

FY2026

Education Program for Nikkei Next Generation

(High School Students)

Application Guide

December 2025



Japan International Cooperation Agency

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Application Guide for the FY2026 Education Program for Nikkei Next Generation
(High School Students)

【History and purpose of the program】

A generational shift is underway in Central and South American Nikkei communities; Nisei and Sansei are the future leaders of these communities. The purpose of this training program is to develop people capable of contributing to strengthening relations with Japan and developing Nikkei communities outside Japan by developing the next generation of Nikkei communities through training in Japan.

The objectives of the program are to give outstanding Nikkei high school students who have never had the chance to visit Japan opportunities to communicate their ideas through various types of exchange in Japan, to develop human resources with the communication skills to lead Nikkei communities based on knowledge and outcomes gained from the program, and to reacquaint trainees with their identities as Nikkei people by furthering their understanding of their roots and Japan, specifically by educating them about the history of emigration from Japan and providing other types of training.

【Trainees】

1. Countries and number of trainees to be accepted

31 trainees (and 3 leaders) from 12 countries

Country	Number of trainees	Country	Number of trainees
Brazil	14	Dominican Republic	2*
Argentina	3	Venezuela	
Paraguay	3	Uruguay	
Peru	3	Chile	
Mexico	3	Cuba	
Bolivia	2	Total	31
Colombia	1		

*Total quota of two trainees from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Uruguay, Chile, and Cuba.2.

2. Program overview

(1) Description

	Individual objectives	Envisioned training content
1	Cultivate trainees' identities as Nikkei people by educating them about the history of emigration from Japan and their roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of the Overseas Migration Museum and other facilities • Lectures and workshops on migration

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of trainees' roots • Three-day, two-night study tour • Pre-training assignments related to study of migration
2	Cultivate trainees' identities as Nikkei people by educating them about Japanese culture and customs and furthering their understanding of Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures, workshops, and tours for understanding Japan • Temporary enrollment in a Japanese high school to interact with students and experience school life (e.g. classes, club activities) • Homestays to experience Japanese home life • Three-day, two-night study tour • Events for socializing with Nikkei students studying abroad and Nikkei community trainees
3	To develop human resources with the communication skills to lead Nikkei communities by giving them opportunities to communicate their ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive guidance and practice presentation methods • Prepare reports • Present reports of what they learned from the lectures, tours, etc. and their goals and plans upon returning to their home countries

Note: The actual content of the program may be different than that listed above.

(2) Duration of program (tentative): 24 days

Monday, January 18, 2027 to Wednesday, February 10, 2027

(3) Language of training

English / Japanese

(An English interpreter will be provided when the instructor lectures in Japanese)

3. Requirements

Applicants must meet all the following requirements:

(1) Applicants must be Japanese emigrants or the descendants* of Japanese emigrants, generally no further than Sansei.

*In this case, a person descended from a Japanese emigrant.

*Applicants must reside (i.e. have the main foundations of their livelihood) in a target country.

(2) Applicants must be the same age as Japanese high school students (16 to 18 years old) during

the program.

- (3) Applicants must be members of educational institutions in a target country and be recognized as exemplary people with the character to contribute to the future development of Nikkei communities.
- (4) Applicants must have a strong desire to further their understanding of their roots and Japan.
- (5) Applicants must possess English proficiency sufficient to attend lectures and engage in discussions. Japanese language skills at a daily conversational level are preferred.
- (6) Applicants must be in good mental and physical health and able to tolerate communal living in Japan.
- (7) Applicants must participate in the entire program set out by JICA from the time they arrive in Japan until they return to their home countries.
- (8) Applicants must obtain consent from a parent, guardian, or guarantor.

4. Expenses

The following expenses will be covered by JICA in accordance with the rules:

- (1) Round-trip airfare on designated routes (Note: Airfare will be paid in kind; no cash payments will be made. JICA will also cover the taxes and other international aviation facility charges necessary to obtain the tickets.)
- (2) Expenses for transportation between Japanese international airports and accommodations
- (3) Expenses for lodging in third countries for transferring
 - *In principle, accommodation expenses incurred during domestic travel shall be borne by the participants themselves.
 - *Stays lasting less than six hours are not eligible.
- (4) Living expenses (meal expenses) during trainees' stays in Japan and third countries for transferring will be paid in accordance with regulations in Japanese yen after their arrival in Japan.
 - *Living costs are not paid for stays in third countries lasting longer than six hours but not spanning two days.

