

Olympic Friendships: Elementary Education for Global Competency in Japan and the United States

A partner-school exchange and professional development program for U.S. and Tokyo elementary schools and educators

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PACKET

Sponsored by the Program for Teaching East Asia
At the University of Colorado

Funded by the Japan Foundation
Center for Global Partnership



Olympic Friendships: Elementary Education for Global Competency in Japan and the United States

The Program for Teaching East Asia (TEA) at the University of Colorado announces a two-year project (August 2017 – August 2019) of teacher professional development and Japan-U.S. school partnerships funded by the Japan Foundation, Center for Global Partnership.

Context and Goals

More than just world-wide sports competitions, the Olympics and Paralympics connect the world, embody “values of excellence, respect, and friendship” across cultures, and provide a context to teach global competence ([The International Olympic Committee](#), 2016). Global Teacher Education defines global competence as “a body of knowledge about world regions, cultures, and global issues (regardless of discipline), and the skills and dispositions to engage responsibly and effectively in a global environment” ([Global Teacher Education](#), 2013). Global educators view the Olympic games as an ideal cross-curricular topic of study to provide students with opportunities to learn about other countries, cultures, and languages and develop global competency skills, dispositions, and knowledge. At the elementary school level, regular exchange with students from another culture is key to students’ mastery of intercultural communication skills, tolerance of difference, open-mindedness, and global competence.

In 2020 Tokyo will host the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. For this occasion, the Tokyo Board of Education has launched the education initiative, “Global Friendship Project,” to further global education goals including global and self-awareness, cross-cultural skills-building, and English language education. Tokyo schools will study different countries, host foreign visitors at their schools, and form partnerships with schools abroad to exchange correspondence and interact online, etc.

To complement the “Global Friendship Project,” the TEA program, *Olympic Friendships: Elementary Education for Global Competency in Japan and the United States*, will develop partnerships between Tokyo elementary schools studying about the United States and classrooms in the United States that have or are developing a unit of study about Japan. This program will 1) provide elementary teachers and their students in Tokyo and the United States with academic, practical, experiential, and interpersonal learning opportunities to deepen their knowledge of each other’s culture and develop “global competency” skills; 2) develop an educational exchange and professional development network of Japan-U.S. school partnerships and provide elementary teachers with enhanced knowledge and pedagogy to enrich the curriculum in their classrooms, schools, and potentially districts and countries; and 3) apply and share innovative pedagogy and uses of technology for 21st-century global competency education.

TEA is accepting applications from U.S. elementary educators or school-based teacher-teams who wish to establish and sustain a school partnership between teachers, students, and school communities with an elementary school in Tokyo. Through partner-school exchange activities and professional development programming, participating U.S. educators will:

- Engage in professional development online and (for selected participants) in Tokyo.
- Explore technologies for authentic and interactive teaching about culture.

- Apply strategies for using children's literature in literacy-based social studies and cross-curricular instruction.
- Develop students' global competency skills and knowledge of and engagement with Japan.
- Enhance their current units of study about Japan and share Japan-related curriculum design.

Across two school years, 10+ U.S. classrooms and five Tokyo schools will engage in partner-school virtual and material exchange activities. Through live webinars and an online course, U.S. teachers will advance best practices in instruction about Japan, technology use, and global competency. In addition, selected school teacher-representatives will participate in face-to-face collaboration at the Japanese schools during a nine-day seminar in Tokyo in summer 2018.

Eligibility

The Program for Teaching East Asia at the University of Colorado invites applications from U.S. elementary classroom teachers or a team of elementary classroom teachers at the same school who meet the following prerequisites:

- The applicant teacher or teacher-team can demonstrate that they currently teach about Japan or are in the process of developing curriculum for teaching about Japan.
- The applicant teacher or teacher-team is aiming to develop curriculum and instruction featuring global competencies and use of technology.
- The applicant(s) and their school can demonstrate ongoing commitment to and participation in teacher professional development.

Individual classroom teachers or a school-team of classroom teachers are all eligible to apply. Through an additional application process once school partnerships are established, a maximum of two teachers per school will be selected to travel to Tokyo in summer 2018.

Program Components

Teachers (or teacher-teams) applying for the *Olympic Friendships* professional development and school partnership program should be prepared to participate in two years of program activities, beginning in November 2017 and running through the 2018-2019 school year. The commitment includes completion of:

- Three exchanges in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years with partner Tokyo school (such as sending letters or art, emails, or other technology-based exchange to correspond with Japan's trimester and the U.S. August/September – May/June school calendars).
- Participatory webinars (one per semester) with TEA staff for planning and discussion of partner exchanges, cross-cultural awareness, and sharing of best practices for curriculum and technology.
- A content-based online course. This course will provide a historic, geographic, and cultural introduction to Japan and feature discussions of best practices in global competency education and 21st-century skills. It will be conducted online through asynchronous modules and will run from February through April 2018. Participants should anticipate devoting 20 hours to this course.
- A nine-day seminar in Tokyo (for selected school representatives) in June-July 2018. The seminar will include extended visits at partner schools to observe, teach, and plan future exchanges. In addition, teachers will participate in academic lectures and field studies regarding the topics of 2020 Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics, education in Japan, and teaching about Japan through language arts.
- Development of at least one curricular resource for global competency instruction featuring Japan, which will be shared with other educators.

