Updated on November 21, 2026

THE NATSUYASUMI PROJECT

Online: July 25–29 | Okinawa: August 2–8, 2027

Natsu Camp '27



Est. 2024 | Based in Tokyo, Japan | natsuproject.org

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OVERVIEW

Natsu Project, short for The Natsuyasumi Project, is a Japan-based social enterprise founded in Tokyo in 2024. We create spaces where young people from different backgrounds learn through shared experiences and engage with questions beyond the classroom.

Our flagship program, **Natsu Camp**, brings a small international cohort to a different location in Japan each year. Students explore subjects across disciplines with mentors, while residential life makes cultural exchange part of their everyday experience.

At the center of the program is Impact Lab, where teams investigate a real-world question through fieldwork and interviews, then develop a proposal grounded in what they learn. Leadership takes shape through this process as students work across differences and turn ideas into action.

Our quarterly student editorial platform, **Perspective[S]**, extends this exchange beyond camp. It gives young people space to examine contemporary issues and share their own perspectives with the wider NATSU community.

We take young people seriously as individuals and encourage them to take ownership of their learning. Financial support helps make our programs accessible to students who may otherwise be unable to participate.



A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
RETHINKING GLOBAL EDUCATION

OUR STORY

Natsu Project was founded in 2024 by Stanford alum Ria Ying Oyama, whose life has taken her across multiple countries and cultures. She grew up between Asia and the United States and now lives in Japan. These experiences shaped her belief in the transformative power of international education. She has seen firsthand how studying in different places can open minds to new ways of thinking and foster tolerance, understanding, and creativity.

Ria has also supported international NGOs in a pro bono capacity across Japan, the United States, and Africa. These experiences gave her insight into both the meaningful impact such organizations can create and the challenges they face in ensuring resources and opportunities reach the people they are intended to serve. Inspired to create a model that is transparent, effective, and sustainable in both finance and operations, Ria founded Natsu Project.

Drawing on years of work experience during her studies — including as a graduate research assistant at Stanford's Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center — and her post-graduation experience in NGOs, Ria launched Natsu Project with the support of close friends who share her passion. Her vision was to build a platform for high-quality, interdisciplinary, and hands-on learning, where students from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds could benefit as she had and be empowered to contribute meaningfully to the world around them.



THE 3 PILLARS

01 Social Impact:

Students work on team projects addressing real-world issues—from sustainability and cultural preservation to equity and innovation—developing solutions that connect local and global perspectives.

02 Cultural Exchange:

In 2026, Natsu Camp brought together 27 students from 20 countries and regions. For 2027, we look forward to welcoming another international cohort, creating a shared learning environment where students encounter different perspectives and learn to work across cultural differences.

03 Experiential Learning:

Natsu Camp combines classroom discussions with fieldwork and hands-on activities across STEM, the humanities, and the creative arts. We believe this empowers students to apply knowledge directly and think critically about real-world challenges.

GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP, REIMAGINED.



✳ *Also a Camp '27 speaker*

Advisory Board



Prof. Kenjiro Takemura

PhD, Mechanical Engineering
Professor at Keio University

Kenjiro Takemura is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Keio University, where he specializes in soft robotics, haptic interfaces, and biomedical devices. After receiving his Ph.D. in Integrated Design Engineering from Keio in 2002, he served as Assistant Professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology's Precision and Intelligence Laboratory before returning to Keio in 2008. His research bridges mechanical systems and human interaction, with applications ranging from medical technology to next-generation robotics.



✳ Prof. Hideto Fukudome

PhD, Higher Education
Professor at the University of Tokyo

Professor Fukudome specializes in the historical and comparative study of higher education, with a focus on the U.S. system. His research covers undergraduate curriculum, academic governance, and graduate education, approached through cross-cultural lenses. He teaches in the University Management and Policy program and currently serves as Chair of the Department of Integrated Educational Sciences and Special Assistant to the President of the University of Tokyo.



✳ John Groschwitz

Associate Director
Stanford Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS)

Since 2008, John Groschwitz has served as Associate Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at Stanford University, the nexus of East Asia–related research, teaching, outreach, and exchange across the campus. He has worked closely with students, scholars, and institutions across the U.S., Asia, and beyond, and brings extensive experience in international education and global exchange to his role as a distinguished advisor to Natsu Project.

Note: Advisors are listed in no particular order.

Note: Advisors and guests are listed in no particular order.



