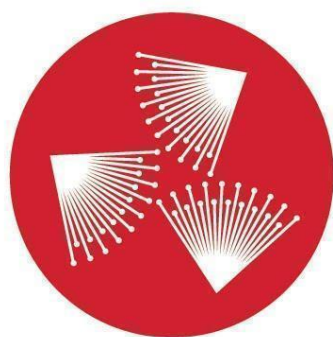




JSANZ

Japanese Studies

Aotearoa New Zealand

2026 JSANZ Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest

Guidelines

Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest 2026 Guidelines

The thirteenth Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand (JSANZ) Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest will be conducted according to these guidelines.

1. CONTEST BACKGROUND

The aim of the contest is to encourage learners who are studying Japanese to showcase their language skills in a challenging context.

2. CONTEST FORMAT

Theme of Speech

The theme of this year's speech competition is open to the contestants to decide.

Length of Speech (Time Limit)

4 - 5 minutes + time for two questions and replies.

Q&A

After delivering their speech, contestants will be asked up to two questions by the teaching staff of the institution, based on the content of their speech. This should be included in the video (see below) in addition to the speech.

3. APPLICATION

- i. Applications open on **1 June** and close on **31 August**.
- ii. Applications are limited to a maximum of two contestants from each tertiary institution. It is expected that finalists will be chosen through a rigorous selection process (e.g. internal speech contest) to maintain the high standard of the national contest.

NB the following instructions (iii. to xi.) may be modified if Covid-19 related restrictions are in place – in this case liaise with your lecturers.

- iii. The speech should be digitally video-recorded.
- iv. Include the upper half of the body of the speaker in the video capture, including hands and lectern – if used. The winner's speech will be uploaded to YouTube so please be mindful of the background. Ensure that the speaker's voice is clearly

recorded. The winners' speeches from each year since 2015 can be viewed on the JSANZ YouTube Channel.

JSANZ YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmT6U-nVHiKFPNkPFsy_uSg

- v. Recordings must be conducted under teacher supervision. The instructor does not need to be in the video when s/he asks questions. However, their voice should be clearly recorded.
- vi. When the video is ready with your entry:
 - a. Upload your video to YouTube. Use the family name of the contestant as the title for the video clip. Do not add the name of your institution.
 - b. Click the arrow next to Upload, then press Video Manager.
 - c. Go to the uploaded video, press Edit and change the Privacy Settings to Unlisted. Press Save.
 - d. Share the link to jsanzaotearoa@gmail.com
 - e. Note that you need a Google and Google+ account to create a YouTube account.
- vii. The teaching staff from each tertiary institution are responsible for emailing a separate application for each candidate to the organizers, jsanzaotearoa@gmail.com **before 5:00 pm 31 August**. Include ALL of the following:
 - a. The relevant YouTube link.
 - b. An application form with a language background and AI use declaration, speech summary (100-150 words) in English and the applicant's declaration forms.
 - c. The teacher's declaration form.
- viii. A separate email application must be made for each applicant (maximum of two candidates per institution). Only applications via email attachments will be accepted.
- ix. Please write in the subject line "JSANZ Tertiary Japanese Speech Contest Application."
- x. Late entries will not be accepted.
- xi. If you have not received a confirmation email within one week of submitting your application, please contact the organizer by email [see Section 10 Enquiries].

4. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

- i. The judges will blind-mark (i.e. judges will not be told the institution of the applicants) each video, using a selection criteria form provided, and report to the organizer by 20 September.
- ii. Contestants will be notified of the results by 30 September.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- i. This contest is open to individuals aged 17 or above who are enrolled in **undergraduate** courses at a tertiary institution in New Zealand. NB students who completed their qualification in Semester 1, 2026, are also eligible to apply. Postgraduate students are not eligible.
- ii. Previous first prize winners in the JSANZ speech contest may not take part.
- iii. Native or near native speakers of Japanese may not take part.

6. MARKING CRITERIA The marking criteria are as follows:

Presentation	35% (e.g. delivery, manner, memorization, attitude, length)
Content	30% (e.g. coherence, cohesion of ideas, originality, intention, message, impact)
*Language (refer to 6.iii below)	30% (e.g. fluency, pronunciation, grammatical complexity/flexibility, range of language, accuracy)
Q & A	5% (e.g. communication competence, appropriateness of response)

- i. The speech must be the original work of the contestant. The degree of assistance given by teachers or by Japanese native speakers should be limited to no more than correcting grammatical errors or making minor alterations.
- ii. Participants may use AI tools in the preparation of their speeches. However, speeches written entirely or almost entirely by AI will not be accepted. Participants must declare any use of AI tools by completing the Use of AI Tools Declaration in the Student Application Form. Please refer to the declaration form for further details.