- Evaluations of program activities and reports on implementation and impact of school exchanges and professional development experiences.

Program Expenses

The Olympic Friendships partner school and professional development program is made possible through a grant from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP), which offers support with the goal of equipping schools and teachers so that they can sustain an ongoing partnership after the initial two years.

The following expenses ***are covered by TEA***:

- Children's book set to support cross-curricular instruction about Japan.
- Up to \$200 in reimbursement for mailing/shipping materials to partner school in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.
- Information, consultation, orientation, online course on Japan, and other curricular and background materials for the program.
- For selected school representatives: Travel (transportation, lodging, meal allowance, and entrance fees) for nine-day group study in Tokyo minus an individual participant contribution.

Participating schools are responsible for other costs of participation, which may include the following:

- Materials, supplies, or technology used for interchanges with partner school.
- Costs of mailing/shipping in 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years over and beyond the provided reimbursement.

Selection Criteria

A panel consisting of TEA staff at the University of Colorado and other consultants will review all applications. The following criteria will guide selection:

- Evidence of commitment to the goals and content focus of this professional development and cross-cultural school partnership, i.e., teaching about Japan; 21st-century skills; and global competency education.
- Insight into the demands and responsibilities of a sustainable, cross-cultural school exchange.
- Evidence of commitment to curricular resource development and dissemination.
- Demonstrated experience in collaboration with colleagues.
- Actual or potential for leadership in professional development communities of educators.

Note: As per grant parameters, priority will be given to teachers/schools from Midwestern, Southern, and Mountain states.

Olympic Friendships Timeline

2017-2018 School Year

October 13, 2017	Emailed or collated sets of application due in TEA office by 5 p.m. MDT (close of business)
October 27, 2017	Acceptance letters e-mailed
November – December 2017	Exchange with partner school first of three times in the 2017-2018 school year
December 7, 2017	Webinar
January – February 2018	Exchange with partner school second of three times in the 2017-2018 school year
February – April 2018	Online Japan course and (for selected teachers) orientation for travel to Tokyo
April 2018	Webinar
May – June 2018	Exchange with partner school third of three times in the 2017-2018 school year
June – July 2018	Selected school representatives' nine-day overseas group study in Tokyo (actual dates will be determined by participating schools' calendars)

2018-2019 School Year

September 2018	Webinar
October 2018 – February 2019	Development of curricular resources
November – December 2019	Exchange with partner school first of three times in the 2018-2019 school year
January – February 2019	Exchange with partner school second of three times in the 2018-2019 school year
February 2019	Webinar
April – June 2019	Exchange with partner school third of three times in the 2018-2019 school year
May – June 2019	School submits an impact survey

Olympic Friendships

How to Apply

A complete application includes: I) School and Team Representative(s) Information; II) two word-processed essay responses, and III) a letter of support. Part I must be submitted online. Submit parts II and III via email to Catherine.Ishida@colorado.edu or mail two stapled copies to TEA.

- I. **School and Team Representative(s) Information:** Provide contact and other information about your school, yourself and (if applicable) other teacher-applicant(s) via this [online form](#).
- II. **Essay Response:** One word-processed essay per individual teacher or teacher-team. The review committee looks for detailed responses and a convincing plan for classroom implementation.
 - A. **Rationale for participation.**
 1. Briefly describe your school environment and community—specifically, your student population, special focus of school, the curriculum that you teach, and how Japan fits into that curriculum.
 2. Provide evidence of your, your team's, and/or your school's capacity to implement a sustainable and innovative partnership to develop students' and teachers' 21st-century skills and global competency.
 - B. **Curriculum Implementation and Impact.**
 1. What are your expectations and preliminary plans for this school partnership and professional development program?
 2. How will your 1) curriculum and instruction; 2) students; and 3) school, community, and/or district benefit from this program? Please be as specific as possible, considering the content focus of this school partnership and professional development program.
- III. **Letter of Support:** Include a letter of support from a principal. This letter should address 1) your school and teachers' qualifications for this Japan-related professional development and elementary school partnership; 2) commitment to a sustainable partnership; and 3) your (or your team's) potential for making changes in instruction. This letter must be on official letterhead with a signature and either emailed to Catherine.Ishida@colorado.edu or sent by mail to the TEA address on the previous page.

Deadline: Applications will be accepted through the close of business on **October 13, 2017**. Submit Part I online and Parts II and III via email to Catherine.Ishida@colorado.edu or mail two stapled print copies of the application to the Program for Teaching East Asia at the address below. Faxes will not be accepted. Successful applicants will be notified of acceptance by October 27, 2017.

Mail applications:

USPS: TEA, University of Colorado, 595 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309

FedEx/UPS: TEA, Center for Asian Studies, 1424 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302

For further information, contact Catherine Ishida, TEA's Japan Projects Coordinator, at Catherine.Ishida@colorado.edu or 303-735-5115. Additional information about the Program for Teaching East Asia and its programs is available on our website: www.colorado.edu/ptea