Japan Society Junior Fellows Leadership Program

2017 PROGRAM REPORT
JAPAN SOCIETY JUNIOR FELLOWS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Connecting Present & Future Leaders

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.

2017 Program Dates
Japanese Junior Fellows Leadership Program
Spring:
March 11—27, 2017 (17 days)

U.S. Junior Fellows Leadership Program
Summer:
July 5—21, 2017 (17 days)

I have traveled to Japan in the past, but the program gave me an entirely different experience because I was able to focus on leadership rather than simply cultural exchange. That specific focus allowed me to understand world issues and Japanese issues more concretely.

I realized during the program that leaders have three absolute requirements: “Knowledge and experience,” “friends and colleagues” and “passion.”
I acquired the necessary attitude and spirit of leadership necessary to fulfill my dreams and achieve future goals. I saw a clear image of how I would like to work in the future by listening to leaders talk about their leadership roles. After our meetings with Japanese leaders, I acquired the confidence to achieve whatever I want to achieve, and this learning has become a core foundation for me.

—Yuno Fukatsu, Tokyo

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. I grew a lot intellectually and have a new perspective on how our world can become a better place through empathetic leadership and education. I feel that the program succeeded in its goals of educating young people on leadership’s importance in our world, and strengthening the future relationship between the U.S. and Japan. I feel that I have grown because of my participation in the program and will continue to use what I have learned to achieve my goals.

—Sebastian Chang, NJ

We were able to speak with leaders in the U.S. who work at a global level, and to hear their views on leadership, professionalism and the role of corporations in the world. It was an amazing opportunity for me to review my future goals. I have developed a concrete understanding of what I need to learn in high school, university and beyond, and what is necessary to become a leader. I would like to work in a field that connects Japan and the world.

—Kodai Hasunuma, Tokyo
The Japan Society Junior Fellows Program has given me insight into leadership in the global world, as well as the most precious thing—motivation. In talking to top Japanese leaders working around the world, I was encouraged to follow my dreams and to try my best all the time. This sounds like a common phrase, but while listening and having Q&A sessions with the top leaders I felt this strongly in my heart. It helped me visualize my dreams and begin the work toward making them come true.

—Ryuki Nakayama, Kanagawa (神奈川県・中山隆輝)

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.

—Spencer Hodges, NY

Through my experiences in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program I now understand what I need to find for myself and what I should be aiming for in the future. I could not have done this on my own in Japan. Meeting my role models for the future showed me that the world can change drastically even with one small step forward, and taught me the importance of courage and challenge. I found my starting point and new goals, and I am filled with motivation from all the stimuli of this program.

—Daisuke Kuroki, Miyazaki

All of the activities we participated in made the program much more enjoyable and built our skills as young leaders. The company and leader meetings were well chosen and broadened our understanding of leadership in action. The project topics were extremely interesting, and I am motivated to continue to develop my research and better understand people’s perceptions of U.S.-Japan cooperation.

—Aleksandra Gracheva, IL
The state of U.S.-Japan relations is vital for us and the program contributes to deepen mutual understanding between the two countries. We are honored to be a part of your excellent Junior Fellows Program and hope to continue to support the program.

—Kevin Hogan, Chief Executive Officer, Consumer Insurance, AIG

I thank Japan Society for its Junior Fellows program. By providing participants with international experience, cultural exchange and the opportunity to meet with their peers and current leaders across various fields, the Junior Fellows program is building a growing network of young people on both sides of the Pacific equipped with the knowledge and experience to become the next generation of leaders in Japan-U.S. relations.

—Yasushi Takahashi, President & Chief Executive Officer Mitsui & Co. (USA)

If I am to name one single most important role as an expat from a Japanese company operating abroad, I would say, encouraging and motivating our young students to see how the world looks like and interact with foreign nationals in order to understand how you and your nation are regarded from a foreigner’s view. That experience, I believe, would be the key for these young boys and girls to recognize the lack of profound knowledge of their own identity including the Japanese society, history and culture in a “healthy” positive way. I would be more than happy to meet and share some time with the students again in the near future.

—Go Eguchi, Sr. Vice President, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)
I really felt that the world I knew was so small and limited. The program gave me an opportunity for me to realize positives and negatives about Japan from outside of the country. I really felt that the world I knew was so small and limited. The program gave me an opportunity for me to realize positives and negatives about Japan from outside of the country.

Friendships with other Fellows became my treasure in life.

