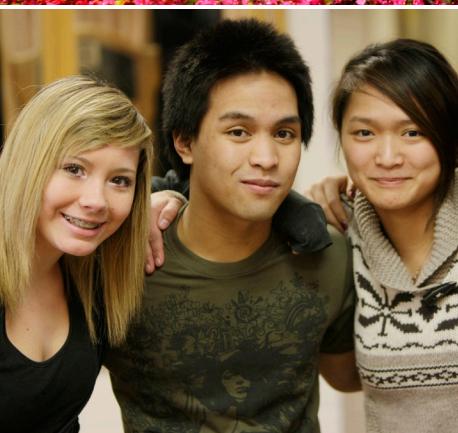


STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Yamate/Alberta

Year-long Exchange



ABOUT THE EXCHANGE

- Opportunities are available for Alberta high school students to exchange with students from Yamate Gakuin High School in Yokohama, Japan, for a year-long exchange.
- This exchange program has been in operation for over 40 years.
- Emphasis is on learning Japanese language, culture, history, geography, traditional arts and traditional sports.
- The exchange is direct: a Yamate student lives with the family of his or her counterpart in Alberta and attends their school from August to July. The Alberta student lives with the Yamate student's family and attends Yamate during the same period.



WHAT IS THE COST?

Families are responsible for the costs associated with hosting the exchange partner. Families are also expected to cover their son's or daughter's travel expenses (student visa, flight and medical insurance) and provide them with enough spending money for their time away. Alberta students are also responsible for the cost of school uniforms.

Please note that all Alberta students' return flights must be booked through the travel agency identified by the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Alberta students accepted into the program can apply for the T. Mikuriya Award in support of Alberta-Japan Student Exchanges (value of up to \$1500).



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students can apply for their Grade 11 or 12 year. Alberta students are eligible to apply for a post-Grade 12 year with the support of their Alberta high school (as long as they do not turn 20 years of age prior to starting the exchange in August).



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You learn so much more than just the language when you go on the exchange. You learn what you can and cannot live with and how to explain why to people who might not understand. You learn how to accept another culture and you gain a lot of independence and feel more self-confident by the end of it!

”



HOW DO I APPLY?

Interested students must send a completed application to International Education Exchange Programs (IEEP) at admin@ieep.ca by **November 30**. Application instructions and forms (both student and school portions) are available to download at www.ieep.ca.

Application Process

- 1. Application**—The application consists of two parts. Part I is filled out and submitted to the Japanese language teacher or principal (or designee) so they can complete Part II of the application.
- 2. Interviews and Recommendations**—Part II of the application is completed by the teacher acting as a liaison for the entire exchange. Teacher-liaisons conduct the initial screening of applicants by interviewing the applicant and their family. They also submit a letter of recommendation for the student. **The liaison teacher is responsible for submitting the complete application to the IEEP office by the deadline.**
- 3. Selection and Matching**—Once an applicant's complete application has been received by IEEP, the student exchange coordinator will forward the application to Yamate Gakuin High School. Representatives from Yamate are in Alberta in late January to meet with applicants and their parents for a second interview. Given the Japanese school year, matching is completed in late May/early June.
- 4. Approval in Alberta**—If a proposed match is found, the proposal is sent to the applicant's family and school for approval. The applicant and their family may refuse the match if they do not consider it to be appropriate.
- 5. Approval Abroad**—The exchange partner's family is given the same opportunity of refusal as the Alberta family. Therefore, an exchange is not considered to be final until all parties have agreed to the match.
- 6. Confirmation of Participation**—Applicants will be notified by e-mail, and subsequently by mail, when their exchange has been finalized. Shortly thereafter students will receive a confirmation package outlining the next steps in preparing for the exchange.

Contact Information

Yamate/Alberta Program
International Education Exchange Programs
The Alberta Teachers' Association
11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5N 2R1

Phone: 780-392-6900
E-mail: admin@ieep.ca
Website: www.ieep.ca

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