Payment amounts

- 1) During stays in Japan: Living expenses of 2,200 yen/day *For breakfast and dinner
(Note: Cash payments will only be made on days when payments in kind are not made.)
- 2) During stays in third countries: Living expenses of 4,000 yen/day *For breakfast, lunch, and dinner
 - *Accommodation arranged by the airline may include meals, in which case no living allowance will be paid.
- (5) Usage fees for accommodations in Japan
- (6) Overseas travel insurance premiums

In principle, from the time of departure from the international airport in the trainee's country of residence to the time of arrival at the international airport on the day of the trainee's return to their home country.

*Insurance cards (medical cards) will be handed out after trainees arrive in Japan.

The insurance covers injuries and illnesses during the program; in principle, there will be no medical fees to pay. However, the insurance does not cover pre-existing conditions or dental treatment.

IMPORTANT:

The insurance does not cover domestic flight segments in trainees' home countries.

Trainees are advised to enroll in their own insurance as needed.

- (7) Transportation expenses for offsite training, training at universities, and study tours
- (8) Training expenses for training facilities

5. Application documents

The application documents are (1) to (6) below:

- Please enter information that is true as of the first day of the program in 2026.
- Please use the JICA forms.

(1) JICA forms

1) Personal Information Form (Form No. 1)

- You may use a computer to fill out this form
- Name (in Japanese):

The name you write on this form (in kanji, hiragana, and katakana) will be used on the application documents for your short-term visa. Please enter your name exactly as it appears on the passport you will use when you travel. If you fill out the form by hand, please write legibly. Please be careful about which set of characters (kanji, hiragana, katakana) you use.

- Name (English letters):

The name you write on this form (in English letters) will be used for purposes such as confirming your airplane ticket reservation. Please enter your name exactly as it appears on the passport you will use when you travel. If you fill out the form by hand, please write legibly. Please enter your name carefully, with the proper spelling, order of first and last names, and middle name (or lack thereof). If the name on your passport does not match the one on your airplane ticket, you will not be allowed to board the airplane.

*If you plan to apply for a passport after applying for the program, make sure you write your name the same way on both applications. Please note that you will not be allowed to travel if the name on your passport and visa does not match the one

on your airplane ticket.

- Nationality: **Please enter the nationality on the passport you will use when you travel.**

*Depending on your home country, you may be exempt from applying for a short-term visa. For more information, please follow instructions from your local JICA Office.

2) Pledge and Consent Form (Form No. 2)

- **This form must be signed by legal guardian.**

3) Medical History Declaration (Form No. 3)

- You may use a computer to fill out this form (signatures must be written).
- This is a self-report using the JICA form. Successful applicants may be required to submit a medical certificate from a physician, depending on the information they provide on their Medical History Declaration.
- Before submitting, please double-check for any unanswered questions or omissions.
- Please be sure to report any pre-existing conditions, medications you are taking, allergies, and other recurrent health issues.
- If you are presently undergoing treatment for a medical condition, please submit a medical certificate from your physician stating that the condition would not hinder your participation in the program along with the other application documents.
- Even if you do not have any pre-existing medical conditions, are not taking medications, or do not have allergies, you may be asked to submit a medical certificate from your physician, depending on the information you provide.
- If a pre-existing medical condition or recurrent health issue worsens during the program, medical expenses incurred when visiting Japanese medical facilities are not covered by overseas travel insurance; therefore, you must pay the expenses in full.

*Insurance cards (medical cards) will be handed out after trainees arrive in Japan. The insurance covers injuries and illnesses during the program; in principle, there will be no medical fees to pay. However, the insurance does not cover pre-existing conditions or dental treatment.

- Please report any changes about your health conditions after applying to their JICA office before departing to Japan.

*If any of the information provided is found to be false, you may not be able to participate in the program.

4) Short Essay “Purpose and Plans for Participating in the Training Program” (Form No. 4)

In English or Japanese, please write about why you decided to apply for this training program. What goals do you have in mind? After returning to your home country, how do you intend to make the most of your experience in the program?

- You may use a computer to fill out this form
- If you are using Japanese, you may also write by hand.

5) Consent Form for Likeness Rights and Use of Personal Information (Form No. 5)

- During the program, photographs and videos will be taken for publicity purposes, including various reports. Please review the intended use of these photos and videos and ensure that participants sign the consent form.

(2) Photograph (digital)

- The photograph must have been taken within the past six months.
- Please attach it to Personal Information Form and submit the same digital file along with the other application documents."

