8th Xavier Cup Japanese Speech Contest

Application Guidelines

1. Purpose of the Event

The aim is to provide a platform for international students studying in Japan to share in Japanese what they feel and think about through their life and studies in Japan. Additionally, through speeches, we aim to deepen mutual understanding and exchange among participants and visitors, expanding the circle of international exchange.

2. Organizer and Sponsorship

Organizer	Sophia University Sophia Association
Support	Sophia University

3. Event Overview

Date and Time	December 6, 2026 (Sun) 13:00–17:00 (Meeting: 11:00)
Venue	Sophia University Yotsuya Campus, Building 2, 17th Floor, Main Conference Room
Viewing	Open to everyone

4. Eligibility

You must meet all of the following conditions.

- You must be an international student enrolled in a Japanese university or graduate school (residence status: "Student").
- Not speaking Japanese as a native language
- Must be able to participate in the finals at the venue

5. Speech Theme

Theme: "Before I Came to Japan, Who I Am Now (What Hasn't Changed, What Has Changed)"

As long as it follows the theme, the content and perspective are flexible. Please give an original speech based on your own experiences.

6. Speech Regulations

Languages Used	Japanese
Speech Time	Within 4 minutes (exceeding this limit may result in point deductions)
Other	The use of slides is not allowed. Bringing your own manuscript is allowed, but memorization is recommended.

7. How to Apply

Please apply using the application form below.

Application Form	https://forms.gle/K33RAQ689LFFSAEZ6
Application Deadline	Friday, November 6, 2026, 23:59

8. Selection Schedule

stage	Contents
Application Submission	Submission of Application Documents
First Screening (Manuscript Review)	Finalists will be selected based on the manuscript.
Notification of results	All applicants will be notified by email
Final Selection	Speech presentation, judging, and awards at the venue

9. Judging Criteria

The final round will be judged by judges based on the following criteria.

Judging Criteria	Viewpoint	Scoring
originality	・Is the presentation content original? ・Does the presenter present their own perspectives and ideas?	3 points
concreteness	・Are these specific episodes based on the person's own experiences? ・Is the message you want to convey in the theme clear, and what you challenged or moved you is	3 points

	clear?	
Presentation skills	・Is the message strongly conveyed to the audience? ・Are the volume, gaze, and gestures appropriate?	3 points
Japanese proficiency	・Is it expressed in natural Japanese derived from the speaker's own words? ・Are you able to present in Japanese with clearer pronunciation, intonation, and accurate grammar?	2 points
Total		11 points

10. Recognition

reward	Supplementary prize
1st place	Prize money: 50,000 yen
2nd place	Prize money: 40,000 yen
3rd place	Prize money: 30,000 yen
Special Award	5,000-yen gift card
Participation Award	3,000-yen gift card

11. Notes

- Submitted manuscripts must be original works that have not been published. If it is found that the manuscript was created by plagiarizing someone else's text, it may be withdrawn even after the award has been awarded.
- Transportation expenses to the finals are to be paid by the participants.
- Photos and videos of the event may be recorded and published on the organizer's website, social media, and promotional materials.
- The personal information obtained will be used solely for the operation and communication of this contest and will not be used for any other purpose.

12. Contact Information

Sophia University International Committee　　E-mail:kokusai-iinkai@sophiakai.gr.jp