The Junior Fellows Leadership Program is an online leadership experience for high school students who possess the potential for strong leadership and demonstrate the skills necessary to be future leaders. During this online program, Junior Fellows have the opportunity to build networks with current industry leaders and program alumni in Japan and the U.S., expand leadership skills, learn about Japanese high school life through virtual school exchange, conduct team research on SDGs with their Japanese counterparts, and experience Japanese culture through a virtual workshop.

Prioritizing the safety and well-being of participants, our host families, and school communities in the U.S. and Japan, Japan Society Education Department has modified the 2021 Junior Fellows Leadership Program from an in-person experience to an online format. Tuition will be waived for 2021 Junior Fellow Online Program participants.

Application deadline: April 2 (postmarked)

Program Schedule*

• May 22: (tentative): Program orientation #1
• June 26: Program Orientation #2 / Program starts
• June 28—July 18: Online Program (select days)
• July 19—30: Team Project analysis
• July 31/August 1: Team Project presentations

*Program contents and dates are subject to change.

“I had a wonderful experience with the Junior Fellows Leadership Program that was offered online! I really enjoyed getting to meet the other fellows in the context of their own culture and hometown, along with U.S. and Japanese alumni. The final projects allowed us not only to bond, but also understand what each of us is passionate about on a deep level.”
—Participant from New York (2020 Junior Fellow)
Program Highlights
- Meet and learn from industry leaders in business, arts and sciences, nonprofit organizations and government.
- Learn and compare what global leaders value and look for in building the future.
- Meet Junior Fellow alumni in Japan and the U.S. and expand your network.
- Learn about Japanese high school life via online exchange with Japanese high school students; introduce American high school life to Japanese high school students in return.
- Carry out a group project on a global issue based on SDGs.
- Join the Junior Fellows Alumni Association (JFAA) for more programs!

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, a 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. Completed application form
2. Two (2) signed letters of recommendation (at least one from a teacher or faculty member at the student’s school)
3. Copy of school transcript
4. An essay responding to the following questions (maximum 1000-words): How are you qualified to participate in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program, and how will this program help you to achieve your career goals?
   • Applications are accepted by postal mail ONLY. In order to avoid lost mail, we strongly recommend your application be sent via certified mail. (If you or your recommenders have any concerns or problems in sending documents by postal mail due to remote schooling, please contact us at JFellows@japansociety.org).
   • Only complete application packets will be considered. Please send all required documents as a set.

Mailing Address:
Japan Society
333 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
Attn: Junior Fellows Program

Application & Selection Timeline
• April 2 (Friday): Application Deadline (postmarked)
• Mid-April: Selection Process (document selection only)
• End of April: Announcement of 2021 Junior Fellow participants

Notes
1. Application documents will not be returned.
2. Applications submitted by ineligible participants or which 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 gave me the opportunity to experience and understand growth and leadership. It has opened my eyes to career paths, education, networking, and further encouraged me to strive to reach my goals. I hope this program continues to change the lives of others such as myself.”
—Participant from Belleville, NJ (2019 Junior Fellow)

“I really enjoyed my experience with the Junior Fellows Program. While the hours of research and collaboration on our projects were exhausting, I appreciated the chance to get to know my group mates as well as reaching out to the other two groups. The leader meetings and the book on leadership truths were both inspiring, and I am glad I got the chance to learn from them. If we had to do an online Junior Fellows program again, I wouldn’t change it.”
—Participant from Texas (2020 Junior Fellow)
Program Costs
Ten finalists will be invited to participate in the online Junior Fellows Leadership Program at no cost.

“My experience with the Junior Fellows online program was wonderful. The program was perfectly organized and it was easy to communicate with all the leaders, alumni, and fellow participants. I learned a lot from everyone involved and I am so happy I was chosen.”
—Participant from Rhode Island (2020 Junior Fellow)

“...In reaching out to someone you admire and networking were helpful. Ms. Rona Tison also shared her experience on taking a big risk by switching industries and how that choice was one of the best she has ever made. It was interesting and encouraging to see many of the leaders share similar pieces of advice from their personal experience.”
—Participant from Connecticut (2020 Junior Fellow)

PROGRAM DETAILS

Virtual Leader Meetings
Each Junior Fellow will meet online with current leaders in business, education, arts and sciences, nonprofit organizations and government entities from both Japan and the U.S. in Zoom conference meetings. Previous Junior Fellows have had the opportunity to speak with senior business executives, media personalities, entrepreneurs, UN policy advisors, leading photojournalists, architects and nonprofit executives.

Virtual Exchange with a Japanese School
U.S. Junior Fellows will meet students from a Japanese school through video or/and live Zoom meeting and learn about Japanese school life. Japanese students will introduce the Fellows to some characteristics of Japanese high schools, and U.S. Fellows will also create a short video to introduce highlights of American high school life. Program leaders will facilitate this exchange, allowing the Junior Fellows to gain a better understanding of local school life and after-school activities.

SDGs Team Research Project
Junior Fellows will conduct group research on social issues represented by the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the Orientation, the Fellows will be divided into 3 teams; each team will select one theme for their U.S.-Japan comparative case study. Fellows will work together throughout the program period by studying, discussing and further exploring their topics. At the end of the program, Fellows will present their research projects to their colleagues and Junior Fellow alumni.

Special Leadership Talk
2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Junior Fellows will meet Mathew Feely, Ph.D., Ret. Navy Captain, who was involved in Operation TOMODACHI, which helped Japanese people affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Fellows will hear about the captain’s experience, explore the U.S.-Japan alliance, and learn about recovery efforts and transformations since March 11, 2011.

Junior Fellows Alumni Association (JFAA)
Throughout the program, Junior Fellows will meet with program alumni in both the U.S. and in Japan. As mentors, alumni will share tips on how to successfully complete the program and how to make the most out 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 will 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, Japan Society serves audiences across the United States and abroad through innovative programs in arts and culture, public policy, business, language and education. Visit us at japansociety.org.

Further Information
For more information, contact the Education Department at (212) 715-1275/1216 or juniorfellows@ japansociety.org.
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