(3) Letter of recommendation from your Nikkei organization

1 original copy

*If you do not belong to a Nikkei organization, you do not have to submit a letter of recommendation. However, we advise you to take the opportunity when applying for the program to contact a Nikkei organization near you.

(4) Certificate of Japanese language proficiency (e.g. Japanese-Language Proficiency Test certificate)

1 copy

*If you have never taken an official examination, you do not need to submit a certificate.

(5) Document certifying English proficiency (e.g. TOEIC, TOEFL)

1 copy

*If you have never taken an official examination, you do not need to submit a certificate.

(6) Copy of passport

Please submit a copy of the passport you will use when you travel, and that you entered on your Personal Information Form ((1) (1 above)).

- 1) If you already have a passport:

Please submit all pages showing visa and immigration records.

2) If you do not have a passport:

Please start the process of obtaining a passport immediately, without waiting for JICA to notify you of the result of your application.

*Please understand that, regardless of the result of your application, you are responsible for the expense of obtaining a passport.

*Applications will not be accepted if all the above required documents are not complete and accurate, or if all documents are not received by the application deadline (which varies by country). Applicants who do not have a passport are requested to start the procedure as soon as possible.

Note: Personal information provided by applicants will be used ① to determine whether or not to accept them into the program, ② in program enrollment procedures, ③ when compiling project results, and for other purposes.

6. Deadline and method for submitting application documents

(1) Deadline for submitting application documents

Please submit your application according to the screening schedule of your local JICA Office.

(2) Method of submittal

Please submit your application using the method designated by your local JICA Office.

7. Finalization of acceptance

JICA will conduct the selection process based on the submitted application documents and will issue an official notification of acceptance.

8. Revocation of trainee qualifications

JICA may revoke a trainee's qualifications when any of the following apply, in which case the trainee is responsible for the expense of returning to their home country (except for items (6) and (8)):

(1) When the trainee has failed to comply with JICA rules, instructions, and decisions

(2) When the trainee has violated the rules of a training facility

(3) When the trainee has violated the laws and regulations of Japan

(4) When it is deemed difficult to continue participating in the program due to the trainee's willful misconduct, gross negligence, negligence, or the like

(5) When the trainee has withdrawn from the program for personal reasons

(6) When it is deemed difficult to continue participating in the program due to a severe mental or physical disability, injury, illness, or the like

- (7) When information in the application documents is found to be false
- (8) For other reasons deemed unavoidable by JICA

9. End-of-program reporting events

After returning to their home countries, trainees are required to present reports to Nikkei organizations near their place of residence (e.g. Japanese and Nikkei associations, prefectural associations). Please do your end-of-program reporting and submit the report to the person in charge at your local JICA Office, which will provide the report form.

*These reporting events exist so that trainees share what they experienced with Nikkei organizations and others, and also to publicize the project.

(1) Deadline and method for submitting reports

Please submit your report according to the schedule of your local JICA Office.

(2) Method of submittal

Please submit your report using the method designated by your local JICA Office.

10. Usage of facilities

The training program may be implemented at facilities in the area.

11. Other

Due to infectious diseases, disasters or other factors, the training program may change, or trainees' visits to Japan may be suspended.

【Leaders】

1. Invitation of leaders

Leaders are invited to participate in the program as follows to provide lifestyle guidance to trainees during their travel and the program in addition to managing their health and providing other necessary guidance.

Main roles and responsibilities of leaders

- Escort trainees on travel to and from Japan
- Provide guidance and support for trainees' health and other aspects of their daily lives
- Accompany trainees to the training program and assist with its implementation
- Conduct leaders' end-of-program reporting
- Manage safety and provide guidance on overnight patrols of trainee accommodation floors
- Serve as first responders for injuries, sudden illnesses, and the like, and contact secondary responders
- Manage trainees' mental and physical health
- Hand trainees over to parents or guardians on weekend or holiday outings
- Attend morning handovers and evening meetings
- Check on trainees in the morning
- Other duties required for managing trainees' health and safety

*Trainees' ages must be considered when dealing with them.

*Assuming that the roles and responsibilities described above will be carried out at night in a rotation, these leaders will take time to rest during the day.

*Briefings for leaders will be held before and after they arrive in Japan (the briefing prior to the trip will be online).

2. Countries selected to send leaders in FY2026

- (1) 1 Japanese language schoolteacher from Brazil
- (2) 2 people from Nikkei Communities in target countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Argentina, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Cuba and Chile)

3. Requirements

- (1) Leader (Japanese language schoolteacher from Brazil)
 - 1) This leader must be at least 20 years old and have worked at Japanese language school for at least two years.

