

Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program

Summer of 2016
Michigan State University
Asian Studies Center

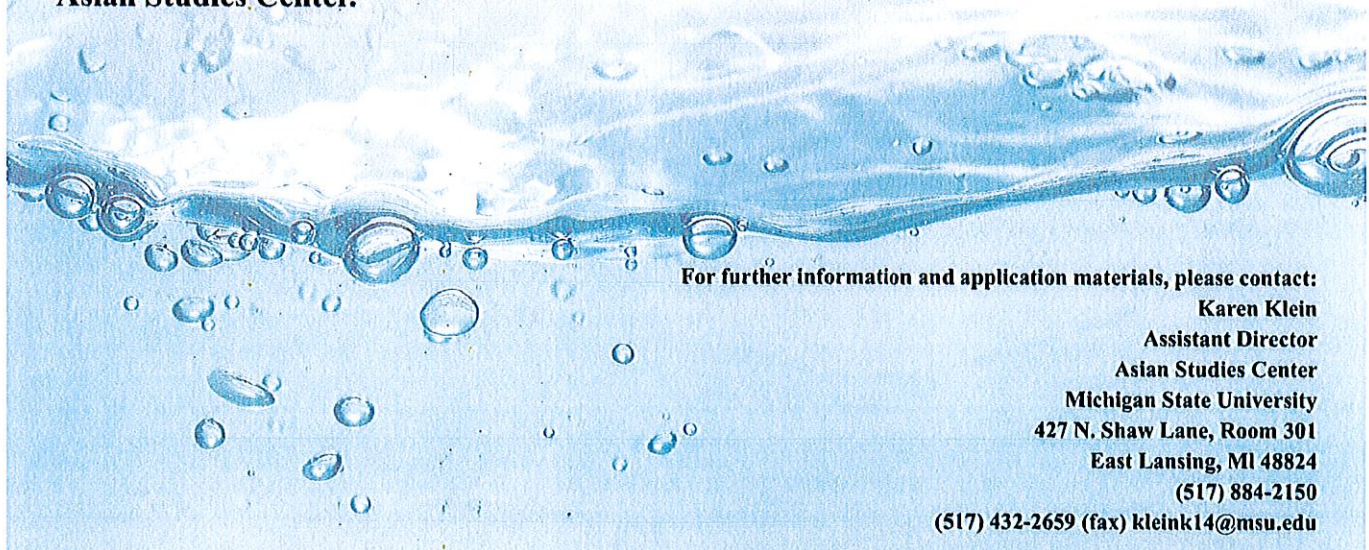


Sixteen current high school tenth and eleventh graders from the Great Lakes area and Japan's Shiga Prefecture will join together for a rigorous water science program and cultural exchange featuring ten days in the Great Lakes area followed by ten days in the Lake Biwa/Shiga Prefecture area. The program includes a MSU application process, pre-departure activities including a group event on the campus of MSU, and post-exchange extension opportunities.

Total Student Costs: \$600 toward airfare to Japan
\$100 application fee if student advances to Phase II of the selection process

Important Dates: Application must be RECEIVED by February 12, 2016 for consideration.
Phase II MSU Campus Event - March 12, 2016
Great Lakes Study Tour- July 17-28, 2016
Lake Biwa/Shiga Study Tour- July 31 - August 10, 2016

Students must commit to attend all phases of this project for acceptance into the program. This program is generously funded by the United States Japanese Foundation and MSU's Asian Studies Center.



For further information and application materials, please contact:

Karen Klein
Assistant Director
Asian Studies Center
Michigan State University
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 301
East Lansing, MI 48824
(517) 884-2150
(517) 432-2659 (fax) kleink14@msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

asia
ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

GATE
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

II. TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR INTERESTS

A. Which subjects you are studying do you find most interesting and why?

B. If planning for college, in what subject area do you intend to major? _____

C. School related/Extracurricular activities: _____

D. What do you like to do during your free time away from school (sports, music, hobbies, TV, work, volunteering, etc.)?

Please be specific: _____

E. How would you describe your personality?

III. PERSONAL HABITS and PREFERENCES

In even the most compatible family situation, the daily requirements of sharing and cooperating can require adaptability. Cultural differences can add to this need. Please answer the following questions, keeping in mind that your frankness will aid in your possible host family placement.

