



2015

MIRAI Program



**Invitation Program for
University Students**

MIRAI Program 2015

1. Program Overview

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan – MOFA for short, supports “MIRAI Program” which is a short-term youth exchange program to invite 150 graduate / undergraduate students from Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus who study Politics, Security Policies, Economics, International Relations, Asian Studies, Japan Studies or other related fields through EFIL/AFS. The name of the program is inspired by the Japanese word MIRAI which means “Future”. MOFA hopes that the program will offer a great opportunity to (i) promote mutual-understanding, (ii) enhance intellectual discussions and (iii) build strong networks among future leaders of Japan and the world, thereby fostering a solid foundation for future relations between Japan and countries from the above-mentioned regions.

Mutual-understanding,
Intellectual
Relations and
Academic exchange
Initiative



2. Program Schedule (Tentative)

Duration: **December 15 / Tuesday 2015 (Arrival Day) ~**
22 / Tuesday 2015 (Departure Day)

(1) Schedule in Tokyo

a) Seminar and exchange with Japanese students at one of the most prestigious universities in Tokyo (Day3: December 17)

Participants will have a one-day experience of lectures and discussions in one of the most prestigious universities in Japan alongside Japanese students. 150 participants will be divided into three groups according to their interests; 1) politics, 2) economy and 3) culture and society. Each group will receive a special lecture from lecturers currently teaching classes in several prestigious universities in Tokyo, as well as an opportunity for discussions with Japanese students. Lunch and dinner time will be taken with the Japanese students, allowing an open exchange of thoughts and ideas, while enjoying a Japanese bento-box for lunch, and Japanese cuisine for dinner.



b) Visit a Japanese Mega Corporation (Day7: December 21) 【Tentative】

Japan has a number of globally famous companies helping to spread the Japanese brand worldwide. Participants will be able to visit such a company and hearing from the employees about their methods of management and working styles, and gain insight into the secrets to their strength.

c) Mori Building Corporation (Day2: December 16) 【Tentative】

Mori Building Corporation manages Roppongi Hills, one of the best examples of urban economic and cultural hubs in Tokyo. Opened in 2003 in the heart of Tokyo, the building complex features offices, apartments, stores, restaurants, a hotel, art museum, observation deck and more. The office floors are home to leading companies from IT and financial sectors, and Roppongi Hills



has become a symbol of the Japanese IT industry. This Corporation offers a guided tour which highlights the structure of the highly developed modern city, Tokyo. Visitors can observe a 1/1000 scale model of the real Tokyo city and enjoy a great panoramic view of Tokyo.

d) Miraikan (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation) (Day2: December 16) 【Tentative】

Miraikan (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation) is a place where visitors can learn about what is happening in our world today



from a scientific point of view. In addition to permanent displays and exhibitions that provide visitors with a chance to enjoy hands-on contact with science and technology, Miraikan's colorful line-up of offerings includes

experience-based classes, lectures, and more. Miraikan's Science Communicators are ready to exchange opinions and ideas with visitors, addressing everything from simple day-to-day questions to the latest technologies to the global environment and space exploration.

e) Meiji Jingu (Shrine) (Day7: December 21)

Shrines have had profound influence on Japanese custom and culture. This visit offers a lecture on the cultural and historical background of Japan, with a guided tour of Meiji Jingu. Meiji Jingu is a shrine dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Meiji Jingu and the adjacent Yoyogi Park make up a large forested area within the densely built-up city. The spacious shrine grounds offer walking paths that are excellent for a relaxing stroll. The shrine was completed and dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and the Empress Shoken in 1920, eight years after the passing away of the emperor and six years after the passing away of the empress. The shrine was destroyed during World War II but was rebuilt shortly thereafter.



(2) Experience in Rural Areas Local Life (Day5-6: December 18-20)

After the Tokyo activities, students go on a trip to a distant provincial region for a weekend home-stay program. Students in groups of three will travel across Japan. This visit to rural areas includes a courtesy visit to the local government, guided tour of the local featured industry, traditional cultural experience and exchange with the locals. Students will experience authentic Japanese family life there and exchange their views with the host family and local residents. During their travel to the rural areas, there may be a chance to ride the Shinkansen (Bullet Train), Japan's world famous high-speed rail system.



3. Tentative Program Schedule

	Date/December		Activities	Over night in
1	15 (Tuesday)		Arrive at Narita or Haneda Airport	Tokyo
2	16 (Wednesday)	AM	# Intercultural Learning Experience☆	Tokyo
		PM	Academic Tours @Mori Building Corporation's Roppongi Hills Tower 【Tentative】【p.2 (c)】 @National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation 【Tentative】【p.3 (d)】	
3	17 (Thursday)	All day	Academic Seminar, Exchange Event with Japanese Students @University in Tokyo 【p.1-2 (a)】	Tokyo
4	18 (Friday)	All day	Travel to Rural Area / Regional Activities @Courtesy visit to the local government	Rural Area
5	19 (Saturday)	All day	@Guided tour of the local featured industry @Traditional culture experience and exchange with local people	Rural Area
6	20 (Sunday)	AM	Return to Tokyo	Tokyo
		PM	# Intercultural Learning Experience☆	
7	21 (Monday)	AM	Visit Meiji Jingu (Shrine) in Tokyo【p.3 (e)】	Tokyo
		PM	@Visit a Japanese Mega Corporation's Tokyo Headquarter 【Tentative】【p.2 (b)】 @Program Closing Ceremony at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo	
8	22 (Tuesday)		Departure from Narita or Haneda Airport	✈



☆Intercultural Learning Experience☆

General Description

The sessions focusing on Intercultural Learning are based on the licensed “Global Competence Certificate” course. This course is a combination of self-guided online learning plus in-person sessions. It is designed to meet key learning goals helping learners develop intercultural competence. It ensures that every program participant receives a standard curriculum, which is designed to provide flexibility as learners complete online sessions at their own pace. Through forums, learners have the opportunity to connect with peers from all over the world. These online modules have been designed specifically for an 18+ audience, and will help each participant to reflect on their own cultural identity and support them as they learn about others.

