Individual Presentation Category Application Guidelines

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This application form is only for those applying for the **Individual Presentation Category.** If you would like to apply for the **Speech** Category or **Group** Presentation Category, please download the relevant application form from The 22nd Japanese Speech Contest for University Students | The Japan Foundation or https://batj.org.uk/speech-contest/

The 22nd Japanese Speech Contest for University Students

Overview

The Japanese Speech Contest for University Students was founded in 2006 by the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language (BATJ) in collaboration with the Japan Foundation to provide university students learning Japanese in the UK and Ireland a platform to present their achievements. It is hoped that through this contest, the study of the Japanese language will be encouraged and celebrated.

There are three categories in this contest to accommodate different levels and to reflect various university courses. The three categories are: 1) the Speech Category for post-intermediate level, 2) the Individual Presentation Category for post-beginners level, and 3) the Group Presentation Category for beginners.

1. About The Individual Presentation Category

a) Aim

The aim of the presentation is to explain your chosen topic clearly, using PowerPoint slides that include appropriate visual materials such as photographs, graphs and diagrams. Participants are expected to present the topic objectively, as the focus of the presentation should be on the topic itself rather than on their personal experiences.

b) Length of Presentation

Presentations must be given in Japanese and last **6-8 minutes**. If your presentation is not within this time limit, you may be disqualified during the screening process.

c) Evaluation Criteria

- The evaluation criteria includes content, speaking skills, presentation skills, and effectiveness of slides. There is NO question and answer session after the presentation.
- There will be a preliminary screening where finalists are selected.

2. Eligibility

The Individual Presentation Category is intended for students on post-beginners Japanese courses.

The contest is open to:

- Undergraduate students who are studying a Japanese course aiming for the equivalent of JF standard A2-B1 (https://www.jfstandard.jpf.go.jp/pdf/web_whole_en.pdf) at a university in the UK or Ireland.
- Those who have spent not more than 12 months in total in Japan.
- *Note: Students with Japanese parent(s) are welcome to apply, provided that they are studying Japanese as a language learner.*

The contest is **NOT** open to:

- Undergraduate students who are studying a Japanese course aiming for the equivalent of JF Standard B2 or above (CEFR B2 equivalent or above).
- Undergraduate students who have studied abroad in Japan for a full academic year as part of a degree course.
- Postgraduate students.
- 1st prize winners of the Individual Presentation Category in previous Japanese Speech Contests for University Students.

If you are still unsure which category you are eligible for, please contact speechcontest@jpf.go.jp, specifying the name of your degree course, Japanese course and university.

Note: Please note that finalists will be asked to consent of use of photographs and videos taken during the Finals Day by the Japan Foundation, BATJ, and sponsors of the University Speech Contest for publicity purposes, including making photos/videos available to the public via the internet and social media.

3. Schedule

Deadline for applications:	Monday 7th December 2026 (by 15:00 GMT)
Deadline for the **tutor confirmation form:**	Wednesday 9th December 2026 (By 15:00 GMT)
Deadline for **video of your presentation and slides** for preliminary screening:	Wednesday 13th January 2027 (By 15:00 GMT)
Notification of **result of preliminary screening:**	Late January - Early February 2027
Speech Contest Finals Day:	Saturday 6th March 2027

4. How to apply

There are three steps, which are: **a) application** (filled in by the applicant), **b) tutor confirmation** (filled in by your tutor), and **c) submission of video recording and slides**. Both a) and b) should be completed using our online forms. Please read the following instructions carefully.

a) Application

The following information is required to complete the online application form:

1) **Applicant details**
   - your name, first language
   - contact details (e-mail address, mobile phone number, term-time address)
   - course details (name of university, degree course, and Japanese course(s) enrolled on)
   - name and e-mail address of your main Japanese course tutor
   - your previous experience of studying Japanese (where and when), any Japanese language exams that you passed and your total time spent in Japan since the age of six.

2) **Presentation topic in Japanese and English**
   Please write the topic that you would like to make your presentation on.

If you wish to make minor changes to the topic of your presentation, please contact us before you submit your video and PowerPoint file by 15:00 (GMT) on **13th January 2027**.

URL for Application Form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/fXz4ULvaCZ
Deadline to Apply: **Monday 7th of December 2026 (15:00 GMT)**

Once you have completed your online application, please save your application as a PDF file. If you are using Microsoft, you can save your response using “save my response to edit”. When your saved response is open, press, “CTRL + P” to open the printer dialog box, select “PDF” from “Select Printer”, and click “Print”.

b) Tutor Confirmation

Your tutor must confirm your course details and eligibility in order for your application to be valid.