- 2) This leader must have at least two years of teaching experience at a Japanese language school.
- 3) This leader must have experience teaching classes for students of the same age as the trainees.
- 4) This leader must have Japanese language ability equivalent to N2 on the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) and be able to communicate with trainees in Portuguese/ Spanish/English.
- 5) This leader must be in good health and able to perform duties responsibly.

(2) Leaders (Members of Nikkei Group)

- 1) These leaders must be at least 20 years old and involved in Nikkei Community (e.g. Japanese language schoolteachers, members of Nikkei Associations or former JICA trainees).
- 2) These leaders must have regular contact with children of the same generation as the trainees in their Nikkei communities (parents and guardians of trainees are not eligible).
- 3) These leaders must have at least a conversational level of Japanese ability (JLPT N3). They also must be able to communicate with trainees in Portuguese/ Spanish/English.
- 4) These leaders must be in good health and able to perform duties responsibly.

4. Expenses

The following expenses will be covered by JICA in accordance with the rules:

- (1) Round-trip airfare on designated routes (Note: Airfare will be paid in kind; no cash payments will be made. JICA will also cover the taxes and other international aviation facility charges necessary to obtain the tickets.)
- (2) Expenses for transportation between Japanese international airports and accommodations
- (3) Expenses for lodging in third countries for transferring
 - *In principle, accommodation expenses incurred during domestic travel shall be borne by the participants themselves.
 - *Stays lasting less than six hours are not eligible.
- (4) Living expenses (meal expenses) during trainees' stays in Japan and third countries for transferring will be paid in accordance with regulations in Japanese yen after their arrival in Japan.
 - *Living costs are not paid for stays in third countries lasting longer than six hours but not spanning two days.

Payment amounts

- 1) During stays in Japan: Living expenses of 5,000 yen/day (on days when meals are

not provided in kind)

Breakdown: 3 meals @ 1,100 yen each + Miscellaneous expenses of 1,700 yen

*On days when meals are paid in kind, living expenses will be prorated according to the number of meals provided in kind.

2) During stays in third countries: Living expenses of 4,000 yen/day (for breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

*Accommodation arranged by the airline may include meals, in which case no living allowance will be paid.

(5) Usage fees for accommodations in Japan

(6) Overseas travel insurance premiums

In principle, from the time of departure from the international airport in the trainee's country of residence to the time of arrival at the international airport on the day of the trainee's return to their home country.

*Insurance cards (medical cards) will be handed out after trainees arrive in Japan.

The insurance covers injuries and illnesses during the program; in principle, there will be no medical fees to pay. However, the insurance does not cover pre-existing conditions or dental treatment.

IMPORTANT:

The insurance does not cover domestic flight segments in trainees' home countries.

Leaders are advised to enroll in their own insurance as needed.

(7) Round-trip travel expenses between Yokohama and destinations of offsite training, study tours, etc

(8) Training expenses for training facilities

5. Application documents

The application documents are (1) to (3) below:

- Please enter information that is true as of the first day of the program in 2027.
- Please use the JICA forms.

(1) JICA forms

1) Personal Information Form (Form No. 1)

- You may use a computer to fill out this form
- Name (in Japanese):

The name you write on this form (in kanji, hiragana, and katakana) will be used on the application documents for your short-term visa. Please enter your name exactly as it appears on the passport you will use when you travel. If you fill out the form by hand, please write legibly. Please be careful about which set of characters (kanji, hiragana, katakana) you use.

- Name (English letters):

The name you write on this form (in English letters) will be used for purposes such as confirming your airplane ticket reservation. Please enter your name exactly as it appears on the passport you will use when you travel. If you fill out the form by hand, please write legibly. Please enter your name carefully, with the proper spelling, order of first and last names, and middle name (or lack thereof). If the name on your passport does not match the one on your airplane ticket, you will not be allowed to board the airplane.

*If you plan to apply for a passport after applying for the program, make sure you write your name the same way on both applications. Please note that you will not be allowed to travel if the name on your passport and visa does not match the one on your airplane ticket.

- Nationality: **Please enter the nationality on the passport you will use when you travel.**

*Depending on your home country, you may be exempt from applying for a short-term visa. For more information, please follow instructions from your local JICA Office.