Prof. Takashi Fukui

Professor at the College of Arts and Design
Ritsumeikan University

Professor Fukui is a purpose branding consultant, creative director, and art director who helps organizations define their purpose and translate it into integrated branding, communication, and design. After beginning their career at Dentsu, he went on to lead cross-sector social design initiatives and later became independent. His work spans purpose-driven brand strategy, strategic PR, and creative direction, and has been recognized with major awards including Cannes Lions, the New York ADC, and the Tokyo ADC Awards.



Prof. Timothy Ravasi

PhD, Marine Science
Professor at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST)

Timothy Ravasi is a Professor of Marine Science, the Principal Investigator of the Marine Climate Change Unit at OIST and an Adjunct Professor at the College of Science and Engeneering, James Cook University in Australia. Tim's research interest lies on the current status of coral reef ecosystems. He is particularly interested in looking at ecologically relevant issues in the light of rapid environmental change, such as climate change. Using integrative approaches, he seeks to understand how coral reef fish respond to rapid environmental changes such as climate change, heatwaves, overfishing and urbanization.



Prof. Ryo Ohmura

PhD, Mechanical Engineering
Professor at Keio University

Ryo Ohmura is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Keio University, where he specializes in clathrate hydrates, energy technologies, physical chemistry, crystal growth, and phase equilibria. His research focuses on the unique properties of clathrate hydrates, including their ability to store gases at high density and their large heat of dissociation. He conducts research from fundamental physical chemistry to applied technologies for energy and environmental applications, including natural gas storage and next-generation energy technologies.



Prof. Keita Yasuda

PhD, Energy Systems and Mechanical Engineering
Professor at the University of the Ryukyus

Keita Yasuda is a Professor in the Energy Systems and Mechanical Engineering Program at the University of the Ryukyus, where he specializes in thermal engineering, chemical engineering, and clathrate hydrate technologies. During his doctoral studies at Keio University, he also conducted research at the Colorado School of Mines as a visiting researcher. He received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Keio University in 2015 and subsequently joined the University of the Ryukyus. His research focuses on the physical chemistry and engineering of clathrate hydrates, with applications ranging from seawater desalination and salt production to advanced separation technologies and sustainable energy and environmental systems.

Also a Camp '27 speaker

Mentors

Note: Mentors are listed in no particular order.



Shogo Takatsu

Johnnivan, Keyboardist | Bosch Japan

Shogo, a Waseda University graduate, is the keyboardist of the genre-blending, multinational band Johnnivan and works at Bosch Japan. Formed in 2018 with members from Japan, the U.S., and South Korea, his band has performed at major festivals including Summer Sonic and DMZ Peace Train.



Yuness Lounis

Shuttle Learning | UK Qualified Teacher

London-based STEM educator with an M.S. in Engineering from the University of Oxford and formal UK teaching qualifications. Yuness currently serves as Head of KS5 Computer Science at Future Academies and has taught international students through Oxford Royale Summer School, with over 2,000 hours of tutoring experience in Maths, Physics, and Computer Science.



Aimi

Professional Dancer

Aimi is a professional dancer and motion performer with experience across live concerts, music videos, anime, and commercial productions. Her credits include performing as a backup dancer for NiziU at Tokyo Dome and Kyocera Dome, portraying Ruby through motion capture for Oshi no Ko, and appearing in projects for IMP., HoYoFair, and ABC-MART.



Mona Shirakawa

Sony Corporation | University of Tokyo Alum

Mona is half-Japanese, half-Singaporean. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tokyo. She currently works at Sony, focusing on PlayStation products. In her free time, she is a singer-songwriter and has released original albums.



Kohei Oyama

Nippon Kanchi Technology Co., Ltd. | CEO

CEO of a Tokyo startup, Kohei holds mechanical and aerospace engineering degrees from Keio University and Penn State. He began his career at Bosch Japan in the Global Junior Managers Program, focusing on autonomous driving, before becoming a Senior Consultant at NTT Data Group.



Yifan Xu, MA

Deloitte Japan | Consultant

Before joining Deloitte, Yifan earned a master's in International Relations at Stanford. He gained experience at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and holds a BA from Ritsumeikan University on scholarship, with an exchange at the University of British Columbia.

Important Notes:

1) Affiliations listed under mentors indicate relevant experience and may not reflect current positions.

2) While we aim to deliver the lineup as announced, speakers and mentors may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

3) Participation does not constitute institutional endorsement.

Note: Members are listed in no particular order.