Do you have pets that live in your home? Yes No

Please name the kinds of pets and how many: _____

Do you mind if your host family has a pet in the house? Yes No

If yes, please describe your concerns: _____

Do you mind if someone in your host family smokes in the home? Yes No

Do you mind being paired with an exchange student of the opposite gender for a host family? Yes No

Do you follow a special diet? If so, please specify: _____

Are you able to be flexible with your diet while in Japan? Yes No

Are you willing to try fish and other Japanese foods, which may be unfamiliar to you, in order to fit in with the regular eating habits of your hosts?

Yes No

Do you have any allergies (food or otherwise) that we should know about and accommodate for as we plan homestays, meals, and activities? _____

Other Information That Would Be Helpful in Placing You with a Host Family

What else would you like others to know about you? _____

IV. INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

A If you have ever lived, studied, or traveled abroad? Please describe your experiences. Specify countries visited, length of time, purpose of travel, and name of program, if any.

B Have you ever been the guest of a family abroad? If so, please describe the circumstances: _____

C Have you ever hosted an international guest in your home? If so, please describe the circumstances: _____

D What languages are spoken at your home? _____

E What foreign languages, besides Japanese, do you speak or understand and how many years have you studied these? _____

F Please list any courses you have taken in Japanese language/culture:

V. PASSPORT and TRAVEL

A. Do you currently have a valid U.S. Passport? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, List Passport Number: _____

Passport Expiration Date: _____

If you have a passport from another country, please provide details below:

B. Do you have a Delta Sky Miles Account Number? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, List Sky Miles Number to receive mileage credit: _____

VI. DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING YOUR APPLICATION

Please submit the following six things with this application:

- 1) **A one-page, typed essay describing your reason for wanting to participate in the MSU Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program and what you will bring to this experience. Tell how your interest in Japan and/or water science has developed and what you hope to gain from this experience.**
- 2) **A brief statement (maximum 1/2 page) from a parent on why he/she would like his/her child to participate in the MSU Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program and what he/she hopes his/her child will gain from this experience.**
- 3) **One Recommendation Form filled out by a teacher or counselor who knows you well. Please have the form returned with your application in a sealed envelope according to the directions on the Recommendation Form attached.**
- 4) **One Recommendation Form filled out by another adult (non-relative) who knows you well, preferably from a non-school connection. Please have the form returned with your application in a sealed envelope according to the directions on the Recommendation Form attached.**
- 5) **An official high school transcript showing your high school grades, courses, and current GPA.**
- 6) **A copy of the information page of your passport, showing your passport number, if you have one at this time.**

NO APPLICATION FEE IS DUE WITH THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION

***If you are invited to the final round in the selection process, then a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 will be requested towards meals and expenses of the 3/12/16 event.**

VII. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:

I am aware that my selection into the MSU Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program is contingent upon the following:

Acceptance into the program according to the selection procedure established by the Program Committee.

Payment of a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 upon acceptance into finalist's candidate pool for Phase II of Selection Process due March 12th, 2016.

If selected for the Phase II candidate pool, mandatory attendance and participation in the Exchange Explore Event on the MSU campus March 12, 2016.

If selected as a program participant, a \$600.00 payment payable to Michigan State University is due by June 1, 2016.

Completion and return of all necessary forms.

Agreement to uphold standards of acceptable behavior, both Japanese and American, as a representative of MSU, my school, my state, and country. **Specific Program Code of Conduct to be further detailed and discussed at the Exchange Explore Event in Phase II of selection process. Selected participants will also receive their own reference handbook.*

Before you sign the following statements, please give careful consideration to the following: Students who wish to participate in this program should be open-minded, flexible, willing to accept new challenges, be ready for rewarding experiences, and have a strong interest in science and learning about another culture.

