the basis of what they say at the telephone interview about their chosen speech theme. Therefore, if you are selected as a finalist you may not change the broad theme of your speech after the telephone interview. However, if you are selected as a finalist, you will have until Thursday, 15th January to decide on your exact speech title.

FAQ continues below

Q: What is the schedule for the run-up to the speech contest finals?

A: The schedule is as follows:

Deadline for applications:	Monday, 24 th November 2008 at 9:30am (Please note this has been extended.)
Telephone interviews:	Late November – Early December
Notification of interview result (successful applicants only):	15 th December 2008
Finalists submit final speech title in Japanese and English:	By Thursday, 15 th January 2009
Finalists submit speech summaries in Japanese and English:	By Friday, 23 rd January 2009
Speech Contest Finals:	Saturday, 21 st February 2009 Khalili Theatre, SOAS, University of London Speeches: Morning and afternoon Award Ceremony: Early evening Reception: Evening

5. Getting to the Final

Q: If selected as a finalist, will my travel expenses be paid for?

A: We will reimburse finalists' travel expenses. Guidelines on reimbursement of travel expenses will be issued closer to the time.

Q: May I bring along my friends and family to the final?

A: Yes, by all means! Please note that we will only reimburse travel expenses for finalists, and not for guests.



JAPAN FOUNDATION

The Fourth Japanese Speech Contest for University Students



Rules and Guidance for Finalists

1. Evaluation

Speeches will be judged according to these four criteria.

- Speaking Skills
 - Pronunciation/Accent/Intonation
 - Fluency/ Naturalness (including good use of pause)
 - Complexity and accuracy in grammar and vocabulary

- Content/Organisation
 - Clarity of main points
 - Discourse structures and flow
 - Originality

- Presentation Skills
 - Delivery/Elocution
 - Awareness of audience
 - Time management

- Answering questions and explanation
 - Accuracy, complexity and appropriateness of the language
 - Content (relevance to questions, persuasiveness etc.)
 - Communication strategies

2. Speech length

Your speech must be within the following time limits: 8-10 minutes for Category One and 6-8 minutes for Category Two. Speeches that are too long or too short will be penalised and may be disqualified.

3. Questions

After you have delivered your speech, you will be required to answer questions in Japanese for approximately five minutes for Category One and three minutes for Category Two. These questions will be both on your speech topic and on more general matters related to your experience of Japan or Japanese.

4. Notes and aids

- When delivering your speech, you may use notes (in any language) but you must not read from a prepared text.
- You may not use audio or visual aids.
- The use of props and theatrical performance techniques will not influence the evaluation of your speech.