Junior Fellows Leadership Program

2018 PROGRAM REPORT

Connecting Present & Future Leaders

333 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017 | japansociety.org
Program Dates

Japanese Junior Fellows Leadership Program
Spring 2018: March 10—30 (21 days)

U.S. Junior Fellows Leadership Program
Summer 2018: July 9—29 (21 days)

Mission

Japan Society aims to foster and develop a rising cohort of future leaders in Japan and the United States who have a lifelong interest in and understanding about both countries. Drawing upon the Society’s strong network across multiple fields, the Japan Society Junior Fellows Leadership Program provides students with first-hand experiences in Japan and the United States, with particular attention to cultural understanding and leadership with the expressed purpose of developing a sustainable network of talented leaders on both sides of the Pacific.

I felt that I became one step closer to my dreams through meeting with global leaders.

About the Japan Society Junior Fellows Leadership Program
U.S. Jr. Fellows visiting the Meiji Shrine.

Fellows with The Hon. Caroline B. Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan (center) and H.E. Reiichiro Takahashi, Ambassador & Consul General of Japan in New York.
Voices of Participants

One of the highlights of this program was learning the importance of networking and connecting with people. Two weeks with my host family was so precious that I felt we became a true family. I was encouraged to continue my dreams through my encounters with my host sister, other Junior Fellows, alumni, as well as the leaders. Without meeting them, I would not have become so motivated toward my future and goals, nor would my views have broadened so much. I am grateful for meeting those who changed my life, and I myself would also like to be someone who can motivate others.

—Rena Hayashi, Saitama

The reason this program was successful is because it motivated me towards my future goals. I had opportunities to speak with Fellows from my generation, as well as with leaders. I felt that the Fellows motivated me to take action now, and the leaders gave me the motivation to continue to grow. I believe that I will remember and reflect on this experience frequently and continue to be inspired throughout my life.

—Naoya Chonan, Tokyo

Since I participated in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program, my family often tells me that I have changed. I sometimes feel that, too. Since the program, I have became proactive with everything. I treasure my meetings with other Fellows who have dreams and opportunities to meet wonderful leaders in various fields. I am determined to come back to the U.S. again! I used those three weeks to break my old shell and grow.

—Mahiro Kawamoto, Hiroshima
It was truly a precious experience to meet and spend time with other Fellows. I enjoyed our time discussing and sharing thoughts on unfamiliar topics. All the Fellows had such great energy—I became encouraged for the future, to live my life as one of the next generation of Japanese leaders alongside them. Every day was so fulfilling. There was no minute or second wasted!

—Mizuho Kodama, Yamaguchi

We were immersed in Japanese culture and met with many leaders. Throughout these meetings we were exposed to possible careers and developed a network with those companies through Japan Society. It opened up a whole new door for me since I had never considered pursuing a career abroad. In addition, the program made me consider something I have never thought deeply about before—how I can be a good leader. What is a good leader? Ever since then, I keep on viewing the events and things around me with this in my mind, and I feel like this is very important to develop my leadership role.

—Hayreddin Kalac, New Jersey

My thoughts on leadership have changed substantially after doing the Junior Fellows Program. The program has definitely prepared me for the future, and will help me be successful. In addition, this program has made me more determined to be successful. It has also taught me lessons on perseverance and open-mindedness that will allow me to be a better leader in whatever career I pursue after college. I also now have connections with very successful leaders, which could benefit my future career.

—Jude William Klena, Virginia

This trip was three weeks of exploring my values, my goals, and my dreams, all the while in a country that I love. I can say with confidence that this trip shaped me into a different person than the one who got on the Tokyo-bound 14-hour flight. This program gave me greater insight into the work environment that I want to be in. I gained insight into leading that will aid me in my future endeavors. Most importantly, I learned what it was like to be fully immersed in a different culture. This affirmed my belief that I want to have a career with an international focus, on top of all of the lessons that it taught me.

—Isabel Podolski, New York
Japanese Junior Fellows

This program taught me a lot about leadership and most importantly got me to think about how I could become a better leader.
Program Summary

Program Summary March 10—29, 2018

Tokyo Orientation (January 14—15) & New York Orientation (March 11—12)
Tokyo orientation in January prepared each Fellow for the March program and started the Fellows networking among themselves. The 2018 Japanese Fellows also met with Junior Fellows alumni for discussions about the characteristics of a global leader, social issues and their future goals; alumni also shared their experiences and served as advisors for the new Fellows. Upon arrival in New York in March, the Fellows began the day with a formal orientation at Japan Society. Orientation included a leadership discussion, additional guidance for independent projects, and a preparation session for cultural differences as well as a safety session to ensure all Fellows were able to safely navigate during their stay in the U.S.

