

Japanese Contest Prize 2026 Application Guidelines

PURPOSE

This program supports Australian and New Zealand primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions and organisations that are involved in Japanese education by providing prize support for student contests and related events. Physical prizes are supplied to help encourage participation, motivation, and enjoyment in Japanese language learning.

PRIZE ALLOCATION

Successful applicants will receive prize items selected and provided by The Japan Foundation, Sydney (JPF Sydney). The type and quantity of **prizes awarded will be determined by JPF Sydney** based on the scale, nature, and target group of the proposed contest.

ELIGIBILITY

In principle, JPF Sydney does not provide prize support for:

- State or Federal Government organisations, excluding educational, cultural or research institutes such as universities and museums.
- International organisations that receive financial contributions from the Government of Japan.

In regard to this program, the applicant (institution) must:

- be in principle, an Australian or New Zealand primary/secondary/tertiary school or organisation involved in Japanese language education. Individuals are not eligible to apply.
- be the organiser of a Japanese language-related contest or event for students (e.g. speech contest, quiz, cultural activity, or project-based competition).
- be able to provide clear details about the contest, including its purpose, target age group, number of participants, and intended outcomes.
- have the same authorised staff member responsible for the application through to the end of the process (if a change in staff occurs, please notify JPF Sydney at coordinators_sy@jpf.go.jp as soon as possible).

PRIZES

Prizes provided through this program:

- will be pre-purchased and managed by JPF Sydney.
- will be available as part of a fixed selection of Japanese language and culture-related items such as books, DVDs, stationery, toys, and games.
- will be allocated to successful applicants based on the scale, nature, and target audience of the proposed contest.
- must be used solely as awards or incentives for student participation in Japanese language-related contests or events.
- may include culturally themed items (e.g. origami sets or calligraphy goods) where relevant to the contest's objectives.
- will not include cash, gift cards, or other financial rewards.
- become the property of the recipient school and are the school's responsibility to manage and present appropriately.
- must all be distributed upon the conclusion of the contest.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1) Application

Applications will **open February 19, 2026**, and the following must be submitted **via email** to coordinators_sy@jpf.go.jp before the **deadline of June 26, 2026**.

- **Completed Japanese Contest Prize Application Form** signed by **two authorised staff members**.

2) Screening

- Applications will be reviewed and assessed based on the contest's scale, purpose, and potential impact, as well as the overall program inventory. Please note that inventory is limited, and only applications that best meet the program objectives may be approved.
- The specific process for screening applications will not be made public.

3) Outcome Notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email, **by or before July 20, 2026**.

- Successful applicants will receive via email:
 - An Acceptance Form
 - A Notice of Approval with a list of prizes that will be allocated
 - A Japanese Contest Prize Report Form

Successful applicants are required to return the completed Acceptance Form as soon as possible.

4) Prize Delivery

- Once the completed Acceptance Form has been received, JPF Sydney will arrange shipment of the allocated prizes to the applicant's school.
- JPF Sydney will cover postage and handling costs.
- JPF Sydney does not take responsibility for delays, loss, or damage incurred during transit.
- Schools are responsible for receiving and safely storing the prizes until they are awarded to students.

5) Contest Prize Report

Successful applicants are required to submit the Japanese Contest Prize Report Form detailing the distribution and reception of the prizes **within one month of completing the contest.**

ENQUIRIES

Japanese Language Department, The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Address: Level 4, Central Park, 28 Broadway, Chippendale, NSW, 2008

Email: coordinators_sy@jpf.go.jp

Phone: (02) 8239 0055