**Application Guide for the 2025-2026 Japan Youth Collective Programme**

This application guide is designed to help applicants who are applying to the 2025-2026 programme prepare and draft their responses before submitting their online application on Google Forms. It includes questions from **Section 4 (Reason for Applying)** of the application form, along with tips on how to answer them.

As the application form **cannot be saved and returned to**, we recommend preparing your answers separately and completing the form when you’re ready.

**Why does this guide focus on Section 4?**

Section 4 requires thoughtful and detailed responses, so we have provided extra guidance to help you craft strong answers. While other sections of the application may be more straightforward, we encourage
you to read through the entire form in advance to ensure you are fully prepared before submission.

**Apply to be a member of the Japan Youth Collective** [**here**](https://forms.gle/JBVx8UB8JUBfmhmF6)**!** | **Application Deadline: Sunday 25 May 2025**Please note there is no minimum word count, but each question has a maximum limit.

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| **1. About You** *(Max 200 words)***Please tell us a bit about yourself.** This can be about anything and does not have to be Japan-related. We want to get a sense of who you are, your hobbies, interests, etc.For example, you could mention:• The subjects that you enjoy/enjoyed studying the most and why.• Your favorite things to do in your free time (Try to be specific—for example, if you like music, gaming, or sports,  tell us what kind of music you listen to, what games you enjoy, or what sports you play.)• Anything else you want to tell us about yourself! You could also share any achievements or experiences that  are important to you. |
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| **2. Your Interest in Japan** *(Max 200 words)***What do you like about Japan?** Explain any particular aspects of Japan or Japanese culture that interest you and why. You can focus on culture, history, traditions, or even personal experiences that sparked your interest. |
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| **3. Motivations for Applying** *(Max 200 words)***What are your main reasons for applying to the Japan Youth Collective?** Why do you want to be a member? What do you hope to gain from this programme? |
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| **4. Your Skills and Input** *(Max 200 words)***We’re looking for a diverse group of people to join the Collective, and each member will bring something unique to the team. How do you think you can contribute to the success of the group?**Think about your strengths—are you great at communicating, generating ideas, or tackling practical tasks? Perhaps you're a strong team player, a creative thinker, or someone who enjoys problem-solving.Tell us about **one or two key strengths** you would bring to the Collective and how they could benefit the group. Remember to give examples. |
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| **5.  Personal Aims and Goals** *(Max 200 words)***We want to make sure the Collective provides you with valuable opportunities and experiences that align with your interests and future goals. What do you hope to gain from being a member?**Are there any specific skills—such as leadership, teamwork, communication, or public speaking—you would like to develop? Think about how participating in the Collective could help you grow, both personally and professionally.Think about how this experience could shape your future—whether in education, career aspirations, or personal growth. |
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| **6. Further Interest** *(Max 200 words)***Are there any specific topics you would love to explore as part of the Japan Youth Collective programme? We’d love to hear what topics you’re most passionate about!**For example:* The role of the Japanese language
* Popular culture and its role in Japan's soft power and economy
* Sustainable tourism in rural Japan
* Contemporary Japan in the 2020s

These are just some ideas—feel free to suggest your own! |
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**References**You will need to provide **two references** as part of your application in Section 7. If you are shortlisted, we will contact your referees for more information about your suitability for the programme. Your referees should be **a current or former teacher, employer, youth worker, mentor, club leader, or someone in a similar position** who can speak to your character and suitability.  Ideally, they should be someone who has known you for close to **one year**at least. **We cannot accept references from relatives or friends.***If you have a question about the Japan Youth Collective and can't find the information you're looking for in our*[*FAQs*](https://www.japansociety.org.uk/page/223)*, please contact us at****education@japansociety.org.uk******.***