大会ガイド
CONTEST GUIDE

ビクトリア州日本語弁論大会
2026

Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria 2026

Sunday 23 August 9:00am – 5:30pm

Hosted by
The University of Melbourne

Organized by

JLSCV INC
日本語弁論大会ビクトリア

The Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria, Inc.

(Reg. No. A0053233K)

The Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria, Inc.

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President: Dr Robyn Spence-Brown (Monash University Affiliate)
Vice President: Ms Hiroko Ohashi (RMIT University)
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Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Melbourne

Japan Club of Victoria Inc.

Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne

La Trobe University

Monash University

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The University of Melbourne

Introduction

The Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria is organized by an independent committee of volunteers. *Applicants should read this booklet carefully **BEFORE** applying to enter the Contest.*

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PART 1: General Information & How to Apply

1. Aims of the Contest and Benefits to Students

The aim of the contest is to encourage learners of Japanese as a Second Language, and background speakers who speak Japanese at home, to practise and consolidate their language and public speaking skills by presenting a speech on a topic of their choice to an audience. A second aim is to provide an opportunity for interaction between learners of Japanese and the Japanese speaking community in Victoria.

Please also see "the Statement of Purposes of the Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria, Incorporated" on the last page.

2. Date, Time & Venue and Overview of the Day

Date & Time: Sunday 23 August 2026 9:00 – 17:30 Doors open at 8:30AM

Venue: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room
1st Floor, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne
Corner Swanston St & Monash Rd, Parkville 3052

Tentative Schedule (Please see the website prior to the date for accurate and updated information)

Morning Session: 9:00 – 12:30
Registration: 8:30 am
High School Senior Division for Years 11 & 12 Students and High School Background Speaker Division

Afternoon Session: 13:00 – 17:30
Registration: 12:30 pm (subject to change)
Open Beginners Division, Open Division and Open Background Speakers Division

Participants must check the website for the updated and official schedule (posted after August 19th) and make sure they register by the specified times.

Konshinkai **懇親会 (Social Function) 17:30 – 19:00 (TBC)**
The social function provides an opportunity for contestants, audience members and sponsors to celebrate together and to interact. All attendees welcome – contestants, guests, members of the audience. Refreshments will be provided.

3. Application & Enquiries

3.1. Application

3.1.1. Read the Rules before you apply

Please first familiarise yourself with the rules and advice in this booklet. Any misunderstanding of the rules may lead to disqualification before, during or even after the event.

3.1.2. How to apply

Apply using the online form located at https://japanspeechcontest.org.au/ from 27 July. You will need to have your speech title in Japanese and English ready, as well as your speech summary (100-150 words) in English, for use in the program. **High school students need to obtain approval from their Japanese teacher before applying as there are limits on the number of entries per school.**

Applications open on Monday 27 July and close on Monday 10 August 2026. Please apply promptly.

Applications received from the 27th July -10th August are guaranteed a place provided they fulfill all the contest conditions. Applications from the 11th -15th August may be accepted if there are enough places.
After you submit your application, you should receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email after submitting your application, please contact us through our website (Click CONTACT top of page):

https://japanspeechcontest.org.au/ . You can also send any questions you have about the contest by using the contact link on the website.

4. The Contest website

The contest website is at https://japanspeechcontest.org.au/ If you have difficulty accessing the website, please contact: jpsespeechcontest@gmail.com

The following items will be added to the website as they become available:
* Online Application Form (Please see the Note below.)
* JCCIM Internship Opportunity - Aims and Conditions (For tertiary students only)
* Updated schedules and other information

Note: The Online Application Form may be available for viewing or trial before Monday 27th July. However, only applications with date stamps from 27th July will be registered.

PART 2: Speech Rules

5. Divisions & Eligibility

5.1. Divisions

The Contest has the following divisions:
- High School Senior Division
- High School Senior Background Speaker Division
- Open Beginner Division
- Open Division
- Open Background Speaker Division

Note: We reserve the right to limit the number of entries to each division due to time limitations.

5.2. Eligibility

The Contest is open to Victorian residents: irrespective of their nationality and/or visa status, an individual currently living in Victoria (other than on a tourist visa) who meets all the eligibility criteria of their division of choice is eligible to enter that Division.

The length of time spent in Japan and studying Japanese are part of the eligibility requirements in all divisions. Please calculate carefully, particularly if you are on the borderline, as errors may result in disqualification.

5.2.1. High School Senior Division

This Division is open to students in Years 11 and 12. **Students in Year 10 who are studying VCE Units 1/2 Japanese or equivalent are also eligible to apply.**
Contestants must fulfil all the following conditions to be eligible for the High School Senior Division:

- Contestant's background language is not Japanese[1]
- Contestant must be studying Japanese Language (Second Language) at school.
- Contestant has not spent more than 24 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age
- Contestant has not completed more than 2 academic years of Japan's compulsory education, either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas

[1] The definition of 'background language' is based on the definition used for the Australian Curriculum, found in Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA): http://docs.acara.edu.au/resources/Languages_Shape_of_the_Australian_Curriculum_new.pdf (page 21)

"Background language learners are those who may use the target language at home (not necessarily exclusively) and have knowledge of the target language to varying degrees (e.g. vocabulary, phonological accuracy, fluency, and readiness to use the language) and have a base for literacy development in that language."

- Contestant has not been the first prize winner in this division at a previous Victorian Japanese Language Speech Contest

Limits on applications

- Maximum of two students per school/per separate campus of the same school can enter. However, a third student from a school may be placed on a waiting list and will be admitted if there is room when applications have been processed. Candidates must verify that their teacher has endorsed them as a candidate from their school, either as one of two endorsed candidates, or as a third 'waiting list' candidate.
- Where candidates are studying in a program external to their main school (e.g. through VSL) they will be registered as a student of the VSL class. The limit of 2 applicants applies to the class in which they are studying.
- Due to schedule considerations, only the first 25 applications will be accepted.

5.2.2. Open Beginner Division

This Division has been created especially for tertiary students of Japanese who are in their first or second year of study in a Beginners stream, and is open to individuals aged 17 or above, who are no longer high school students. Contestants must fulfil all the following conditions to be eligible for the Open Beginner Division.

However, if the contestant believes that their level is above beginner, we strongly encourage them to apply for the Open Division. Please note that certain prizes such as the Melbourne Osaka Sister City award are only applicable to Open Division contestants.

- Contestant's background language is not Japanese.[1]
- Contestant may be studying Japanese as a Language other than English (LOTE) at a tertiary institution or privately.
- **Contestant has not completed a level of study higher than semester 3 of a Japanese Beginners sequence at a Victorian tertiary institution (or equivalent through private study). They may be currently enrolled in semester 4.**
- Contestant has not previously completed study of Japanese at high school above the level of year 10.
- Contestant has not spent more than 12 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age.
- Contestant has not completed more than one academic year of Japan's compulsory education, either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas.
- Contestant has not been the first prize winner in this division at a previous Victorian Japanese Language Speech Contest.

5.2.3. Open Division

This Division is open to individuals aged 17 or above who are no longer high school students.
Contestants must fulfil all the following conditions to be eligible for the Open Division:

- Contestant's background language is not Japanese. [1]
- Contestant may be studying Japanese as a Second Language at a tertiary institution or privately.
- Contestant has not spent more than 36 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age.
- Contestant has not completed more than 2 academic years of Japan's compulsory education, either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas.
- Contestant has not been the first prize winner in this division at a previous Japanese Language Speech Contest, Victoria.

5.2.4. Background Speaker Divisions (High school senior and Open Divisions for Background speakers)

There are two separate background speaker divisions based on a contestant's status as either a senior secondary school student (High School Senior Background Speaker Division - AM) or a post-secondary student (Open Background Speaker Division - PM).

Contestants must fulfil all the following conditions to be eligible for the Background Speaker Division:

- Contestant's background language is Japanese. [1]
- Contestant may be studying Japanese as a second language at a school, tertiary institution or privately.
- Contestant has not spent more than 24 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age
- Contestant has not completed more than 2 academic years of Japan's compulsory education either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas.
- Contestant has not been the first prize winner at a previous Japanese Language Speech Contest, Victoria.

Additional Clarification on the Eligibility for High School Senior Background Speaker Division

The High School Senior Background Speaker Division is aimed at students in Year 11 or 12. However, students in Year 10 who meet the other criteria and wish to apply may do so. Students do NOT need to obtain permission from their Japanese teacher to enter this division and there is no limit on the number of applicants per school.

6. Speech

6.1. General rules and originality

The speech must be the original work of the contestant. The degree of assistance given by teachers or by Japanese native speakers should be limited to correcting grammatical errors or making minor alterations for the sake of continuity. Students may not plagiarise the work of others. That is, they may not base their speech on speeches or written texts composed by others, in any language. Students may draw on AI tools to help them edit their speech but should not use them to compose or translate the whole speech**. Using translation tools and language beyond the level you are familiar will almost always result in errors, unnatural language and poor delivery**.

Please see the Handy Hints for Students (page 9) for further information relating to the following rules:

- Do not read your speech. While you may carry notes, points will be deducted if speeches are not delivered from memory.
- You may not use Props.
- You must not wear your school uniform or divulge the name of your school or university in your speech. This rule is intended to assist with impartiality of judging.
- Your speech should draw on personal experience or perspectives and have a clear message.

Note: A lectern will be provided for contestants to stand behind and on which to rest their notes. Please use the microphone/s provided so you can be clearly heard.

6.2. Content of Speech

The subject, content and form of the speeches are left open to each contestant.
Entrants who have competed in previous contests may not use the same speech presented in previous years (this includes title and content).

6.3. Length of Speech (Time Limit)

High School Senior Division:	2.5 - 3 minutes
Open Beginner Division:	2.5 - 3 minutes
Open Division:	4.5 - 5 minutes
Background Speaker Divisions	4.5 - 5 minutes

Advice:

- Try and fully utilise the time allowed but be careful not to go over the limit.
- Short speeches tend to be lacking in content and elaboration.
- Speeches which exceed the time limit may be stopped and/or lose marks.

7. Judging Criteria & Judges

7.1. The judging criteria and marking system

High School Senior, Open Beginner and Open Divisions

Presentation	30% (e.g. appropriateness, clarity and impact of delivery, memorisation, length)
Content	40% (e.g. coherence, cohesion of ideas, originality and interest of message)
Language	30% (e.g. fluency, pronunciation, linguistic appropriateness, comprehensibility/clarity of language)

Background Speaker Division

Presentation	30% (e.g. delivery, manner, memorisation, attitude, impact, length)
Content	50% (e.g. coherence, cohesion of ideas, originality, intention, message)
Language	20% (e.g. fluency, pronunciation, linguistic appropriateness, comprehensibility/clarity of language)

7.2. Judges and Judging

7.2.1. Judges

Judges will be from the field of Japanese language education and/or members of the local Japanese-speaking community.

7.2.2. Judging

- Aggregates of marks from all judges will determine the place allocated to each contestant in the order of 1st, 2nd and 3rd. In case of a draw, the judges will determine the outcome through discussion. Separate additional criteria may apply in the case of other awards.
- The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The content of the judges' discussion is not open to the public at any time.

8. Prizes

Participation Certificate
All contestants will receive a participation certificate.

Division Prizes
1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes and some additional special prizes may be awarded in each Division.
If a division only attracts a small number of contestants, the number of prizes may be reduced accordingly.

Special Awards

Special awards may include the Melbourne Osaka Sister City Award and the opportunity for internships. Details will be published on the website as they become available.

Handy Hints for Students

Victorian Edition
(Based on *Handy Hints for Students* by The Japan Foundation, Sydney)

Below are a few points that the judges of the Speech Contest will be looking for.
Please read these points carefully so that you can deliver a speech to the best of your ability on the day.

Presentation

- The MC at the event will announce your name and the title of your speech. It is not necessary to announce your name or the title of your speech.
- One slight bow is an appropriate way to begin your speech.
- Look at the audience and talk to them.
- Speak clearly. Don't race. Speak calmly.
- Keep in mind that exaggerated body language is not appropriate in a Japanese speech.
- Neat casual attire is recommended.

Three important Rules:
- **Do not read your speech.** You may refer to your notes, however excessive consultation will result in marks being deducted.
- **Props (e.g. puppets, objects etc.) may not be used.** Use of props will disqualify you from winning a prize. Singing is considered as a prop. (Practically speaking, if you sing for more than a few seconds, you will be wasting your valuable speaking time in this Speech Contest.)
- **School uniforms are NOT to be worn.** Also do NOT announce your school or institution's name. This is in line with the policy of not disclosing the contestants' places of learning until the event is over.

Content

- You are encouraged to give not only factual information, but also to talk about your reactions to and feelings about your own experiences or the topic you are presenting on.
- Consider if your individual viewpoint and way of thinking are adequately expressed. Is the subject logically and effectively presented?
- It will be easier if you talk about something you are passionate about.
- Your speech will be more meaningful if it is based on your personal opinions or experiences.
- Consider if the subject has universal appeal. Is it timely?
- Pay attention to your speech ending.

One more important Rule:
- **Your speech should have a clear message** you want to convey to the audience. Marks are awarded based on the clarity and impact of the message.

Language

- Is the language clear, correct and appropriate for the subject?
- Are the pronunciation, intonation, grammar and vocabulary suitable?
- Please use language that you can understand. It may be necessary to use new vocabulary in order to express your ideas, however, try to use sentence structures you are familiar with and can use confidently.
- Keep in mind that this is a speech contest so that the use of '*masu'* and '*desu'* forms is most appropriate.
- Be careful of the pronunciation of Katakana words. Record your speech and listen back to it carefully. Watch NHK Japanese news, movies or TV programs and try to copy their pronunciation.
- Practice long / short consonants and long vowels.

Finally … RELAX & ENJOY!

Remember that the judges and the audience <u>really want to hear</u> what you have to say!
<u>We wish all participants the best of luck in the Japanese Language Speech Contest!</u>

Additional Advice from the former JLSCV Inc. President, Hiroshi Honda

Stage fright - Learn to live with it

It is said that some stage fright helps you perform well.
Most people have stage fright somewhere between slight and HUGE.

If you tend to have one that is big enough to bother you, **learn to live with it.** The situation can get worse if you try to get over it. You have an important job to start and finish. Concentrate on it. Learn to do it with your heart pounding.

Practice well

If you can honestly say to yourself that you have practiced really well, that will give you confidence and makes it easier to live with stage fright and perform well.

Practice speaking in front of real people many times. Not all of them need to understand Japanese. If they do, they could give you some good suggestions about your speech – about its content and your delivery and all. If they don't understand Japanese, you will still get the same amount of stage fright and they can pretty accurately tell how well you generally went.

Record yourself delivering your speech. Get used to reading, and then reciting, your speech to your sound recorder from the start to finish without stopping, and then keep doing that as well as practicing in front of real people.

Learn to pause effectively.
You can better win your audience's heart and mind with conscious strategic use of pauses.
When you pause your audience digests what you have just said and predicts what you might say next. Let them. So they understand you well.
There are pauses of different lengths, very short, short, medium short, medium, long, very long, etc., each of which can serve many different effects. Explore.

Get used to PA system

Practice your speech using a microphone and Public Address system if you can.

The Statement of Purposes of *The Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria*, *Incorporated*

(JLSCV, Inc.) Reg. No. A0053233K ABN 22130855607

The purposes for which the Association is established are as below:

1. The broad purposes are to:

a) Help promote teaching and learning of Japanese as a Language other than English (LOTE Japanese) in Victoria in association with as many stakeholders of Victoria's LOTE Japanese education as possible; and, to this end,

(b) Broaden the support base for LOTE Japanese education and Japanese studies by publicity effort targeted at their stakeholders.

2. The specific means to help achieve the broad purposes is to organise and conduct the Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest for learners of LOTE Japanese in the state of Victoria – a highly visible state-wide public event, and thereby, to:

(**For learners' benefit**)
a) Encourage learners of LOTE Japanese who do not speak Japanese as their first language and those who are background speakers, to practise using their language and cultural knowledge and skills in a challenging context;

b) Provide an opportunity for learners of LOTE Japanese to show, and receive public recognition for their efforts and achievements;

(**For teachers' benefit**)
c) Provide an opportunity for the teachers of LOTE Japanese to sample some products of their collective effort over the years and gauge their achievements;

(**For individuals' benefit**)
d) Provide a venue for all the stakeholders of LOTE Japanese education to come, meet and talk to each other as well as to appreciate the learners' speeches as an indicator of the current levels of achievement of Victoria's LOTE Japanese education;

(For the benefit of institutions/organisations as well as individuals)
e) Provide an opportunity for the stakeholders of LOTE Japanese education to reaffirm they are stakeholders and to publicly show their support, thereby contributing to the promotion of LOTE Japanese education.