



The 43rd ONTARIO JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

<https://buna.yorku.ca/ojsc/>

1. Time & Venue

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Innis Town Hall (IN112), Innis College, University of Toronto, 2 Sussex Avenue, Toronto ON M5S 1J5

2. Hosted by:

The Organizing Committee for the Ontario Japanese Speech Contest
(Department of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto)

Supported by:

The Consulate General of Japan

Department of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto

The Japan Foundation

3. Qualifications

All applicants must:

- 1) be 18 years of age or older;
- 2) reside in Ontario (excluding the Ottawa and Kingston areas); and
- 3) have been studying Japanese as a foreign language.

Notes:

- All contestants must submit their speech to the Organizing Committee by email by 9:00 a.m. one day before the contest. Please refer to the email with the screening results for further details.
- All contestants must register at the reception desk by the predetermined time on the day of the contest.
- All contestants must attend the opening session, session of their category, and closing ceremony.
- If any concerns arise regarding a contestant's qualifications, the judging committee's decision will be final. The Organizing Committee will require the return of awards even after the contest has concluded if a false application is discovered or a contestant's performance is later regarded as having been dishonest.

4. Program Affiliation

- 1) Those who study Japanese at multiple institutions must apply from the institution with which they have been affiliated the longest.
- 2) If there is a Japanese program in the applicant's present institution that the applicant has not enrolled in, they must still be screened through that institution.
- 3) Those who do not have an affiliation with any Japanese institution/program may also apply. Please note, however, that applicants with a program affiliation will be given priority if we have a greater number of applications than the limit for each category.

5. Categories

Please see the conditions for each category below. Hours of studying Japanese includes studying at primary and secondary school.

	Beginners	Intermediate	Advanced	Open
Japanese spoken at home	None	None	None	No limit
Hours of studying Japanese	less than 130 hours	less than 260 hours	No limit	No limit
Time in Japan from the age of six	3 months or less	6 months or less	Less than 1 year	No limit

Notes:

- All qualifications must be met by the applicants as of February 28, 2025.
- Past winners of the Grand Prize or the First Prize should not participate in the same category in which the prize was won.
- Learners of Japanese who have experience in teaching Japanese either formally or informally must apply in the Open Category.
- Those who do not know which category they are eligible for should inquire with the Organizing Committee by email before they apply.

6. Number of Participants per Institution

Regardless of the program size at each institution, the number of participants is limited to a maximum of 3 per category, with an overall limit of 10 participants.

7. Regulations

- 1) Contestants are free to choose the title and subject of their speech. Preferred subjects are those related to Canada and Japan.
- 2) Speeches must be written by the contestants. It must be written by the participants themselves and be an original, unpublished work in both title and content.
- 3) Contestants are allowed to prepare and use cue cards, but they may be penalized if they depend on these excessively.
- 4) Speeches must not include the name of the institution to which the contestant belongs.

8. Speech Length

- 1) **Three minutes** in the Beginner category, and **four minutes** in all other categories.
- 2) Those who exceed 10 seconds over the above limits will be subjected to a penalty.

9. Evaluation

- 1) There will be a panel of five judges composed of individuals from varying fields related to Japan.
- 2) The Organizing Committee is not involved in decision making.
- 3) The assessment criteria are provided on the homepage.

10. Certificates and Prizes

The winners in each category will be awarded certificates and prizes.

11. Participation in the National Japanese Speech Contest:

The first prize winner in each category may be invited to attend the National Japanese Speech Contest, which will be held at York University in Toronto, on Sunday, March 30, 2025.

12. Application:

Online Forms (To be made available in January 2025 at <https://buna.yorku.ca/ojsc/>)

Referee's Form: Must be filled out by the representative of the Japanese institution/program to which the applicants belong to.

Application Form: Must be filled out by applicants

Deadline: **Referee's Form: No later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 3, 2025**

Application Form: No later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Result announcement: Results will be announced by e-mail by Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Notes:

- No Reference Form will be required for those who do not have an affiliation with any Japanese institution/program. Instead, the organizing committee will conduct an interview either in person or online within a few days after the application deadline to determine the applicant's appropriate category.
- If you do not receive a confirmation email from the Organizing Committee within 48 hours after submitting your application, please contact the Committee.

13. Contact

Organizing Committee for the 43rd Ontario Japanese Speech Contest

Email: ojsc.committee@gmail.com