

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 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: Applicants shortlisted in the Speech Category will participate in an online interview, which will be recorded and assessed to select five finalists. The online interviews will take place in November/December. During the interview, you will be asked questions about your chosen theme and composition. Your Japanese language proficiency, content, clarity, as well as your thoughts and opinions, will be evaluated during the interview.

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 1st March 2025). There will be first, second and runner-up prizes.

Q: Can I apply to both the Individual Presentation Category and the Group Presentation Category?

A: You may only enter one category. Each category has a different target Japanese level of courses where applicants are studying, so you can only apply for one category. If you are unsure about the target level of your Japanese course, please consult with your main Japanese language tutor. If you have any other questions about the eligibility criteria, please contact us at speechcontest@jpf.go.jp, specifying the name of your degree course, Japanese course, university, and the name of the Japanese textbook(s) used.

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 1st March 2025). All top groups will receive generous prizes.