I am committed to and enthusiastic about participation in the MSU Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program, and I understand the conditions of participation established for the program.

Signature of Student

Date

I am committed to and enthusiastic about my son's/daughter's participation in the MSU Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program, and I understand the conditions of participation established for the program.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

**This completed application and all required attachments
must be RECEIVED by February 12, 2016.**

By mail or drop off:

Karen Klein, Assistant Director
MSU's Asian Studies Center
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 301
East Lansing, MI 48824

By email:

Kleink14@msu.edu

By Fax:

1-517-432-2659 – Attention Karen Klein

Confirmation email will be sent when completed application is received and processed.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS OR APPLICATIONS ARRIVING AFTER FEBRUARY 12, 2016 WILL
NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM.**

If you have questions, please contact:

Karen Klein
Assistant Director
MSU Asian Studies Center
(517)884-2150
Kleink14@msu.edu

MSU GREAT LAKES SHIGA HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Recommendation Form

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDER: Your answers to the questions on this form will help us select students for the MSU Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program. Please place the completed form in an envelope and write the student's name on the front. Seal the envelope and sign your name across the flap to ensure confidentiality. Return the sealed envelope to the student, who will forward it unopened as part of his/her application. If you have any questions, please call Karen Klein @ 517-884-2150.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

NAME OF STUDENT _____ Grade Point Average _____

Please rate the student according to the following list of ten characteristics. This list reflects factors which research has shown are important to successful intercultural adjustment. Please bear in mind that this is an important international program, and students should be able to get along well with peers and demonstrate high ethical standards.

	RATING SCALE:				
		1 = <u>LOW</u>		5 = <u>HIGH</u>	
Open-mindedness and resourcefulness	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of humor	1	2	3	4	5
Resilience/ability to cope with failure	1	2	3	4	5
Communicativeness	1	2	3	4	5
Flexibility and adaptability	1	2	3	4	5
Curiosity	1	2	3	4	5
Positive and realistic expectations	1	2	3	4	5
Tolerance for differences	1	2	3	4	5
Social maturity	1	2	3	4	5
Self-esteem	1	2	3	4	5

Please comment on the student's maturity and character and give your opinion of his/her ability to handle the pace and intensity of being in an unfamiliar environment, while representing his/her high school, state and country.

SIGNATURE

DATE

MSU GREAT LAKES SHIGA HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Recommendation Form

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDER: Your answers to the questions on this form will help us select students for the MSU Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program. Please place the completed form in an envelope and write the student's name on the front. Seal the envelope and sign your name across the flap to ensure confidentiality. Return the sealed envelope to the student, who will forward it unopened as part of his/her application. If you have any questions, please call Karen Klein @ 517-884-2150.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

NAME OF STUDENT _____ Grade Point Average _____

Please rate the student according to the following list of ten characteristics. This list reflects factors which research has shown are important to successful intercultural adjustment. Please bear in mind that this is an important international program, and students should be able to get along well with peers and demonstrate high ethical standards.

	RATING SCALE:				
		1 = <u>LOW</u>			5 = <u>HIGH</u>
Open-mindedness and resourcefulness	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of humor	1	2	3	4	5
Resilience/ability to cope with failure	1	2	3	4	5
Communicativeness	1	2	3	4	5
Flexibility and adaptability	1	2	3	4	5
Curiosity	1	2	3	4	5
Positive and realistic expectations	1	2	3	4	5
Tolerance for differences	1	2	3	4	5
Social maturity	1	2	3	4	5
Self-esteem	1	2	3	4	5

Please comment on the student's maturity and character and give your opinion of his/her ability to handle the pace and intensity of being in an unfamiliar environment, while representing his/her high school, state and country.

SIGNATURE

DATE