

35th ANNUAL BRITISH COLUMBIA JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST (2023)

The 35th Annual British Columbia Japanese Speech Contest is open to British Columbia and Yukon residents who speak **Japanese as a foreign or second language**. The 2023 Contest will be held on **Saturday, March 4, 2023** at the [Asian Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Campus](#).

- The High School Division is scheduled to start at 10:00 am and the University/Open Division at 1:00 pm.
- The program will be available before the event day on the [website](#) of the Consulate General of Japan.

***The event will also be livestreamed by UBC. The public is welcome to view the event online. Details will be announced when it is closer to the contest day.**

ELIGIBILITY

Each contest applicant must satisfy all of the following criteria:

1. Is living, studying, or working in British Columbia or Yukon;
2. Speaks Japanese as a foreign or second language;
3. For the High School Division: Grades 10 - 12 students under 18 years of age, for the University and Open Divisions: 18 or over 18 years of age;
4. Has previously not won the 1st prize in the category for which the applicant is entering this time.

DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

Each applicant is allowed to enter in one category only.

Division	Category	Maximum Total Class Hours	Example of Course in progress or completed	Maximum Stay in Japan	Speech Length
High School	Beginner	200 h.	Up to Japanese 11	3 months	3 min.
	Intermediate	400 h.	Japanese 12	12 months	
	Open	Unlimited	-	Unlimited	4 min.
University/ Open	Beginner	250 h.	Langara 1217 UVIC 150 UBC 200/260 SFU/CAPU/VIU 201 KPU 2201 UNBC 222 DOUG 2272	3 months	4 min.
	Intermediate	450 h.	UVIC 200's UBC/SFU 300's	12 months	5 min.
	Advanced	Unlimited	UVIC 300's/400's UBC 400's	36 months	
	Open	Unlimited	-	Unlimited	

Note: In the application form, you are required to indicate if you are living/have lived with a family member who speaks Japanese as a first language. Based on the information, you may be recommended to participate in a category that is different from the one you have applied for at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

SPEECH TOPIC

Speech topics may be drawn from *any* field.

For reference, past winning speeches are posted on the [website](#) of the Consulate General of Japan.

APPLICATION

1. **Online application form**

To enter the contest, please fill out the online [Application form](#).

2-1. **Speech draft**

Submit a digital copy of your speech: 11-12pt font size.

Send to: cdudley@vc.mofa.go.jp

2-2. **Audio recording of speech**

Submit an audio file (mp3/wav/m4a) via online [Application form](#) or to cdudley@vc.mofa.go.jp together with your speech draft.

When naming your speech draft and audio recording, please include the following:

1) Your *name* (last name first), 2) *division* and 3) *category of entry* E.g. [Doe, Jane_University_Intermediate]

NOTE: The copyright of your speech will remain with the BC Japanese Speech Contest Organizing Committee.

<p>Application deadline is 5 pm, Friday, February 3, 2023.</p>

PRELIMINARY SCREENING PROCESS

The Organizing Committee will review all the applications and select qualified applicants to proceed to the final contest. The selected applicants will be contacted by the Consulate.

The final list of successful applicants will be posted on the [website](#) of the Consulate General of Japan on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

- NOTE:**
- 1) Contestants who do not progress to the final contest will not be contacted.
 - 2) A category without a sufficient number of successful contestants will be cancelled.
 - 3) The Organizing Committee reserves the right to determine which contestants will proceed to the final contest and in which category they will compete.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The major criteria are the speech's (a) **content**, (b) **linguistic technique**, and (c) **delivery/presentation**. Appropriate length and delivery of speech from memory are parts of presentation.

- NOTE:**
- 1) Reading from a hardcopy of your speech during the contest is not permitted.
 - 2) Speech lengths should be adhered to. Overly long or short speeches are subject to penalty.
 - 3) A winner may not be declared if all contestants fail to meet the standards of the category.

PRIZES

- * A participation prize will be given to all final contestants.
 - * Certificates and prizes will be awarded to the top contestants in each category.
 - * Special prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.
- If you have any questions, please contact: cdudley@vc.mofa.go.jp