一生涯のフェローたちに出会えたことは自分にとっての財産となった。
SPRING 2017 PROGRAM SUMMARY
Program Dates: March 11—27, 2017

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 2017 Japanese Fellows also met with Junior Fellows alumni from 2014, 2015 and 2016 for a discussion about the characteristics of a good leader 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 difference 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—19)
Deep cultural understanding and rich relationships were built during the Fellows’ stay with local host families. Japanese Fellow attended five different high schools separately and experienced school life, making connections within the school with both students and teachers while 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 to research before their 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 20—21)

Japanese Fellows participated in a brief study tour to Washington, DC, visiting the White House, the WWII Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. Japanese Fellows exchanged ideas with organizations and leaders such as former Senator John “Jay” Rockefeller; Minister Tamaki Tsukada at the Japanese Embassy; Ryota Isshiki at Toyota Motor North America, Inc.; and Go Eguchi at Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas).

Company Visits: New York (March 22—23)

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 New York area; Rona Tison and Meito Mochizuki at ITO EN; Kevin Hogan, Kei Ikenishi and Nozomi Iida at AIG; and Yasushi Takahashi, Mitsui USA. During the stay in New York, Japanese Fellows visited sites such as SIPA Columbia University and the United Nations as well as the 9/11 Memorial.

Leader Luncheon (March 24)

Before their return to Japan, Japanese Junior Fellows participated in a leader luncheon and met various leaders including Christopher Calabia, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Eric Campbell, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.; Masahide Enoki, ITO EN (North America) INC.; Tomoko Hamada-Dougan; Osamu Honda, The Japan Foundation, New York; Kei Ikenishi, AIG; David P. Janes, United States-Japan Foundation; Hisae Kawamori, United Nations; Kenji Matsumoto, The Japan Foundation, New York; Justin A. Rockefeller, Addepar.com, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The ImPact; Juan Camilo Romero, Macy’s Inc.; Debra J. Saito, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Meito Mochizuki, ITO EN (North America) INC.; H.E. Reiichiro Takahashi, Ambassador & Consul General of Japan in New York, Consulate General of Japan; Kei Tagawa, United Nations; Rona Tison, ITO EN (North America) INC.; and Lauren Zane, Hollyhock Foundation.

Junior Fellows Alumni Network (JFAN) (March 25)

The last day of the program was dedicated to networking with U.S. Fellow alumni. Fellows from 2014, 2015 and 2016 came to celebrate the successful program and each Fellow’s achievements. They guided the Japanese Fellows to The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Central Park, and enjoyed developing their friendships.
I still have a hard time believing that I was chosen for such an amazing privilege such as the one this program has provided to me, and I'm forever grateful, as this program has changed me and my perspective on my future.
SUMMER 2017 PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Dates: July 5—21, 2017

New York Orientation (July 5—7)
The Fellows began the day with a formal orientation at Japan Society. Japanese proficiency is varied among the Fellows, so a survival language lesson was given to ensure all Fellows were able to safely navigate their way through Japan. The Fellows met with their first leader, 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 the difficult scenarios and decisions he was confronted with as an international leader. Orientation also gave the Fellows a chance to connect with alumni from the 2016, 2015 and 2014 programs for a discussion about the qualities of a good leader. 2017 Fellows and alumni were invited to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to speak with Senior Vice President Christopher Calabia and his colleagues about their views on the Japanese market and their experiences with international banking.

Study Trip: MORIUMIUS, Ogatsu, Miyagi Prefecture (July 10—14)
On their arrival in Japan, the U.S. Fellows traveled to Tohoku, where they stayed at MORIUMIUS in the fishing town of Ogatsu, Miyagi Prefecture. After the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, around 80 percent of Ogatsu was destroyed. MORIUMIUS, a 93-year-old school house, has been turned into a sustainable community education center after much hard work, including the support of the Japan Society Earthquake Relief Fund. While at MORIUMIUS, the Fellows learned about the local fishery and forestry industries, and volunteered at the community garden while also becoming a part of the revitalized community. Fellows met local and international leaders including community leaders Sayaka Wataname, Re;Terra and Hiroyuki Hanaoka, Ashinaga as well as Gentaro Yui, MORIUMIUS. The Fellows continued their assigned research topics and began using resources to build their foundations. Assigned topics covered global issues: environmental issues; declining birthrates in Asian countries; the role of the United States in Japanese foreign policy; immigration; and women’s rights in Japan and the United States.

