

Ojiya Study Abroad General Information 2026

OSA is a non-profit program for the people who want to learn practical Japanese and experience very ordinary Japanese life as a part of our community in Ojiya, a peaceful country town in Japan. We've had over 370 people join us from 19 different countries since 2014. Ojiya is about two hour train ride from Tokyo.



1) Our program:

We are not a Japanese language school where many students study the same level of Japanese together. We set up our program to meet individual needs. You can spend much of your time studying Japanese, or you can spend more time participating in our local events and activities so that you can experience our daily life and learn about our culture. The program we offer is very flexible. You can start your stay anytime you like. You can stay with us as long as you want from a few weeks to one year. No age limit either. A few days of free trial stay is available too. In addition to that, we try our best to minimize your expenses because what we seek for is not profit but wonderful meetings between international people and us local people.

2) Your life here:

You stay in our guest house which is a very ordinary Japanese house in a quiet and convenient location, take Japanese lessons, visit local families and schools, and enjoy all sorts of local activities. If you like Japanese food, you can try many different ramen shops, sushi, soba, and tonkatsu restaurants. If you like sports, you can join our local clubs to practice judo, volleyball, kendo••. We also have anime goods shops and music shops. Of course you can quietly walk in the forest and rest on the riverside near our guest house too.



OSA guest house



private room



shower room



with a local family



Japanese lesson



planting rice

3) Special program for world koifish lovers:

Ojiya is the birthplace of koifish. We have large number of local breeders who produce best quality koi in the world. Those who want to learn about high skill of koi breeding and to make friends with our breeders are also welcome on our program.



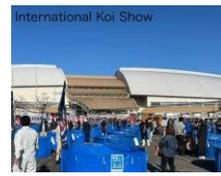
Ojiya koi park



breeding



selection



world koi show

4) Application:

You must apply at least 3 weeks before you want to join the program.

(But please send us a mail before you apply. Sometimes we are fully booked.)

You can get our application form below in this general information, fill it out, and e-mail it along with a few photos (No need to be official ones. Family photos or ones with your friends or pets will be fine.), two reference letters, and your self-introduction to our director: (Mr) Suzuki skshingojp@yahoo.co.jp

If you need an official letter of invitation for your visa, we need to hear from you 4 weeks before the day of your start. **See “Application instructions” below.**

5) Selection:

We select the applicants we accept through mails, reference letters and an on-line interview if possible. We want to have friendly people with good sense of responsibility.

6) OSA program fee: (For individual participants. Not for a large group.)

Standard monthly fee is US\$900. It must be paid in Japanese yen (at the exchange rate of the day) within 10 days after you arrive here. No need to pay in advance.

You can pay after you spend a week and see what it is like.

7) Your monthly fee includes:

- ‘Private bedroom’ and ‘kitchen, bathroom, washroom , and living quarters shared by 2-3people’ plus ‘basic food (bread, rice, milk, eggs, bottled drinking water, and most of seasonings for cooking)’
- Electricity, gas, water, WiFi, and community fee

- Private and group Japanese lessons offered by highly experienced instructors plus talk time with local people
- Small compact car shared by 2–3 people in the same guest house (When you don't drive, you'll be given a ride by your share mates or our staff members.) Gas is also included
- Life support by English speaking staffs plus participation in sightseeing, various local events, and day trips.
- **The most important thing we can offer** is to bring you into our society so that you can quickly make friends with local people, practice your Japanese, and learn our culture. We can arrange for you to visit local schools and families, to talk personally with a priest of an old temple, and to join the festivals not as a tourist but as a member of the community. You can also enjoy all sorts of sports and cultural activities with our local clubs such as judo, tennis, volleyball, painting, anime, dance, and music.

Actually it costs over \$1,000–1,200 /person to maintain our program. Because we need to take care of all the costs including property tax, house and car insurance, furniture, household appliances, snow melting system • •

Standard monthly fee of \$900 is made possible by the financial help from our people in exchange for your active participation in local events and school visits.

You can make your fee even smaller by teaching your own language to local people, working on a farm, shoveling snow and so on. For example, applicants with fairly good Japanese can make \$300–400 per month by teaching their languages to local people 3–4 hours a week.

But you shouldn't expect to start making money as soon as you get here. We will help you get a good part-time job after you get used to living here. **(Some visas don't allow you to work officially, though.)**

Your guest house is fully furnished including fridge, washing machine, TV, microwave-oven, futon mats, towels, dishes, pans, air-conditioners, and heaters. But you might need something else for your own use. We recommend you prepare \$100 for them.

8) **Group application:**

If you want to join us in a group of four or more people with someone who has an international driver's license, we'll think of some discount.

9) **Homestay**

Everyone stays in one of our guest houses first. As you make friends with local people, you are invited to visit their families. Then they invite you to stay with them for a few days... This is how we arrange for you to stay with local families so that both you and the family feel quite comfortable right from the beginning.