Content

The program consists of various modules on key intercultural topics, self-awareness, awareness about others, emotional intelligence.

Each module stands alone and includes a video with forums and assignments for the learner. Assignments are both reflective and interactive. Online pre-departure and post-return modules can be done by the learners on their own and through engaging with others. Participants will maximize their learning through in-person sessions (in Japan) where participants arrive with a baseline of information from the online curriculum. From there, a deeper reflection will be possible, aided by facilitation by EFIL staff.

Modules include "roadmap to intercultural learning", "metaphors of culture", "ME as a cultural being", "stereotypes and generalization", "cultural values", "communication styles", "when cultures collide", "balancing challenge and support", "cultural surprises and irritations", "dealing with conflict", "coping strategies", etc.

Modular Approach

Pre-departure:

* 9 modules are to be covered by the learners online, before the departure to Japan. This will take them each about $9 \times 30\text{min} = 4.5$ hours. EFIL will check in with participants via e-mail regarding their progress, and to provide personalized encouragement and supervision.

* 1 webinar/conference call of approx. 90 minutes per group of 8-10 people, moderated by EFIL staff.

On-arrival:

* 4 modules will be covered in in-person sessions of 2 x 90 minutes (in Japan), facilitated by EFIL staff (with involvement of AFS Japan).

Post-return:

* 2 modules, online, after returning from the trip to Japan, complemented by another webinar of approx. 90 minutes (moderated by EFIL staff). As above (pre-departure), EFIL will check in with participants via e-mail regarding their progress.

4. Requirements for Candidates

(1) Candidates must comply with the following criteria:

- a) Students who are either graduate or undergraduate student in Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus who have a nationality of one of the countries in the regions. Students may not have a Japanese nationality as a dual citizenship.
- b) Students who are specialized in Politics, Security Policies, Economics, International Relations, Asian Studies, Japan Studies or other related fields.
- c) Students must be aged 20 years or older.
- d) Students who are EAGER to take a leadership in their own countries or international organizations in the future.
- e) Students must understand and agree with the aims of this program. (Please refer to Paragraph 1.Program Overview).
- f) Students must commit to sharing their experiences and knowledge of Japan, especially those acquired during the stay of this program, through Social Networking Service such as Facebook and Twitter or a contribution to her/his campus press release for after returning to their home countries.
- g) Students who have joined any invitation program run by the Government of Japan, or those who have experienced a long term stay in Japan in her/his life MAY NOT apply for this program.
- h) Students are also required to be in a fair physical health to follow the schedule as a member of the group and participate in the tightly scheduled program.

5. Travel Arrangement and Expenses

(1) International Flight

The fee of the round-trip international air tickets for and from Japan (Economy class) will be paid by EFIL/AFS.

(2) Ground Transportation in Japan

The fare of all the trains and buses will be paid by EFIL/AFS.

(3) Overseas Travel Insurance

Students are provided with an overseas travel insurance throughout the program.

(4) Arrival in Japan

Students will be welcomed at Narita Airport or Haneda Airport in Tokyo by the organizing staff and will get to the hotel on a chartered / airport bus.

(5) Accommodation and Meals:

While staying in Japan, the hotel in Tokyo, provincial region stays and everyday meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) will be arranged by EFIL/AFS.

◇The accommodation in Tokyo:

Hotel East 21 Tokyo

◇2 same-gender students share 1 twin room.

(No single room is available).

◇The hotel is a Non-Smoking policy hotel

(6) Return to Home Country

Students will fly home from either Narita or Haneda Airport in Tokyo.

(7) Personal expenses

Students are expected to cover personal expenses, such as passport issuing fee, vaccination fees, excess baggage charge, travel expenses between her/his home and departure and arrival airport in home country.



6. Conditions in Japan

- (1) The program schedule is set. Participants will not have time to meet someone (friends and relatives in Japan) during the program.
- (2) The organizer will try its best to prepare the followings when necessary for religious reasons. However they may not be provided depending on situations.
 - a) Time and place for prayers.
 - b) Meals suitable for religious food restriction, such as Kosher, Halal or Strict Vegan.

7. Follow-up of the program

EFIL/AFS will follow-up participants' activities in order to analyze and heighten the effects of the MIRAI program. Every participant is required to submit answers to the questionnaires that will be sent to them through e-mail after returning to the home countries (the first one after 2 months, and the other 1 year later). In addition, participants are expected to share their findings and experiences with friends, family, schools and communities by delivering presentation and disseminating information on Japan's attractions through communication devices or media. Students are encouraged to report on their post-program activities and continue exchanging opinions and information with Japanese people through Social Networking Service such as Facebook and Twitter.



8. What is EFIL/AFS ?

EFIL, the European Federation for Intercultural Learning, is the umbrella organization of all the European AFS Organizations.

AFS is a non-profit, volunteer-based, educational international organization offering intercultural exchanges to more than 12,000 young people and adults each year in more than 100 countries worldwide. Founded by volunteer ambulance drivers after WWII, and sustained to this day by an international cadre of tens of thousands of volunteers, AFS has transformed the lives of millions of students, families and individuals.