Home Stay & School Experience (March 12—24)
Deep cultural understanding and rich relationships were built during the Fellows’ stay with 10 local host families. Japanese Fellows attended three different high schools separately in Connecticut and New Jersey, and experienced school life while making connections within the school with both students and teachers conducting independent project research. Fellows were introduced to local historical sites and cultural events such as St. Patrick’s Day as well as different school activities through host siblings, families and teachers.

Independent Project
Each student was assigned to research one of five global topics that the U.S. and Japan share: environmental issues, women’s rights, declining birthrate and aging society, the roles of the U.S. and Japan in Asia, and immigration. This comparative research helped Fellows to strengthen their understanding of the host country in relationship to their own country. Fellows began their research before departure, presented their research to American students at their host schools, and incorporated feedback on the original research to complete the projects. Each Fellow presented their project at schools, to their host families, and to program alumni and special guests at a luncheon held at the program’s end.

Study Tour & Company Visits—Washington, DC (March 25—26)
Japanese Fellows participated in a brief study tour to Washington, DC, visiting the White House, the Smithsonian Museum and the Lincoln Memorial. Japanese Fellows exchanged ideas with organizations and leaders in D.C. area, including:
• Senator John “Jay” Rockefeller
• Captain Matthew Feely, Ph.D., a retired United States Navy Captain involved with Japan’s recovery efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011
• Go Eguchi, Sr. Vice President, General Manager of Washington Office, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)

Company Visits—New York (March 27)
The program provided Fellows with opportunities to visit leaders in various fields and industries, so that they could listen and learn first hand from the experiences of active professionals. Fellows gained valuable career advice, encouragement and insights to aid them as they mature and take on more leadership roles and responsibilities. In addition to leader visits in Washington, DC, Fellows also visited and met with leaders in the New York area, including:
• Hisae Kawamori, Associate Video/Multimedia Producer, UN Video Section Department of Public Information, United Nations
• Ryosuke Ujihashi, Associate Expert (Forest Affairs), UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
• Jari Tabata, Cat Han, Huma Mody and their team at SYPartners

During their stay in New York, Japanese Fellows visited sites such as the United Nations, 9/11 Memorial and 9/11 Tribute Museum

Leader Luncheon (March 28)
Before returning to Japan, Japanese Junior Fellows participated in a leader luncheon, where they met leaders including Nancy Alderman; Tomoko Hamada-Dougan, Japanese language instructor; Osamu Honda, Director General, The Japan Foundation; Kei Ikenishi, Head of Japan Desk, AIG; The Honorable Caroline B. Kennedy, Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan; Hiroko Onoyama, Japan Society Circle of Friends; Debra J. Saito, Supervising Examiner, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; H.E. Reiichiro Takahashi, Ambassador & Consul General of Japan in New York, Consulate General of Japan; Noboru Takemoto, Director, Passenger Sales, New York Office, All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.; Prof. Yutaka Takiura, Interior Design Dept., Pratt Institute; Rona Tison, Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations, ITO EN (North America) INC.; Toru Wada, General Manager New York Branch, The Norinchukin Bank; Kate Waggoner, Program Associate, Hollyhock Foundation; and Lauren Zane, Programs Director Hollyhock Foundation. A representative Fellow, Naoya Chonan, presented his independent project on women’s rights.

Alumni Network (March 28)
The last day of the program was dedicated to networking with U.S. Program Alumni. Fellows came to celebrate the successful program and each Fellow’s achievements. They guided the Japanese Fellows through a tour at the UN, and enjoyed developing their friendships.