Please email following information to your main Japanese course tutor, and carbon copies (CCs) in the email of Japan Foundation, London (speechcontest@jpf.go.jp).

1) **Saved application form (PDF)**

2) **Link to access to the online tutor confirmation form**
   Please copy the link that appears on the screen after the application has been submitted OR use this URL: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/fb4QaH99uY
   Deadline to submit Tutor Confirmation: **Wednesday 9th of December 2026 (15:00 GMT)**

Notes: Please inform your tutor in advance that you are planning on entering the contest, and that they will be asked to confirm your eligibility. **Your application will only be accepted after your tutor has confirmed your eligibility.**

If you have any questions, please e-mail speechcontest@jpf.go.jp.

c) Submission of Video Recording and Slides

You must then submit a video recording of your presentation as well as your PowerPoint slides.

[Presentation Video]

- This video is for preliminary screening purpose only.
- The video should contain the presentation of the presenter and the PowerPoint slides on the same screen.
- The format of your video should be MP4 format.
- You may not include any sound, video clips or other moving images in your presentation.
- It is preferable to record with a camera, but if it is difficult, you can record your presentation using Zoom or Teams.

[Slides]

- Your final presentation slides must be made in Microsoft PowerPoint format. Other formats will not be accepted.
- All images in your PowerPoint presentation must be referenced with their source (please refer to the next page), if they are not copyright free. The source must be full and correct – search engine URLs are not acceptable. The source can either be listed together with each image, or listed on a final slide at the end. You should also cite any other resources you have used for any other aspects of your presentation (e.g. quotations).
- This will be your final and completed version of slides which will be used for the Finals day presentation.

Note: Visual images with watermarks are NOT copyright free. Please make sure not to use images with watermarks.

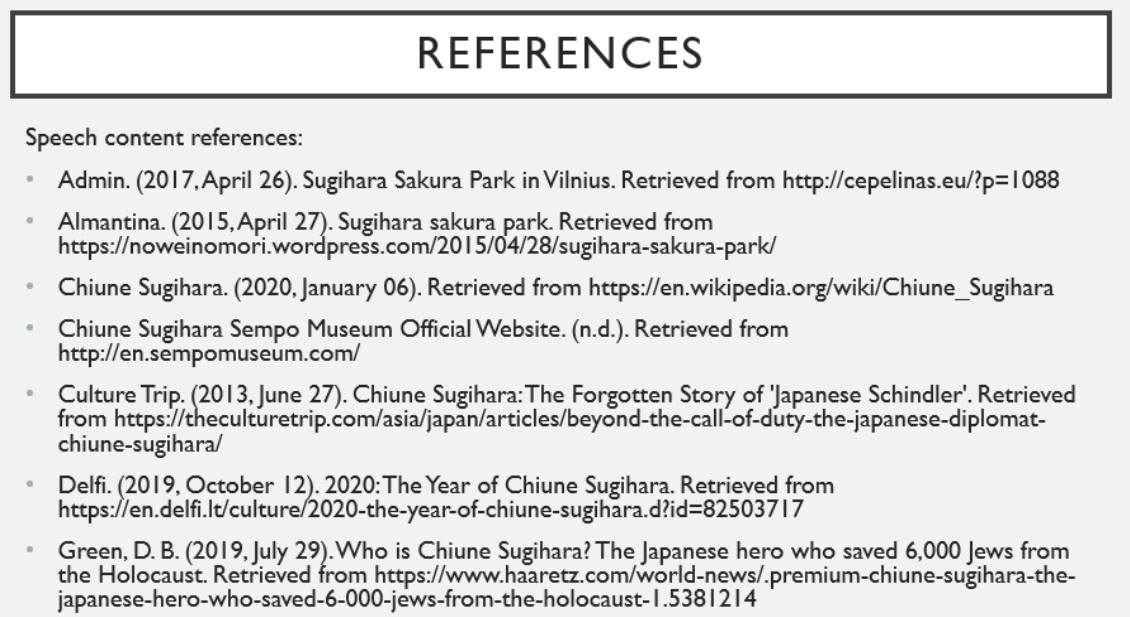
Please send your files via a file sharing site such as **Google Drive** or **One Drive** and share the link with speechcontest@jpf.go.jp (if you use your university email account, please make sure that you can share your files with someone outside of your institution). We cannot receive files sent via WeTransfer. Video hosting websites such as YouTube.com are not acceptable as we cannot download the video. Please note that we cannot receive any email that exceeds 10MB.

