The Junior Fellows Leadership Program is a culturally immersive learning experience for high school students who possess the potential for strong leadership and demonstrate the skills necessary to be future leaders. During this program conducted in New York and Japan, Junior Fellows have the opportunity to build networks with current industry leaders and program alumni, stay with a host family in Tohoku (northeast Japan), participate in a local high school, and experience Japanese history and culture through hands on experiences and historical site visits.

Program Schedule*

- **June 3:** Program orientation at Japan Society, New York (long distance Fellows will participate via Skype)
- **July 9—11:** Pre-departure orientation at Japan Society, New York
- **July 12—13:** Depart for and arrival in Japan
- **July 13—29:** In-country program
- **July 29:** Return to the U.S.

*Program contents and dates are subject to change.

“This trip changed who I am as a person; it gave me a whole new thought process. Japan Society helped me create lasting connections across the world, grow as a leader, and change the course of my entire future... My life will never be the same after being a Junior Fellow.”

—Participant from Rapid City, SD
Program Highlights
• Meet and learn from industry leaders in business, arts and sciences, nonprofit organizations and government
• Visit leading companies to learn and compare what they value and look for in building the future
• Live with a host family and explore local communities in northeast Japan
• Experience Japanese high school life
• Carry out an independent project on a global issue
• Learn about Tohoku’s current status and recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011
• Visit significant cultural and historic sites
• Learn basic Japanese in an immersive setting

Qualifications
U.S. high school students from 9th to 11th grade are eligible to apply. Junior Fellows will be selected based on demonstrated leadership potential and skills, as well as the qualities necessary to have a successful and engaging experience with other program participants; including (but not limited to): ability to adapt to a foreign culture, emotional and interpersonal maturity, strong academic background and a demonstrated interest in Japan. Knowledge of Japanese language is helpful, but not required.

Guidelines for Application
Application and recommendation forms are available at: japansociety.org/junior_fellows
All application packets must include the following documents:
1. Application form
2. Two (2) signed letters of recommendation (at least one from a teacher or faculty member at the student’s school)
3. Official copy of school transcript
4. Two (2) short, written responses to the following questions (500-word limit for each question):
   Q 1. Why you are qualified to participate in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program? Please explain.
   Q 2. How will this program help you to achieve your future career goals?
• Only complete application packets will be considered. Please send all required documents together.
• Applications are accepted by postal mail ONLY (no electronic submissions accepted). In order to avoid lost mail, we strongly recommend your application be sent via certified mail.

Application & Selection Timeline
• February 16 (Friday): Application Deadline (postmarked)
• Mid-March: Announcement of selection of 1st round candidates
• April 8 (Sunday): Group interviews with 1st round candidates (by invitation only)
• Mid-April: Final selection and announcement of 2018 Junior Fellow participants

Notes
1. Application documents will not be returned.
2. Applications submitted by ineligible participants or that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
3. Each applicant is responsible for ensuring that their application is complete. Only complete applications will be considered for review.
4. Due to the large number of applications received, we are unable to provide feedback to applicants who are not admitted.

"The Junior Fellows Program taught me a lot about Japanese culture and the leaders I met gave me different perspectives on leadership. I am confident that what I learned could not be experienced anywhere else."
—Participant from Newtown, CT

"The Junior Fellows Program has given me the opportunity to better myself and grow in many areas. Throughout the program, I have matured as a person and have wrestled with the ideas of independence and responsibility. My understanding of Japan has been deepened and so has my love for the country. After my experience in Japan, I will never see the world in the same way I did before."
—Participant from Belleville, NJ
Program Costs
The Junior Fellows Leadership Program is made possible by the generous underwriting of Japan Society donors and supporters. The total cost of the program is approximately $11,000 per participant.

Tuition/Participation Fee
Tuition offsets the cost of orientation and arrangements, all international and domestic travel, meals and accommodations (dormitory-style and hotel) as well as all admissions during study trips and retreat. Fellows are responsible for incidental expenses, pocket money and meals not taken with host families or program staff.
Tuition: $3,500

Need-Based Scholarships
Japan Society offers need-based scholarships to provide support for students facing financial barriers to participating in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program. To apply for a scholarship, you will need information from your parents’ IRS 2017 Form 1040 after you are selected as a Junior Fellow. We award need-based scholarships based on a family’s demonstrated need. Details are available upon selection to the program.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Company Visits & Leader Meetings
Each Junior Fellow will meet with current leaders in business and education, arts and sciences, nonprofit organizations and government entities through company visits and individual meetings in both New York and Japan. Previous Junior Fellows have had the opportunity to speak with senior business executives, media personalities, entrepreneurs, ranking UN policy advisors, leading photojournalists, architects and manga artists.

Aizu Wakamatsu Homestay & School Experience
U.S. Junior Fellows travel to northeast Japan and start their in-Japan program with a homestay in the historic city Aizu Wakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture. Fellows attend a local high school and participate in various activities as they complete their independent projects. Program leaders facilitate experiences that allow the Junior Fellows to gain a better understanding of local cuisine, traditions and history.

Research Project
Junior Fellows conduct research on social issues prior to departure. During the study trip and homestay in Tohoku, Fellows continue to study, discuss and further explore the topic through personal engagement with the local community. At the end of the program, Fellows present their research projects to leaders and their cohort. Upon return to school, Fellows also share their experience and project on campus as well as create an online exhibition about the town and school in which they stayed.

Study Trip
During the program, Junior Fellows engage personally with survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Iwaki city, Fukushima Prefecture. Here, Fellows listen and learn from survivors, experience and explore recovery efforts and witness the transformation taking place since March 2011.

Junior Fellows Alumni Network (JFAN)
Throughout the program, Junior Fellows will meet with program alumni in both the U.S. and Japan. As mentors, alumni share tips for successfully completing the program and making the most of their experience. Alumni also discuss their post-program experiences with the college selection process, finding internships and career planning. After completion of the program, all Junior Fellows actively participate in Japan Society programs and continue to expand their network and develop their leadership skills.

Japan Society
Japan Society is the leading U.S. organization committed to deepening mutual understanding between the United States and Japan in a global context. Now in its second century, the Society serves audiences across the United States and abroad through innovative programs in arts and culture, public policy, business, language and education. For more information about Japan Society, please visit us at japansociety.org.

Further Questions
For more information, contact the Japan Society Education Program at Japan Society at (212) 715-1275/1216 or juniorfellows@japansociety.org.
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“The program allowed me to build incredible connections, complete a successful research project that has given me insight into many issues, and challenge myself to understand what a leader is and how I can become one.”
—Participant from Linwood, NJ

“I became a lot more aware of the world outside of the U.S. I now know and understand a culture outside of my own, as well as their concerns and roles in the world. Because of this program, I definitely want to pursue an international career, as well as revisit Japan in the future... It was easily one of the most amazing experiences in my life, I wish I could go back and do it all again.”
—Participant from Copiague, NY