



## Asia Kakehashi Project+ Call for Applications for 2024

*What is the Asia Kakehashi Project+?*

The Asia KAKEHASHI Project+ is a continuation of the initiative launched by Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2018 to strengthen relations between Japan and the rest of Asia. This cultural exchange program aims to offer full scholarships to high school students from Asia, as well as selected countries in North America and Europe, enabling them to study and live in Japan for a semester or an entire academic year. Recipients of this scholarship will have the opportunity to enhance their global competence skills and gain insights into Japan and other countries through a combination of school/dormitory and home-stay experiences.

**Name of the Program:** Asia Kakehashi Project+

**Country:** Japan

**Program Type:** Government Fully-funded Scholarship

**Program Duration:** 4 months

**Program Dates:** August to December 2024

**Placement:** Japanese High School and Host Family or Dormitory

**Deadline of Pre-Application Form:** February 26, 2024 at 11:59 PM

*Note: Program dates are subject to change*

### **Requirements:**

Accomplished AFS Global Link Online Application Form: <https://www.afsglobal.org/onlineapplication> (When creating an online application form, make sure that you apply or select the Asia Kakehashi Project+)



### **AFS Global Link Application Checklist**

- 2x2 ID size photo with white background (selfies will not be accepted)
- Complete Personal Information, Home Address, Affiliation
- Family background and AFS connection
- Educational Background
- Health & Lifestyle \*please be informed that this is different from health certificate that only chosen finalist are required to submit
- Emergency Information (Parents/Siblings are NOT considered. Kindly choose different Emergency person such as aunts, grandparents, school guidance counselor, etc)
- Accomplished Parents Statement & Parents Authorization Forms (must can be downloaded/found on your AFS Global Link account)
- Academic Record & Transcript (A school official must certify that the grades indicated in this form are correct by affixing a school seal or stamp and their signature.)
- Photocopy of Authenticated PSA Birth Certificate (NSO will not be accepted)
- Essay Form (#1-#3 can be handwritten or typewritten, for #4 answer must be HANDWRITTEN only)

*Please take note that application forms with INCOMPLETE information and requirements will not be accepted.*

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Filipino citizens residing in the Philippines, at the time of application, selection, and preparation for travel, must have spent more than 50% of the last 5 years in the Philippines and with current family plans of returning to the Philippines after the program.
- Between 15 and 18 years of age, born after April 2, 2006 and before April 1, 2009;
- No previous travel to Japan for either leisure/another scholarship



- Be among the top 25% of academic performance in grade level.
- Obtained minimum of 60% marks in principle in all subjects in the latest examination at school and overall minimum average of 60% marks in all subjects for the past two years; (Grades from school year 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 - at least for the 1st or 2nd grading period must be indicated in Academic Record & Transcript)
- Learners of Japanese. Participants for the Japanese speech contests are encouraged to apply and have priority for the selection (Students must send or upload proof of speech contest awards along with the academic records & transcript form)
- Strong academic and social skills, openness, and flexibility.
- Sufficiently healthy to participate in the program.
- Committed to cultural immersion in Japan through a homestay or dormitory experience.
- Able to meet cross-cultural challenges with maturity, humor, and an open mind.
- Plans to share his/her experience with his/her home and community upon return.
- Demonstrate strong potential of leadership to act as a bridge between the Philippines and Japan during and after the program; and
- Must have not participated in the ASIA KAKEHASHI program before.

*Note: Priority will be given to the students of families with low income*

NOT include in the scholarship program fee;

- Passport (Since this is a cultural exchange program that requires to travel, applicants must have a passport ready or at least prepared to submit a passport as soon as possible)
- DSWD Travel Clearance
- Medical Examination - Health Certificate
- Pre-existing medical conditions medication (such as allergies, dental care, and eye care)
- Excess or overweight baggage cost
- Personal expenses and trips during the program



## Application and Selection Timeline

Please be advised that AFS is following a schedule with international partners and funders of the program. Any application or requirements submitted after the given deadline will NOT be accepted.

