



FAQs – Tokyo Global Friendship Programme | July 2026

What are the travel dates?

Arrive in Tokyo on Saturday 4 July and leave on Saturday 11 July 2025.

How many people will be selected to participate in Tokyo Global Friendship Programme from New Zealand?

Eight students and one teacher from the same New Zealand school.

If successful and selected for the Tokyo Global Friendship Programme what is the application deadline?

Once a school has been selected as the successful recipient, the school and students will have until Thursday 3 April to submit their full Application form.

Applications must be submitted by the New Zealand teacher accompanying the group and include:

- New Zealand school application forms:
 - Eight student application forms
 - plus the *Right to Publicity* form
 - plus the *Allergy and Medical Information* form if relevant
- One teacher chaperone application form

For students:

What do students need to know?

- Students must be between 14-18 years old.
- Students will be accommodated in a homestay except for the first and last nights, when they will stay in a hotel.
- One student will be allocated to one homestay family.
- Students may go to different host schools.
- Students do not need to speak Japanese.

What costs are involved?

The costs associated with the programme, including accommodation and meals in Tokyo, is covered by Tokyo Board of Education.

- Students must cover their own airfares (As of February 2026, and based in Air New Zealand prices, an indicative return NZ-Japan airfare is approx. \$3000NZD),
- Students need to cover both domestic and international travel costs, and travel insurance.

- Students must cover travel costs from their residence to the airport in New Zealand.
- Students must cover personal expenses such as souvenirs in Japan and meals while traveling to and from Tokyo.
- Students are responsible for costs such as visa applications (if traveling on a non-New Zealand passport) or passport fees such as renewal costs.

What if participating students and or the teacher chaperone don't have a passport or their passport is expired?

Please check here for the current processing [timeframes](#) for a New Zealand passport. The selected students and teacher chaperone will need to book flights for July as soon as possible so you must have a valid passport at the time of booking your flights. You are responsible for applying for a passport or renewing your passport in time for flight bookings and paying the fees.

Will I get to meet Japanese students?

Yes! You will get to interact with Japanese students, learn about Japanese culture and stay with a Japanese host family in Tokyo. You will also meet students from around the world who are also traveling to participate in Tokyo Global Experience.

For the New Zealand teacher organising the application and accompanying the eight students:

What costs are involved?

- Tokyo Board of Education will reimburse the teacher chaperone for the cost of the roundtrip international airfare from Auckland to Tokyo.
- Tokyo Board of Education will cover the expenses for the programme in Tokyo, including hotel accommodation for the teacher chaperone, comprehensive medical insurance and travel expenses in Japan.
- The teacher chaperone is responsible for personal costs such as souvenirs, meals during travel to and from Tokyo, visa application or passport fees if applicable, and travel insurance.

Note: You will have a contact that the Tokyo Board of Education will provide for you to liaise with, regarding reimbursement of your economy international flights to and from Japan.

What schools are eligible to apply?

- Education providers that are approved signatories to the [Code of Pastoral Care for International students](#)
- New Zealand schools enrolling students ages 14-18 (Years 10 – 13) years old.

Who do I ask if parents and students have questions?

- The teacher chaperone will have a contact at the Tokyo Board of Education to liaise with to answer questions about the *Tokyo Global Friendship Programme*. It is best if the Tokyo Board of Education communicates through

the teacher at the school organising the applications, not individual students or parents.

- For anything urgent please email the International & Sector Engagement team at: sectorengagement@enz.govt.nz

What is the EOI selection criteria?

- Clear reasoning and justification for the school and selected students to participate in Tokyo Global Friendship Programme.
- Follow up actions outlined after visit are practical and meaningful.
- If successful and selected to participate in the Tokyo Global Friendship Programme, the selection process for the eight students is at the teacher's discretion. We recommend having a waitlist in the event your school's application is selected but one of the students has to drop out.

When will the teacher be notified on the status of their school's EOI?

Teachers who submit a completed EOI for their school by **Friday 6 March** will be notified by **Wednesday 11 March** if successful. If successful, they will then have until **Thursday 2 April** to submit their full Application form which will be sent on to the Tokyo Board of Education.