Speech Category
Application Guidelines

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This application form is only for those applying for the **Speech Category**.
If you would like to apply for the **Individual** or **Group** Presentation Categories, 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 Speech Category

a) Aim

The aim of the speech is to convey a meaningful message or argument on a topic of your choice through your own ideas, opinions, experiences, reflections, or academic interests. Participants should support their points with relevant examples or evidence and offer suggestions and/or solutions where appropriate.

b) Length of Speech

Speeches must be given in Japanese and last **8-10 minutes**. If your speech is not within this time limit, you may be disqualified.

c) Evaluation Criteria

- The evaluation criteria includes content, speaking skills, presentation skills, and effectiveness in Q & A.
- There will be a preliminary screening where finalists are selected.

2. Eligibility

The Speech Category is intended for students on post-intermediate Japanese courses.

The contest is open to:

- Undergraduate students who are studying a Japanese course aiming for the equivalent of JF standard B2-C2 (https://www.jfstandard.jpf.go.jp/pdf/web_whole_en.pdf) at a university in the UK or Ireland including, as an elective, optional or other university-based language course.
- Those who have less than a total of three years' residence in Japan since the age of six.
- *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:

- Postgraduate students.
- 1st prize winners of the Speech 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 9th November 2026 (by 15:00 GMT)
Deadline for the **tutor confirmation form**:	Wednesday 11th November 2026 (by 15:00 GMT)
Online interviews after shortlisting based on the composition in your application form	Between 16th and 27th of November 2026
Notification of **interview result**:	Mid December 2026 - Early January 2027
Finalists **submit final speech title and summaries** in English and Japanese:	By Friday, 22nd January 2027 (by 24:00 GMT)
Speech Contest Finals Day:	Saturday 6th March 2027

4. How to Apply

There are two steps, which are: **a) application** (filled in by the applicant) and **b) tutor confirmation** (filled in by your tutor). Both processes can be processed only online. 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 (non-university 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) and visiting Japan (place, duration and purpose of stay/visit), and any Japanese language exams that you passed.

2) **Topic of your speech in Japanese and English**

3) **A short composition in Japanese about your speech (within 600 characters)**
This should outline the message that you wish to convey in your speech, and explain why you wish to convey it. Applicants will be asked to confirm that it is their own work.

Please note that the topic and main message of your speech **should not be changed** once you submit your application. Finalists will be asked to decide their exact speech titles after the online interview. If topics differ greatly from their original composition, they will be disqualified.

If we receive a large number of applications, we will shortlist candidates to progress to the online interview stage. Shortlisting will be based on the quality and clarity of your composition.

URL for Application Form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/nftbz8eEfN
Deadline to Apply: **Monday 9th of November 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 11th of November 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.**

Candidates selected for an online interview will be contacted via the non-university email address provided on their application form in order to schedule an interview.
If you have any questions, please e-mail speechcontest@jpf.go.jp.

5. 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 category you are applying for.

☐ 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 written a composition in Japanese about the topic of your speech, and the length is within the correct word count.

☐ You have completed the online application by 15:00 (GMT) on Monday 9th November 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 11th November 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!