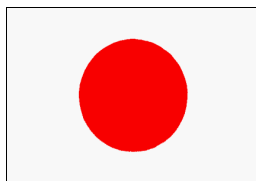


Japan



	Programme Price \$NZ*	Departure Date(s)	Return Date	Application complete by	Departure Date(s)	Return Date	Application complete by
Five months	\$4500	27 March.	9 August.	29 October.	24 August.	17 January.	15 April.
10 months	\$7100	27 March.	January 9	29 October.	24 August.	June 25	15 April.

*Prices are subject to change without notice as exchange rates fluctuate and contracts are renegotiated.

***Airfares are charged separately.*

Language

You need at least two years of Japanese language study before you qualify. Anything less than this puts you in front of a learning curve that is unreasonably steep for most people and restricts the value of your exchange.

If you've been studying Japanese for at least two years, you probably understand quite clearly that you're proposing to take part in a distinctive culture that is significantly different from most others. This means the set of challenges and rewards that you face are slightly different from what you would expect in other countries.

Three month exchanges

We have recently initiated a three month exchange starting in January. This is handy because it doesn't take a big bite out of your NZ school year and because you have some time out of school in Japan because of their holidays. It's possible that you'll enjoy it so much that you'll wish you had asked for a longer stay. Unfortunately, extensions are not possible.

Longer exchanges

These require a high degree of commitment to learning Japanese language and an enthusiasm for Japanese culture.

Placements

If you have applied at the correct time you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Most students are in contact for a month or more.

Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process and have the same motivations for hosting as families in other countries. Placements can be anywhere in Japan but most are in the region between Tokyo and Kobe.

Unlike other countries, hosting in Japan is often only for two months at a time. This means that you have to be prepared to change host families every two months while staying at the same school. This sounds a bit difficult but returning students invariably say that it has huge benefits as well as challenges. After ten months in Japan at one school, you could have had five completely different views of Japanese culture and Japanese family life. This requires understanding and a positive frame of mind.

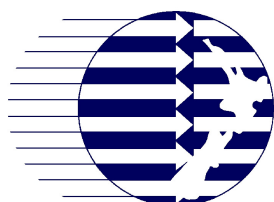
Applications

These begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic family and school details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application form in English. This takes most people quite a while to do. It is followed by an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present and takes about two and a half hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months, so it is good to apply early.

Late applications can sometimes be accepted but students must be willing to understand that they can cause delays and frustrations.

Orientation

We give all students an orientation before they leave and in Japan there is a three day orientation held for exchange students from many countries. It is usually held near Narita Airport and you will spend two nights here before being transferred to your host family.



NZIIU

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