

Applications open for summer high school exchange program in Japan

Michigan high school students can experience two weeks of life and study through an exchange program coordinated by the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU).



In the Michigan-Shiga High School Exchange Program, high school students from Michigan spend two weeks in Japan attending high school classes and participating in community cultural events with their student partner and host family. In exchange, the Michigan family hosts a Japanese exchange student and introduces them to high school student life in the U.S.

In the summer of 2017, 15 American students will travel to Japan and live with a host family. During the program, hosted in Shiga prefecture since 1990, students will also experience a *bunkasai*, a Japanese high school cultural festival where Japanese students organize activities like dances, games, sports, and music. In September, the Japanese student partners visit their American counterparts' homes, attending high school and living with families in Michigan for two weeks.

The cultural experiences in this program are often life-changing for students. The immersive nature provides participants an enriching experience and exposure to Japanese culture that is often life-changing, and which fosters competencies that are useful during the college application process and in future career paths.

Several fundraising and scholarship opportunities are available to prospective students. Students travel together with chaperones that help them during their time in Japan. No Japanese language skills are required.

Students interested in this program can receive more information and download an application packet on the JCMU website, jcmu.msu.edu. The application deadline for the program is March 10, 2017. For inquiries or more information, contact the JCMU office in East Lansing at 517-355-4654 or by email at jcmu@msu.edu.