Japan Society of Scotland/Aberdeen Asset Management

Scholarship 2016

Mission and Objectives:

The scholarship is intended to build on Scotland’s historical links with Japan that go back to the Earl of Elgin’s negotiation of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with Japan in 1851. The present Honorary Patron of the Society, Lord Charles Bruce of Elgin and Kincardine is a direct descendant of the fifth Earl of Elgin who signed the treaty.

The selected candidate will be following in the footsteps of Scottish entrepreneurs of the Meiji period (1868-1912), such as Thomas Glover, in building bridges of understanding and communication between the two nations. How this can be achieved is set out in the specific objectives of the scholarship.

The scholarship was created with the following objectives:

- To provide young persons from Scotland with an opportunity to study the Japanese language at an accredited institution. Return flights to and from Japan, all tuition fees, accommodation and appropriate subsistence support will be provided.

- To offer the opportunity for the selected candidate to gain insight into the life and culture of Japanese society through a customized study period following the end of classes: and

- To provide a basic working foundation for future professional links with Japan.

Candidate Profile:

All candidates should:

- Be of Scottish birth, descent or long-term residency in Scotland.

- Be either in full-time higher education in the United Kingdom or a graduate of a British university of no more than five years standing.

- Be able to articulate a defined interest in a professional field that relates to Japan, in which the study of Japanese language would be beneficial or necessary.

- Have a sound academic record and demonstrate the potential to achieve excellent results.

- Not be already engaged in a full-time Japanese programme of study.
Required Documentation

1 A completed Application in the format attached

2 A personal statement of interest that includes reference to the following:
   
   • Relevant experience relating to Japan along with the reasons why the candidate has applied.
   • A statement of how the scholarship would help the candidate achieve his or her goals.
   • Any experience of living or studying abroad?
   • Any other foreign language study experience?

3 A letter of recommendation from an academic adviser or employer

Conditions of Award

• Round trip travel between candidate’s home and the university of study, including economy class airfare to Japan.

• Cost of fees and residence.

• Support for living expenses during the period of study.

• Travel and subsistence for the period of customized study.

• Medical insurance cover (if required).

Customized Study Programme

• The content would depend on the candidate’s professional interests with respect to institutions or organizations to be visited.

• A trip to Kyoto to see something of Japan’s cultural history, and a visit to Osaka as Japan’s commercial centre could be included.

• Details would be arranged to maximize the candidate’s experience of different aspects of Japanese business and culture.

Responsibilities of the successful Candidate

• Submission of a written report to the Chairman of Council of The Japan Society of Scotland within one month of return.

• Copies of grades to be provided.

• Willingness to speak to the Society or to future candidates about their experience.

• Visit to Aberdeen Asset Management’s office in Tokyo.
Points to be investigated in the Interview

- Does the candidate appear to possess the flexibility of mind needed to live in a society that is different from not only western societies, but also from other Asian societies?

- Would the candidate be a fit and proper representative in Japan of Scotland in particular and the United Kingdom in general?

- Does the candidate possess the manners and demeanor to interact credibly with Japanese in social and professional contexts?

- Does the candidate have the basic dress sense that would be expected of a young professional in Japan?

- Is the candidate motivated sufficiently to make the considerable effort required to perform well in developing proficiency in Japanese language during the period of study?

- What areas of interest would be pursued during the period of customized study?

Submission of the application

Applications must be submitted by no later than Friday 4 December 2015

Applications should be typewritten and submitted electronically as attachments by e-mail to:

Ms Catriona Llanwarne
Scholarship Secretary, The Japan Society of Scotland
233 Redford Road
Edinburgh EH13 9NH

Tel: 0798 3629230
e-mail: catronallanwarne@hotmail.com

Wherever possible the letter of recommendation should be scanned and submitted electronically by e-mail together with the application.

Timing of interviews

All applications will be scrutinized by Council members from which a short-list will be drawn up. Those successful in making the short-list will be invited for interview around mid to late January 2016.
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ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING FORMAT

1  CONTACT DETAILS:

Full Name
Address
Date of birth
Telephone Number
Mobile Number
Email address
Present Nationality

2  EDUCATION:

2.1 Name of Secondary School, including dates and qualifications

2.2  For Undergraduates

University
Area Major (in detail)
Year of Study
Professional Goals
Interviews attended relating to employment
Part time employment (if any)
2.3 For Graduates

University
Are Major (in detail)
Year of graduation
Degree (details of honours)
Special Awards
Postgraduate Study (if any)

3 Professional Record (Where appropriate)

Current Employment, including work and rank
Former Employers (if any)

4 Any Other Information That You Consider Relevant to the Application

The award of the scholarship is intended to strengthen ties between Japan and Scotland, and the selectors will want to know how the candidate's experience and ambition fit this requirement.