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If you've decided to take up Japanese as a second language, chances are you're interested in more than just pronouns and verb tenses. Students of foreign languages are often just as curious to learn about the way of life of another corner of the world, and learning how to communicate is simply the gateway to those new experiences.

In your pursuit of flawless Japanese language skills, you may find yourself strolling down cherry-blossomed lanes in Kyoto, Japan or dining on scrumptious street cuisine in Taipei, Taiwan. When you let real-life experience living in overseas communities instruct you on the nuances of a foreign language, you open the doors to more cultural experiences all over the globe.

From program types to potential destinations, there are a few things to consider before you embark on a trip to learn Japanese abroad.

## Guide Author



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If you're thinking that acquiring Japanese language skills through an overseas organization might be out of your league financially, think again. Knowing the potential costs ahead of time will allow you to adequately prepare by saving money ahead of time and applying for scholarships.

## Average Language School Tuition

Fees for Japanese language schools can vary according to your desired destination, the length of your program, and what extras, like meals and tours, are included. Basic courses, like semester-long language classes plus a few activities, can be in the \$2000-\$3000 range. Housing will typically require a few thousand dollars more top of that, with homestay options being a tad pricier.

Of course, programs that extend to a full academic year will be nearly double in all-around spending. Yet compared to regular study abroad courses, the average tuition for an overseas language school is relatively competitive with other programs.

## Scholarship Opportunities for Learning Japanese

Like many academic pursuits, scholarships are available to help fund a trip to learn Japanese. From rewards for first-time travelers to incentives for continuing education, there are a diversity of options available for hopeful language learners venturing to Asia.

- **Freeman-ASIA:** Whether you plan on going to Japan, Taiwan, or Singapore, a Freeman-ASIA scholarship can make it all possible. If you're a U.S. citizen, are in good academic standing, and meet a few other requirements, you'll be eligible to apply. Plus, language students may receive preference over other candidates.
- **Akamonkai:** Most overseas language schools, such as Akamonkai in Tokyo, will have internal scholarships to which foreign students can apply. For this specific opportunity, applicants must meet the minimum enrollment period and attendance, as well as plan to pursue further studies after the program ends.
- **KCP:** As with language schools, independent study abroad programs can provide financial aid as well. Additionally, the organization may be able to point you towards external opportunities. With KCP, there are a host of both types of scholarships listed, all of which are geared towards students pursuing studies in Japan and elsewhere in Asia.

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