

Frequently Asked Questions

1. General FAQs for all applicants:

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

A: Yes, we will reimburse finalists' and group presenters' 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.

2. Speech Category

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

A: Yes.

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

A: No.

Q: *I was a prize winner in a previous Japanese Speech Contest for University Students. Can I apply again this year?*

A: 1st prize winners from previous Japanese Speech Contest for University Students Finals Days cannot enter the same category again. However, 2nd prize winners and runners-up from previous contests are welcome to apply again this year.

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

A: Shortlisted Speech Category applicants will undergo an online interview which will be recorded and evaluated, resulting in the selection of 5 finalists in the Speech Category. The online interview will be conducted in November (or December). During the interview you will be asked to talk for around one minute about the speech theme and composition which you wrote on your application form. You will also be asked some questions on this theme and composition. The interview will last between 10 and 12 minutes in total. Your interview will mainly be evaluated on your Japanese language ability, the content of what you say, and the clarity of what you say, including your original thoughts and opinions.

Q: *Can I change the broad topic of my speech after the online interview?*

A: Speech Category finalists will be selected partly on the basis of what they say at the online interview about their chosen speech topic. Therefore, if you are selected as a finalist, you can change your final speech title but you CANNOT change the broad topic of your speech after applying.

FAQ continues overleaf

3. Individual Presentation Category

Q: Are first and second prizes awarded in the Individual Presentation Category?

A: Yes. The five top presenters will be selected to give their presentations on finals day (Saturday 2nd March 2024). There will be first, second and runner-up prizes.

4. Group Presentation Category

Q: I understand that this category is aimed at those studying Japanese at beginner level. How do I know if I am eligible?

A: This will depend on the textbooks used in your Japanese course or the target levels of your Japanese course. Please check the application form for more details. If you are not eligible for the Group Presentation Category because your textbooks are too advanced, you may still be eligible for the Individual Presentation Category or the Speech Category.

Q: Are first and second prizes awarded in the Group Presentation Category?

A: No. Five top groups will be selected to give their presentations on finals day (Saturday 2nd March 2023). All top groups will receive generous prizes.