The leaders gave me the confidence to be a leader like them.
U.S. Junior Fellows

Audrey Deigaard, Texas
High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

Bennet Fuchida Hawley, Connecticut
Greenwich High School

Bram Ellant, New York
Hunter College High School

Hayreddin Kalac, New Jersey
Pioneer Academy

Jude William Tomoyuki Klena, Virginia
Norfolk Academy

Uriel Lopez, New York
Leadership and Public Service High School

Bennet Fuchida Hawley, New York
Bronx Collaborative High School

Gilaisy Herrad, New York
High School for Math Science and Engineering

Lola Simon, New York
Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School

Joshua Torres, New York
High School for Math Science and Engineering

The program changed the way I see myself and the world and my interests have become so much more diverse because of it.
New York Orientation (June 3 & July 9—11)
The orientation in June and July prepared the Fellows for their July trip to Japan and started their networking. In addition to leadership and cultural session as well as useful advice from Alumni Fellows, a Japanese language lesson was given to ensure that everyone would be able to safely navigate in Japan. The Fellows met with Captain Matthew Feely, Ph.D., a retired United States Navy Captain involved with Japan’s recovery efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. Captain Feely presented the Fellows with difficult scenarios and decisions he was confronted with as an international leader. Orientation also gave the Fellows a chance to connect with alumni during a discussion about the qualities of a good leader. 2018 Fellows and alumni were invited to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to speak with representatives about their views on the Japanese market and their experiences with international banking. There, they met with:
• Debra J. Saito, Supervising Examiner, Financial Institution Supervision Group
• Marcia Nesbeth, Supervisory Manager, Regional Community & Foreign Financial Institutions
• Kosuke Nishino, Trader/Analyst, Market Operations, Monitoring & Analysis

Homestay (July 14—22)
Upon arrival in Japan, the Fellows traveled to Aizu Wakamatsu in Fukushima, where each Fellow stayed with a Japanese host family to experience Japanese life, explore local customs, food, historical spots and be a part of the community. During the homestay, the Fellows also experienced local high school life at Gakuho High School where they enjoyed networking with Japanese students through classroom and outdoor sports activities. Each Fellow had a unique experience with their host family and their classmates and made memories that will last a lifetime. Fellows visited historical sites in Aizu such as Tsuruga Castle and also attended unique local craft activities as well as a summer festival. Fellows also continued their independent research projects during homestay.

Study Trip—Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture (July 22—23)
After finishing their homestay and school experience, the U.S. Fellows traveled to Iwaki City in Fukushima Prefecture. There, they met one of the survivors of the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. The next day, the Fellows went on a study tour of Iwaki City, where they met another survivor at the heavily affected shore area and observed newly developed housing projects on the safer hill area. They also visited a Nissan factory, which had been affected by the disaster but was encouraged through sympathy messages by Tennessee Nissan branch employees. During their stay in Iwaki, the Fellows continued their assigned research topics and began using resources to build the foundation of their presentations. Some Fellows were able to incorporate stories and information they gained from the survivors in their presentations.

Company Visits—Tokyo (July 24—27)
After returning to Tokyo, the Fellows met with business leaders to discuss international business, leadership and issues facing society today, including:
• Azby Brown, Director, Future Design Institute, Safe Cast, and his team
• Moriyasu Ito, Shinto priest, International Research Institute, Meiji Jingu
• Hiroyuki Hanaoka, Vice Executive Director, Manager of General Affairs, Ashinaga Foundation; Ryohji Sakai, Management Advisor, Ashinaga Foundation and their team
• Kazushi Ambe, Executive Vice President, Sony Corporation
• Jonathan Kindred, President & CEO, Morgan Stanley Japan Holdings Co., Ltd.

Project Presentations & Networking with Japanese Alumni (July 28)
In Tokyo, the Fellows presented their research projects to other Fellows as well as Japanese Junior Fellows Alumni. The U.S. Fellows enjoyed networking with Japanese Alumni during and after the presentations over lunch.

Post-Program Leader Luncheon (August 23)
After their return to New York City, the U.S. Fellows reunited at Japan Society for a post-program luncheon. A representative Fellow, Gilaisy Herrad, presented her independent project on natural disaster, and all Fellows were motivated, encouraged and inspired by meet leaders such as Tracy Austin, General Manager, Corporate Communications, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas); Jesse Damon, President, The Wendy Obernauer Foundation; Mari Damon, The Wendy Obernauer Foundation; Mathew Feely, Ph.D., Captain, U.S. Navy RET.; Issei Hatakeyama, President, JETRO; Osamu Honda, Director General, The Japan Foundation, New York, Director, Center for Global Partnership, New York; Kei Ikenishi, Head of Japan Desk, AIG; Mark Keegan, Chief of Staff to Mitsubishi International Corporations President, Corporate Communications and Sustainability, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas); Kenji Matsumoto, Deputy Director General, The Japan Foundation, New York; Kosuke Nishino, Trader/Analyst, Market Operations, Monitoring & Analysis, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Hiroko Onoyama, Japan Society Circle of Friends; Joseph R. Perella, Chairman, Japan Society, Founding Partner and Chairman Perella Weinberg Partners; Motatsu Sakurai, President, Japan Society; Jason Stevens, President & CEO of Mitsubishi International Corporation; Noboru Takemoto, Director, Passenger Sales, New York Office, All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.; Rona Tison, Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations, ITO EN (North America) INC.; and Kate Waggoner, Programs Associate, Hollyhock Foundation.