Deadline to submit Video and Slides: **Wednesday 13th of January 2027 (15:00 GMT)**

5. Important information regarding referencing

- You must use APA Referencing citation style to reference ALL images and quotations used. Please refer to the examples of reference slides from previous Finalists below:

Example of slide referencing information and quotation sources:



REFERENCES

Speech content references:

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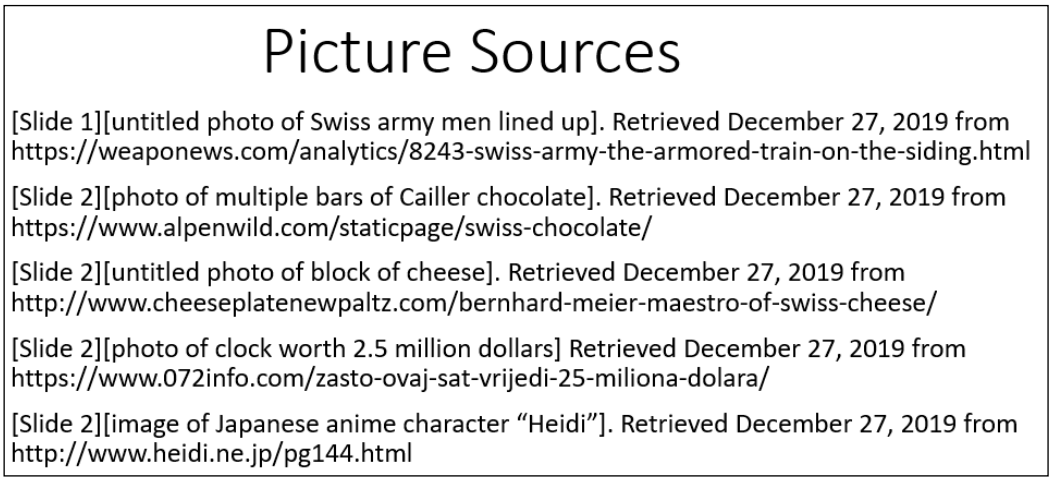
- Green, D. B. (2019, July 29). Who is Chiune Sugihara? The Japanese hero who saved 6,000 Jews from the Holocaust. Retrieved from https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/.premium-chiune-sugihara-the-japanese-hero-who-saved-6-000-jews-from-the-holocaust-1.5381214

Example of slide referencing image sources:



Picture Sources

[Slide 1][untitled photo of Swiss army men lined up]. Retrieved December 27, 2019 from https://weaponews.com/analytics/8243-swiss-army-the-armored-train-on-the-siding.html

[Slide 2][photo of multiple bars of Cailler chocolate]. Retrieved December 27, 2019 from https://www.alpenwild.com/staticpage/swiss-chocolate/

[Slide 2][untitled photo of block of cheese]. Retrieved December 27, 2019 from http://www.cheeseplatenewpaltz.com/bernhard-meier-maestro-of-swiss-cheese/

[Slide 2][photo of clock worth 2.5 million dollars] Retrieved December 27, 2019 from https://www.072info.com/zasto-ovaj-sat-vrijedi-25-miliona-dolara/

[Slide 2][image of Japanese anime character "Heidi"]. Retrieved December 27, 2019 from http://www.heidi.ne.jp/pg144.html

For more information on APA Referencing, please see the website below:
https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references

If you have any questions, please contact speechcontest@jpf.go.jp

6. Checklist for Applicants

During the application process, please double-check the following task checklist. Please tick off each task once it is complete. You can use this checklist to track the progress of your application.

- ☐ You have checked your eligibility for the Individual Presentation Category.
- ☐ Your topic is NOT on a specific shop, product, or brand. The target audience includes native speakers of Japanese and those learning Japanese as a foreign language, who have some knowledge of Japan.
- ☐ You have completed the online application by 15:00 (GMT) on Monday 7th December 2026.
- ☐ You have informed your course tutor that you are applying for the contest, and that they are aware that they must submit an online tutor confirmation form in order to complete your application by 15:00 (GMT) on Wednesday 9th December 2026.
- ☐ You have emailed your application form together with the URL for the tutor confirmation form to your main Japanese course tutor, cc-ed in Japan Foundation (speechcontest@jpf.go.jp).
- ☐ You have received a confirmation email from the Japan Foundation (speechcontest@jpf.go.jp) within 3 working days of sending your application (if you do not receive this email, please contact the Japan Foundation on speechcontest@jpf.go.jp

We encourage you to apply at least one week before the deadline to ensure that any potential issues with your application can be resolved before the deadline. Good luck!