10) **The people we want to have here:**

- Those who have clear target and study hard (We don't want people who just fool around.)
- Those who are friendly and willing to mingle with local people.
- Those who follow basic social rules and get along well with people around.
- Those who speak basic Japanese or English.
- Those who have enough fund to stay here on. We know money is important for everyone, but we don't want people whose main concern is always money.
- No smoking in and around the guest house. Not too much drinking either.

11) **Insurance:**

Be sure to have proper insurance to cover unexpected injury and sickness. Your insurance should also cover any liability for damage and loss you may cause to the properties in the guest house or the host family. General liability insurance costs only a few additional dollars, but it's very important when you live in someone else's house. The driving of one of our cars is covered by OUR insurance (we know it is difficult and costly to buy driving insurance outside your country).

Please understand we can't take any responsibility beyond the insurances above.

12) **In case of getting sick or injured**

Cold medicine, painkiller, and first aid kit are available in the guest house. But of course it's better to bring your own for your safety. We have a general clinic one minute walk from our guest house and a large hospital within five minute drive. Also one of our supporters is an English-speaking nurse.

13) **International Driver's License:**

We recommend that you bring an international driver's license if it's not too difficult to get one. We have a small compact car for each guest house. Driving in a local town in Japan isn't as difficult as you might think.

14) **Certificate:**

You can get an official certificate when you complete your study (3 months or longer),which will help you get a good job back in your own country or get some credits from your university. We will also help you get a job at one of the local companies in and around Ojiya, or get into a Japanese college if that's what you are aiming at.

15) **Visa and status of residence:**

It depends which country you are from. We want you to check it on the web site of the Japanese embassy of your country. **For a stay shorter than three months**, you can usually stay in Japan without a visa. We'll help you if need one by preparing an official letter of acceptance or a letter of guarantee. **For a stay longer than three months**, you need a visa. If you are from the country where you can get "Working Holiday Visa", there should be no problem. You can stay here for six months to one year and officially work for money. If not, you need to think of some other ways. We want you to understand that we can't help you with a "student visa" "certificate of eligibility" because we are not a language school nor a governmental organization.

16) **For more information:**

Write to Shingo Suzuki, director of the program. skshingojp@yahoo.co.jp

We understand everyone wants something different. We are doing our best to meet each participant's expectations. (^ ^)

Some of our staff members:



Grandpa Shingo



Yuika and Hiro



Noriko



Miwa



We also have lots of local supporters, young and old.

Application Instructions

Please read our general information carefully before you apply. You need to understand and accept the way we run the program.

Application Materials

1. Your personal information (1) ~ (15)
2. Two references, at least one being academic or official from your teacher or a person in charge of the organization you belong to. The other one can be from your friend or even a family member.
3. Your self-introduction (what you do, what you are interested in, what you want to do in Japan, your family • • •)
4. Two or three photos. (No need to be official. The ones with your family members and friends would be fine.)

Send them to (Mr.) Shingo Suzuki, director of OSA at skshingojp@yahoo.co.jp

It is the policy of Ojiya Study Abroad provide equal educational opportunities for all persons regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, race, and religion.

Your personal information

- (1) Full name
- (2) Call name
- (3) Birth year/month/day
- (4) Gender
- (5) Nationality
- (6) Name of your school/college/university/major/occupation
- (7) Current address:
- (8) Phone number:
- (9) E-mail:
- (10) Japanese language level
- (11) (If you are under 18) Name of your parent or guardian
His or her relation to you, address, phone number, and e-mail
- (12) Desired day to start the program and the length of your stay
- (13) Main purpose (language, culture, new experience, job hunting, • • •)
- (14) Religion (if you don't mind)
- (15) Anything else you want to let us know

You can either text us the information above or fill in the application below and attach it to your mail.

Application for Ojiya Study Abroad

____ / ____ / ____ (year/month/day)

1. Your personal information

- (1) Full name: _____
- (2) Call name: _____
- (3) Birth year/month/day: _____ / _____ / _____
- (4) Gender: _____
- (5) Nationality: _____
- (6) Name of your school/college/university/major/occupation:

- (7) Current address: _____
- (8) Phone number: _____
- (9) E-mail: _____
- (10) Japanese language level If you speak some Japanese, how and how long have you studied.

- (11) (If you are under 18) Name of your parent or guardian: _____
His or her (a) relation to you,(b) address,(c) phone number, (d)e-mail:
(a) _____ (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____
- (12) Desired date to start the program and the length of your stay:

- (13) Main purpose (language, culture, new experience, job hunting, . . .)

- (14) Religion (if you don't mind): _____
- (15) Anything else you want to let us know:

2 Check list

- I've read OSA general information carefully. I understand and accept what it says.
- I've prepared two reference letters at least one of them being academic or official.
- I've prepared my self-introduction
- I've prepared some recent photos that clearly show how I look.
- I have a valid passport that won't expire while I am in Japan.