- February 5 - 25, 2024: Online Application
- February 25 - March 1, 2024: Online Application Screening - Candidate Deliberation
- March 1, 2024: Announcement of Pre-qualifiers
- March 4 - 20, 2024: Panel Interview. Please be informed of the following interview location:
  - Students coming from cities of Metro Manila: in-person - AFS National Office
  - Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao: online - via Zoom
    - Interviewers profile
    - AFS Staff, Board of Trustees, Member of AFS School Club & AFS Community, AFS Active Alumni
- March 20-25, 2024: Debriefing - Candidate Deliberation
- March 26, 2024: Announcement of Finalist & Alternates (Alternates are reserved candidates should the finalist backout or unable to comply with program requirements)
- March 27-April 15: Full Application Deadline (Only finalists and alternates will receive a notification about completion of AFS Full-Application Form)
- April 15-20, 2024: Transfer of Application to Japan

*(Selection timeline is subject to change without notice)*



## Other Important Notes:

- All AFS Global Link applications must be accomplished no later than February 25, 2024, 11:59 PM. Accounts who have incomplete requirements will not be accepted.
- AFS Philippines will not accept any application or documents via email
- Filling out of application form is free of charge
- All immediate family members of AFS Philippines- administered sponsored programs scholars and alumni (ASEAN, ACCU-UNESCO, Akiko's Wish, Egypt Educator, JENESYS, Kizuna, AFS INT Diversity, YES, PYLYP, AAI Journalism Grant, Kamenori, NEXT 50, Hiroshima, Marching J, The 1956, corporate scholarships, etc.) up to the first degree (by birth or by marriage), as well as AFS Philippines staff and board members up to the third degree (by birth or by marriage), and or those who have been granted of any Japanese Government funded scholarship are regretfully automatically disqualified from applying to this program.
- Only qualified applicants will receive notification of next steps in due course
- Applicants are free to ask assistance to complete application from Asia Kakehashi Project+ Alumni
- If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to send it to [phi.kakehashi@afs.org](mailto:phi.kakehashi@afs.org) or visit Asia Kakehashi Project Alumni Facebook Page



## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

1. How can I apply for the program? Applicants must accomplish the AFS Global Link Application and submit the required documents. For more information, please refer to “Requirements” section above
2. Can I apply for this program even if I don’t have a passport yet? Yes. You can still apply even without a passport. However, as this is a cultural exchange program that requires travel, we highly encourage applicants to acquire a passport immediately. Processing fees for passport applications are not covered by the program.
3. My passport is already expired, can I still use it to complete my application? AFS PHI does not accept expired passports or any identification documents. Please submit a valid passport/ID, especially if you will be selected as a finalist/alternate for the program
4. Our school did not issue a school ID this year, and I do not have any other valid ID. What should I do? You may submit a certificate of enrollment as a replacement if you do not have a valid or recently issued School ID
5. I transferred to a new school this year, which school should I write in the school information part? Kindly indicate your PRESENT school. In the Academic Records & Transcript, it should be accomplished by a school official from your PRESENT school (or from school you are currently enrolled)
6. Can I submit the Academic Records & Transcript without the school official signature and school official stamp? No. AFS PHI will only accept Academic Records & Transcript signed by a school official with their school official stamp
7. My school does not issue a Form 137. Can I submit my report card/transcript of grades? No need to submit Form 137. In the Academic Records & Transcript form, you may ask a school official to indicate your grades for the last two years to present: grades from school year 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 at least for the first/second grading period
8. Can I submit an NSO birth certificate? No. AFS PHI will only accept PSA issued Birth Certificates
9. Will my participation be accredited or accepted upon my return? Grade accreditation is not covered by the program. Student is advised to contact their school for their decision



10. Will I receive a diploma or grades after the program? **Schools in Japan do not provide a diploma or grades as this is only a cultural exchange program and not an academic program. Students are advised to contact their school for any arrangements after their participation**
11. My date of birth is April 1, 2006/March 31, 2009, will I be accepted to the program? **No. Only applicants between 15 and 18 years of age, born after April 2, 2006 and before April 1, 2009; will be considered for the program**