What I was impressed by the most is the attractive and inspiring character of each leader.
Japanese Junior Fellows at the U.N.

U.S. Junior Fellows with Mr. Otani, a survivor of the Great East Japan Earthquake.
Junior Fellows Alumni Network (JFAN)

Currently JFAN has reached 110 members in the U.S. and Japan. During their time in their host country, Fellows connected with JFAN—meeting Fellows from previous years, many of whom are now attending top universities or who are now entering different professions. Alumni also served on panels during orientations and accompanied the Fellows during company and leader visits. As the JFAN expands and increases in number, Japan Society remains committed to supporting alumni and helping them grow as leaders through leadership workshops, conferences and networking events in the U.S. and Japan.

Alumni University Matriculations (as of Sept 2018)
108 Junior Fellows Alumni (as of 9/20/2018)
(53 alumni each from the U.S. and 55 alumni from Japan)

Advisors / Role Models / Mentors
Alumni joined the pre-departure orientation to meet new Junior Fellows and give advices to them based on their experiences. They join discussions and workshop on leadership, encouraging and sharing their cultural experiences. Alumni have been great advisors to new Fellows not only for the program, but also about college applications, internships and career planning.

Junior Fellows Selection Committee
Several Junior Fellows Alumni contributed to the selection process for new Fellows for the summer 2018 program by reviewing all applications and participating in interviews with Japan Society staff during the selection of the final 10 Fellows, using insights based on their own experience as Junior Fellows.

Alumni University Matriculations
As the JFAN alumni graduate from high school, they have enrolled in many institutions of higher learning in both the U.S. and Japan, as well as abroad. Highlights include:

U. S.
Arcadia University
Bard College (2)
Baruch College
Brigham Young University
Cornell University (1)
Duke University
Essex County College
Fordham University
Georgetown University
George Washington University
Hunter College
John Jay College
New York University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
SUNY Cortland
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Stony Brook
Tufts University (2)
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania (1)
University of South Carolina
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Michigan
Vassar College
Wellesley College
Yale University (2)

England
Arts University Bournemouth
Bangor University

France
Science Po & Columbia University
Dual Program (2)

Ireland
Trinity College

Japan
Akita International University / 秋田国際教養大学 (2)
Doshisha University / 同志社大学
Gakushuin University / 学習院大学
Hilotsubashi University / 一橋大学
International Christian University / 国際基督教大学 (2)
Iwate University / 岩手大学 (2)
Sophia University / 上智大学 (2)
Kansai University / 関西大学
Keio University / 慶応大学 (3)
Kobe University / 神戸大学
Lakeland University in Tokyo
Ochanomizu University / お茶の水女子大学
Okayama University / 岡山大学
St. Luke’s International University / 聖路加国際大学
Tohoku University / 東北大学
Tokyo University of Foreign Relations / 東京外国語大学 (2)
Tsukuba University / 筑波大学 (2)
Waseda University / 早稲田大学 (7)
Japanese Junior Fellows in Washington, D.C.

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Support
Participants in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program are supported by generous gifts from many companies, individuals and foundations. We invite you to support the Junior Fellows and directly impact the experiences of young leaders in the U.S. and Japan. To support the Junior Fellows Leadership Program, call (212)715-1216 or email juniorfellows@japansociety.org.

Individual Support
Gifts of cash and stock by wire, check or credit card can be received at Japan Society with assistance from Individual Giving Director Kimberly Woodward.

Corporation & Foundation Support
Scholarship funding and support for program development are greatly appreciated.

In Kind Support
We welcome in-kind support of goods and services, including but not limited to hosting leadership meetings with the Junior Fellows, providing office space (in Tokyo) for activities, and pro bono advice.

Dissemination & Promotion
Posters, inclusion in company newsletters and social media are just a few of the ways that promote the program and encourage greater participation. Please consider including the Junior Fellows in your public or internal publications.

Volunteers
Short- and long-term volunteers/interns are helpful in preparing for the Junior Fellows throughout the year. Company employees can customize their hours of service with Japan Society as we implement the many aspects of the program.