

2026 Shirato Fund Scholarships Application Packet

The Shirato Fund Scholarships will provide two \$2,000 scholarships to undergraduates and graduate students accepted to Columbia-approved intensive Japanese-language study programs for the summer of 2026. Please note that recipients will be required to take a Japanese course upon their return to Columbia in the fall 2026; students are required to submit a short report on your intended use of the scholarship; and give a presentation at the study abroad information session about the language program in which you participated.

Section I: Applicant Information

1) Last Name: _____, First Name: _____, MI: _____

2) Undergraduate/Graduate School and Year: _____

3) Major or Department: _____ 4) Columbia E-mail: _____

5) Local Address: _____

6) Permanent Address: _____

7) Name of Program(s) applied to and application status:

Section II: Academic Information

1) List all Japanese courses taken, where they were taken, dates, and grades:

2) Cumulative Columbia GPA: _____

* First year graduate students are not required to provide a cumulative Columbia GPA.

Section III: Supplementary Information

- 1) Personal statement: In one page or less (in English) explain your reasons for wanting to study abroad in Japan and your financial need for this scholarship.
- 2) Financial information: On separate sheets, attach the following information and include as much detail as possible.
 - a) Estimated costs of studying abroad – be sure to include tuition, materials, travel, room and board, and other costs you expect to incur. Include one estimate per program you have applied to.
 - b) Your financial resources, actual and possible, for studying abroad – include scholarships and grants both already received and currently being evaluated for, loans, savings, and contributions from family and other benefactors.
- 3) **Two** academic letters of recommendation – at least one from a Japanese instructor. Letters should discuss the nature and length of the recommender’s relationship to the applicant, the applicant’s strengths and weaknesses, the applicant’s short and long-term goals for studying in Japan, and any other information that might be useful to the selection committee.

Applications, including the letters of recommendation, must be received by Fumiko Nazikian no later than March 31, 2026. For inquiries, please contact him directly (fn2108@columbia.edu).

Please email all the applications and letters of recommendation. Email: fn2108@columbia.edu