2) Pledge and Warranty (Form No. 2)

- Please make sure to enter your signature on the signature line under “Name of applicant”

3) Medical History Declaration (Form No. 3)

- You may use a computer to fill out this form (signatures must be written).
- This is a self-report using the JICA form. Successful applicants may be required to submit a medical certificate from a physician, depending on the information they provide on their Medical History Declaration.
- Before submitting, please double-check for any unanswered questions or omissions.
- Please be sure to report any pre-existing conditions, medications you are taking, allergies, and other recurrent health issues.
- If you are presently undergoing treatment for a medical condition, please submit a medical certificate from your physician stating that the condition would not hinder your participation in the program along with the other application documents.
- Even if you do not have any pre-existing medical conditions, are not taking medications, or do not have allergies, you may be asked to submit a medical certificate from your physician, depending on the information you provide.
- If a pre-existing medical condition or recurrent health issue worsens during the

program, medical expenses incurred when visiting Japanese medical facilities are not covered by overseas travel insurance; therefore, you must pay the expenses in full.

*Insurance cards (medical cards) will be handed out after trainees arrive in Japan. The insurance covers injuries and illnesses during the program; in principle, there will be no medical fees to pay. However, the insurance does not cover pre-existing conditions or dental treatment.

- Please report any changes about your health conditions after applying to their JICA office before departing to Japan.

*If any of the information provided is found to be false, you may not be able to participate in the program.

4) Short Essay (Form No. 4)

Please write your thoughts about heritage education in Nikkei communities in Japanese or English.

- You may use a computer to fill out this form
- If you are using Japanese, you may also write by hand.

5) Consent Form for Likeness Rights and Use of Personal Information (Form No. 5)

- During the program, photographs and videos will be taken for publicity purposes, including various reports. Please review the intended use of these photos and videos and ensure that participants sign the consent form.

(2) Photograph (digital)

- The photograph must have been taken within the past six months.
- Please attach it to Personal Information Form and submit the same digital file along with the other application documents."

(3) Copy of passport

Please submit a copy of the passport you will use when you travel, and that you entered on your Personal Information Form ((1) (1 above).

1) If you already have a passport:

Please submit all pages showing visa and immigration records.

2) If you do not have a passport:

Please start the process of obtaining a passport immediately, without waiting for JICA to notify you of the result of your application.

*Please understand that, regardless of the result of your application, you are

responsible for the expense of obtaining a passport.

6. Deadline and method for submitting application documents

(1) Deadline for submitting application documents

Please submit your application according to the screening schedule of your local JICA Office.

(2) Method of submittal

Please submit your application using the method designated by your local JICA Office.

7. Finalization of acceptance

JICA will conduct the selection process based on the submitted application documents and will issue an official notification of acceptance.

【Important notes for trainees, leaders and family members】

1. Participating in the program

- (1) Due to infectious diseases, disasters or other factors, the training program may change, or trainees' visits to Japan may be suspended.
- (2) Flight schedules will be determined by local JICA Offices and communicated to successful applicants.
- (3) Trainees and leaders may not extend their status or change their return routes, even if they or pay for it themselves. Upon completion of the program, please return to your home country according to the schedule set out by JICA.
- (4) In principle, trainees and leaders will gather and travel together as a group both to and from Japan.
- (5) Family members are not allowed to accompany trainees.

2. Travel preparation

(1) Passport

Whether you are applying to be a trainee or a leader, if you do not have a passport, please start the application process as soon as possible. If you wait until you receive a letter of acceptance to start the process, you may not be able to obtain a visa in time.

*When applying for a Japanese passport, leave plenty of time for tasks such as obtaining a copy of your family register.

(2) Visa

A visa is issued when you apply to the Japanese consulate in your country of residence after examination by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Depending on your home country, you may be exempt from applying for a short-term visa, so please follow instructions from your local JICA Office.

(3) Other necessary documents

1) ID cards, etc.

If you are traveling with a Japanese passport, please bring an ID card or other document that proves that you reside in your country of residence, just in case. (If it is difficult to bring an original copy, please bring a copy.)

When you check in at the airport on your return trip to your home country, you may appear to be a Japanese national traveling on a one-way ticket, so the airline may ask you to present a document indicating that you reside in your country of residence (e.g. have some type of permanent residency).

2) Departure authorization form, etc.

Depending on your country of residence or countries you pass through en route to Japan, documents other than a visa (e.g. consent by a parent or guardian for traveling as an unaccompanied minor) may be required.

3. During your stay in Japan and your return trip

- If the lodging building at JICA Yokohama, trainees and leaders will stay at accommodations in the area.
- If the seminar rooms at JICA Yokohama are not available, the training program will be held at facilities in the area.

Attachment 1: Application Documents for Trainees

Attachment 2: Application Documents for Leaders