- iii. *Language criterion: Based on the contestant's Language Background Declaration (see Student Application Form), a maximum of 5 marks may be deducted in the language category.
- iv. PowerPoint slides and props (e.g. puppets, objects etc.) may not be used.
- v. Use of a lectern is optional.
- vi. Post-speech questions should be straightforward, and must not be known to the contestants in advance.
- vii. All speech presentations are better when memorised: Contestants should NOT read their speeches. Contestants may refer to their notes, however excessive consultation will result in marks being deducted.
- viii. Videos should show the upper half of the body of the presenter, not only the face. (If only the face is shown in the video, it is easy to assume the presenters are reading their cue cards if they are constantly looking down.)
- ix. Showing the audience in the video is optional.
- x. The quality of sound should be carefully checked before recording, and before submitting the video files.
- xi. Please be mindful of the speech time limit. Judges may decide not to take into account anything beyond the time limit.
- xii. Aggregates of marks from all judges will determine the place allocated to each contestant in the order of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. In case of a draw, the judges will determine the outcome through discussion. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The content of the judges' discussion is not open to the public at any time.

7. PRIZES and Follow-up

All contestants will receive a participation certificate. A prize will be awarded to the winners. Nisuikai, kindly supports the following prizes.

First prize: Travel voucher for a trip to Japan \$2500 equivalent

Second prize: Domestic travel voucher \$600 equivalent

Third prize: Domestic travel voucher \$400 equivalent

Participants who do not place in the top three awards will receive a participation prize in the form of a Prezzy card. The prize value will be determined by the number of participants.

JSANZ hopes that the winners are willing to publicize their achievements and help promote Japanese language education in NZ:

- i. The first prize winner will be asked to add English subtitles to their speech recordings and then upload them to the JSANZ YouTube Channel, so that online audiences with little or no Japanese can also enjoy the speeches. Technical support will be provided.
- ii. The first prize winner may also be asked to post a video message to the JSANZ Facebook page, as well as writing a short report on his or her experiences in Japan, which will be posted to the JSANZ website, sent to our sponsors and to other relevant media.
- iii. The first, second and third prize winners may be asked to visit the offices of our official sponsors, either in-person or using video-conference.

8. Timeline

1 June: Application opens
31 August: Application closes
30 September: Notification of winners

9. Information on previous contests

JSANZ YouTube Channel / JSANZ Speech Contest Winners

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmT6U-nVHiKFPNkPFsy_uSg

10. Enquiries

Ms Yoshie Nishikawa
Chairperson of the JSANZ Speech Contest Committee
Victoria University of Wellington
Email: yoshie.nishikawa@vuw.ac.nz

JSANZ Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest 2026
Student Application Form

- Please read the Contest Guidelines before completing this form.
- Please save your completed Application Form in Word and send it to the teacher at your institution who is in charge of this contest.

About yourself

Mr / Ms / Other (please specify) / Prefer not to say	Surname (please print):	First name (please print):
Home address:		Postcode:
E-mail:	Phone / Mobile:	
Institution name:		
Teacher's name:	Teacher's e-mail:	

Speech title

Your speech title in English:
Your speech title in Japanese:

Language Background Declaration

Language background

Strongest language(s):
Language(s) spoken at home (please indicate approximate extent of use, e.g. English 80%; Japanese 20%):
Is one of your parents/caregivers a native speaker of Japanese? Yes No Are both your parents/caregivers native speakers of Japanese? Yes No

Japanese learning history

	When?	How many years?	Where?
Primary School			
Intermediate School			
Secondary School			
Tertiary Institution			
Private lessons			
Total			

In-Japan experience: If you have been to/lived in Japan

When?	How long?	What did you do in Japan?
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Speech Summary in 100-150 Words in English

Use of AI Tools Declaration

- Participants may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Calude) for brainstorming, checking expressions, or reviewing grammar. However, speeches written entirely or almost entirely by AI will not be accepted;
- Your speech must be based on your own words, experiences, and ideas;
- Please declare honestly whether and how you used AI; and
- Your declaration will not affect your score.

Did you use any AI tools when writing your speech? Please tick one:

No, I did not use AI.

I used AI a little. (e.g., brainstorming ideas, looking up vocabulary, checking a few expressions)

I used AI considerably. (e.g., AI drafted much of the text, and I rewrote it substantially myself)

Applicant's Declaration

I have read the Contest Guidelines. I declare that I have made full and complete disclosure of my language background to the best of my ability.

I confirm that this speech was written in my own words and is based on my own thoughts and experiences. I have not used AI-generated text without substantial rewriting.

I agree to abide by the conditions of the competition and accept the decisions of the judges as final on all matters relating to the contest.

By participating in the speech contest, I consent to all its terms and conditions including the taking of photos and the audio/video taping of my speech (if applicable).

I acknowledge that as the owner of the copyright of the photos and video clips, the organising committee of the contest may make the video clips, containing footage of my speech, available to the general public. I also acknowledge that photographs taken may be used in publications.

Signature:

Date:

Teacher's Declaration

I have read the Contest Guidelines.

I verify that the speech content is the applicant's own and that the degree of assistance given by me or by a Japanese native speaker is limited to no more than correcting grammatical errors or making minor alterations.

I verify that the applicant did not know the questions in advance.

Name:

Email address:

Signature:

Date:
