

# The 31<sup>st</sup> Essay Contest on International Exchange

## Guidelines

### Purpose

Reflecting on International Exchange

This essay contest invites students to reflect on the meaning and significance of international exchange. Participants are encouraged to express their ideas, experiences, reflections on encounters with different cultures, or impressions formed through reading, media, study, travel, school activities, or communication with people from other countries and cultural backgrounds. Students are encouraged to write thoughtfully and sincerely, using their own words to communicate their views and experiences with a wider audience.

### ESSAY THEME

“My School Life and International Exchange” (Please set the title yourself)

「私の学校生活と国際交流」

### FORMAT

|                                | Japanese               | English           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Junior High School Students    | 1,500～4,000 characters | 600～800 words     |
| High School Students           | 2,000～4,000 characters | 800～1,000 words   |
| University / Graduate Students | 5,000～6,000 characters | 1,500～2,000 words |

### APPLICATION QUALIFICATION

Students, including international students, currently enrolled in Doshisha schools (junior high schools, senior high schools, universities, and graduate schools) are eligible to participate

\*Students enrolled at Doshisha International School, Kyoto must enter under an academic year that they would fall under as of September 30, 2026.  
\*Former applicants/winners are eligible.

### DEADLINE

5 pm on Wednesday, September 30, 2026

### SUBMISSION

Doshisha School Office of Corporate Affairs

Email : [ji-hojin@mail.doshisha.ac.jp](mailto:ji-hojin@mail.doshisha.ac.jp)

\* In the subject line of the submission email, write “Essay Contest Submission & [Submitter’s Name]”. Attach both the designated “Cover Page” and the “Essay Body” as Microsoft Word Documents (PDF or other file types will not be accepted).

### NOTES

For further details, please see the reverse side of this notice.

### NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

Early December 2026

### AWARDS CEREMONY

Scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2027

### AWARDS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Awards for Junior High and Senior High School, University, and Graduate students will be given in both the English and Japanese categories as follows:

|                                        |                                             |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| First Prize (one contestant):          | Certificate and gift certificate of ¥30,000 |
| Second Prize (two contestants):        | Certificate and gift certificate of ¥10,000 |
| Honorable Mention (three contestants): | Certificate and gift certificate of ¥5,000  |

### JUDGES

International Exchange Essay Contest Steering Committee

### U R L

<https://www.doshisha-ikkan.info/2026/06/26/the-31st-essay-contest-en/>

July 2026



1. Students may submit entries to both the Japanese Division and the English Division, provided that the title and content of each essay are different. Multiple submissions to the same division are not permitted.
2. Before writing, applicants should review the designated essay template available on the website. Use the URL on the front of this notice.
3. Essays must not include the writer's name or any other information that could identify the writer. Submissions using forms or templates other than the designated one will not be accepted.
4. All references and cited sources must be clearly identified.
5. Essays should include the writer's own thoughts and opinions; they should not merely present facts.
6. Submissions must be original, unpublished works that express the writer's own ideas in their own words. This contest values critical thinking, clear expression, and awareness of issues related to international exchange and global society.
7. Submitting AI-generated content as one's own work is prohibited, including content that is substantially identical to AI-generated text. However, generative AI may be used only as a supplementary tool. The core elements of the essay, including its arguments, analysis, and conclusions, must be based on the writer's own thinking. If generative AI is used in any part of the writing process, the writer must clearly state how it was used at the end of the essay. The statement should include the following information:

- Name of the AI tool used, such as Microsoft Copilot or ChatGPT
- Purpose of use, such as drafting an outline or checking grammar
- Method of use, such as creating a structural outline, considering expressions, or checking grammar and notation

If generative AI is used and the above information is not provided, or if the explanation is deemed insufficient by the committee, the submission may be subject to score deductions or excluded from evaluation. Such decisions will be made by the committee after comprehensive review in order to ensure fairness in the judging process.

8. Prize-winning essays will be published in a booklet prepared by the International Exchange Essay Contest Steering Committee. A list of prize winners, including names, schools, grades, and essay titles, will be made available on the Doshisha website. Past First Prize essays are also available for review on the website.
9. Submitted essays will not be returned.

Thank you for your interest in the 31st Essay Contest on International Exchange.

The Doshisha Center for the Promotion of Integrated Education encourages all interested students to take part in this year's essay contest. We look forward to reviewing essays that express your experiences, ideas, and hopes related to international exchange.