Homestay (July 14—17)
In Aizu, Wakamatsu and Fukushima, 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. Each Fellow had a unique experience with their host family and made memories that will last a lifetime. Fellows visited historical sites in Aizu such as Tsuruga Castle and also experienced unique craft activities.
Company Visits (July 18—20)

After returning to Tokyo, the Fellows met with business leaders to discuss international business, leadership and issues facing society today, including Larik Hall, Deputy President & Chief Distribution Officer, AIG Japan Holdings, K.K.; Matthew S. Sussman, Executive Director, Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (Fulbright Japan); Azby Brown, Director, Future Design Institute / Safe Cast Japan; Kazushi Ambe, Executive Vice President, Sony Corporation; Takahiro Iwata, General Manager, Public Relations & Investor Relations, ITO EN, Ltd; and Masayuki Tanaka, Liaison & Coordination Team of International Relations, The Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition, the Fellows took time to expand their network with Japanese alumni from previous years’ Fellowship programs.

Project Presentations & Networking with Japanese Alumni

In Tokyo, the Fellows presented their research projects at the Tokyo Olympic Center. Presentations were held in front of other Fellows as well as Japanese alumni Fellows. Japanese alumni joined company visits with the U.S. Fellows and led them to various Tokyo sites, including the Meiji Shrine and the Shinjuku area.

Post-Program Leader Luncheon (August 24)

After their return to New York City, the U.S. Fellows reunited at Japan Society at a post-program luncheon, where they met leaders such as Kalliope Barlis; Eric Campbell, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.; Mathew Feely, Ph.D., U.S. Navy RET.; Tomoko Hamada-Dougan; Yosuke Honjo, ITO EN (North America) INC.; David P. Janes, United States-Japan Foundation; Robert Karr, Joho Capital, LLC; Mark Khalil, Sony Corporation of America; Kenji Matsumoto, The Japan Foundation, New York; Satoru Murase, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Toby S. Myerson, Longsight Strategic Advisors LLC; Marcia Nesbeth, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Hiroko Onoyama; John G. Phipps, S&P Global; Debra J. Saito, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Hideki Sugihara, AIG; Norikatsu Suzuki, JFSA; H.E. Reiichiro Takahashi, Ambassador & Consul General of Japan in New York, Consulate General of Japan; Rona Tison, ITO EN (North America) INC.; and Lauren Zane, Hollyhock Foundation.

Junior Fellows Alumni Network (JFAN)

During the stay in their host country, Fellows connected with JFAN—meeting Fellows from previous years, many of whom are now attending top universities. Alumni also served on panels during orientations and accompanied the Fellows during company and leader visits. As 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 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.
- Bard College (2)
- Baruch College
- Cornell University (2)
- Duke University
- Essex County College
- Georgetown University
- George Washington University
- Hunter College
- New York University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- SUNY Cortland
- Tufts University (3)
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of South Carolina
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- Vassar College
- Yale University

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
- Hitotsubashi University / 一橋大学
- International Christian University / 国際基督教大学 (2)
- Iwate University / 岩手大学
- Sophia University / 上智大学
- Kansai University / 関西大学
- Keio University / 慶應大学 (3)
- Kobe University / 神戸大学
- Lakeland University in Tokyo
- Ochanomizu University / お茶の水女子大学
- St. Luke’s International University / 聖路加国際大学
- Tohoku University / 東北大学
- Tsukuba University / 筑波大学 (2)
- Waseda University / 早稲田大学 (5)
- Yokohama National University / 横浜国立大学

Funders

The Japan Society Junior Fellows Leadership program is supported by generous grants from an anonymous family foundation, the United States-Japan Foundation, ITO EN (North America) INC., the Jiro Murase Memorial Fund, the Sojitz Foundation, and Ms. Tomoko Hamada-Dougan.
**Need-Based Scholarships**

Japan Society offers need-based scholarships to assist students facing financial barriers to participating in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program. Awards of need-based scholarships are based on a family’s demonstrated need.

Considering cultural differences and Japanese attitudes towards financial aid, all Japanese Junior Fellows receive a scholarship by way of highly discounted participation fees. Each Fellow contributed ¥150,000 (apprx. $1,500).

Scholarships are available for U.S. Junior Fellow participants based on demonstrated needs. Scholarship recipient schools in the U.S. include: High School of Math, Science, and Engineering, NY; The Young Women’s Leadership High School of East Harlem, NY; and Marysville Getchell BioMed Academy, WA.

**Support**

Participants in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program are supported by the generous gifts of 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) 715-1255 or email juniorfellows@japansociety.org.