

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: The Finals Day will take place online, and the finalists do not need to travel to the venue.

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

A: Yes, by all means. They are welcome to participate in the Finals Day, which will be conducted online.

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: *Should my composition be handwritten or word-processed?*

A: Either format is fine. Please note that we only accept applications by email. Therefore, if you are submitting a handwritten composition, please scan this and email it as an attachment.

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 appropriate politeness. Please see the separate document "Rules and Guidance" for information about how finalists will be judged.

Q: *Can I change the theme 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 theme. Therefore, if you are selected as a finalist you may not change the broad theme of your speech after applying.

FAQ continues overleaf

Q: What is the schedule for Speech Category applicants?

A:

Deadline for applications:	Monday 9 th November 2020 (Before 15:00 GMT)
Deadline for the tutor confirmation form:	Wednesday 11 th November 2020 (Before 15:00 GMT)
Online telephone interviews	Mid November to early December
Notification of interview result:	Mid December 2020 - Early January 2021
Finalists submit the video-recorded speech*	By Sunday, 31st January (Before 24:00 GMT)
Online Q & A for each finalist	Mid-Late February 2021
Speech Contest Finals:	Saturday 6 th March 2021 (Online)

* Details regarding the submission of the speech video will be sent to each finalist separately.

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 6th March 2021). There will be first, second and runner-up prizes.

Q: What is the schedule for Individual Presentation Category applicants?

A:

Deadline for applications:	Monday 7th December 2020 (Before 15:00 GMT)
Deadline for the tutor confirmation form:	Wednesday 9th December 2020 (Before 15:00 GMT)
Deadline to record/submit a video of your presentation:	Monday 11th January 2021 (Before 15:00 GMT)
<p>You must submit the following two items. (Detailed instructions on how to submit these will be given after you apply).</p> <p>1) a digital video recording of you giving your presentation. 2) the presentation itself, as a Microsoft PowerPoint file.</p>	
Notification of result:	Early February 2021
<p>Successful applicants will be invited to give their presentations at the speech contest finals. The contest committee will provide general feedback reflecting on all applicants' video recordings that they have submitted as part of their application.</p>	
Speech Contest Finals:	Saturday 6th March 2021 (Online)

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. 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 6th March 2021). All top groups will receive generous prizes.

Q: What is the schedule for Group Presentation Category applicants?

A:

Deadline for applications:	Monday 14th December 2020 (Before 15:00 GMT)
Deadline for the tutor confirmation form:	Wednesday 16th December 2020 (Before 15:00 GMT)
Deadline to record/submit a video of your presentation:	Thursday 14th January 2021 (Before 15:00 GMT)
You must submit the following two items. (Detailed instructions on how to submit these will be given after you apply). 1) a digital video recording of you giving your presentation. 2) the presentation itself, as a Microsoft PowerPoint file.	
Notification of result:	Early February 2021
Groups who demonstrate excellent presentations will be invited to give their presentations at the speech contest finals. The contest committee will provide general feedback reflecting on all applicants' video recordings that they have submitted as part of their application.	
Speech Contest Finals:	Saturday 6th March 2021 (Online)