Ria Oyama, MA

Founder, Representative Director

- **Stanford University** alum with a graduate degree in East Asian Studies (**merit-based scholarship**)
- Research assistantship in international relations at **Stanford's Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (APARC)**
- Global NGO experience



Caroline Cheng, MS

'27 Class Director

- M.S. from **Johns Hopkins University**; Honors in Mathematics from UC Irvine
- Former Data Scientist at Johns Hopkins Hospital's **Precision Medicine Center of Excellence in Neurocritical Care**
- Founder of **Pincco**, an education and well-being initiative using original characters and interactive experiences to make emotional learning more approachable and engaging



Tamaki Hoshi, MA

Director of Activities

- Born and raised in the **United States**
- Writer–scholar with an MA in Japanese history from **Waseda University**
- Former **Miss World Japan** representative
- Speaker at **CORE Indonesia** on the cultural and economic power of storytelling



Hitoshi Kiyokawa, MSE

Co-Director of Student Life

- Mechanical Engineering, Keio University, with double-degree studies in Hannover, Germany
- Published researcher in thermodynamics
- Began career at P&G Japan as a Supply Chain Manager; Currently serves as Sales Manager at a Tokyo-based startup
- Top-rated tennis coach in New York



Clover Chen, MPAc

Co-Director of Student Life

- Graduated from the University of California, Irvine (UCI) with a master's degree in accounting
- Currently a Senior Associate at PwC Hong Kong
- Previously interned at PwC New York

OUR LEADERS

'27 CORE THEMES

Music-Making 🎹

Sociolinguistics 💬

Computer Science & AI 💻

International Relations 🌐

Environment, SDGs & Entrepreneurship 🌞

Autonomous Driving 🚗

J-POP Dance 💃

No background knowledge required; just curiosity!
Students will participate in all sessions as a cohort.



APPLY TO NATSU CAMP '27

See www.natsuproject.org/apply for full eligibility and application details.

Eligibility

Natsu Camp 2027 is open to students **worldwide** aged **16–19** who are currently in **high school or an equivalent** program, or who have recently graduated and are taking a gap year. Applicants must be able to participate in the full program, including the required online pre-residential portion. No specific academic background or prior experience is required.

Application Components

- Basic applicant information
- "Why Natsu Camp?" written response
- One-minute video response
- 20-minute live conversation, if requested
- Scholarship applications may include additional requirements.

Financial Support

- **NATSU Global Scholarship**: *need-based* support for eligible applicants worldwide.
- **NATSU Japan Access Grant:** JPY 120,000 fee reduction for applicants living in Japan.
- Both are competitive. See natsuproject.org for eligibility and application details.

Rolling Admissions Timeline

Priority Round

- **JPY 40,000** off program fee
- **Faster decision** within 1–2 weeks of completion
- **Deposit** due within 72 hours of acceptance to secure your spot

Oct 15, 2026 to Jan 15, 2027 23:59 JST

Jan 15, 2027 to March 15, 2027 23:59 JST

Remaining program fee due: April 26, 2027

Regular Round

- Subject to remaining availability.
- Admission decision within 4 weeks of completion
- Deposit due within 72 hours of acceptance to secure your spot

NATSU Japan Access Scholarship:

NATSU Japan Access Scholarship is NOT need-based and is for Japan residents only. No separate scholarship application is required.

NATSU Global Scholarship:

Need-based scholarship applications close January 15, 2027. Qualified applicants may be placed on a financial aid waitlist. Scholarship decisions may take longer than the standard Priority Round timeline.



RESIDENTIAL SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Aug 2 – Aug 8, 2027 | 7 Days, 6 Nights

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
/	*Breakfast*	*Breakfast*	*Breakfast*	*Breakfast*	*Breakfast*	*Breakfast*
	Mentor Session	Mentor Session	In-Class Team Prep	J-POP Dance Session 💃🕺	J-POP Dance Session 💃🕺	Final Pitch Competition
Mandatory Orientation & Refreshments (Starts at 10:30)	Mentor Session	Mentor Session			In-Class Team Prep	
	Mentor Session	Pre-Field Briefing	Mentor Session	Mentor Session		
Lunch	*Lunch*	*Lunch*	*Lunch*	*Lunch*	*Lunch*	Closing Ceremony (Ends at 14:00)
Impact Lab	Guest Speaker	Team-Based Field Trips	Mentor Session	Guest Speaker	Guest Speaker	
Guest Speaker			Mentor Session	Music Creation Session 🎵	Music Creation Session 🎵	
Excursion	Mentor Session		Excursion		Guest Speaker	/
	In-Class Team Prep				Guest Speaker	
Dinner	*Dinner*	*Dinner*		*Dinner*	*Dinner*	
Social Activities	Team Night	Team Night		Team Night	Talent Show	

Note: This sample schedule is for reference only.

Natsu Project

2027 PROGRAM FORMAT

Two connected parts. One shared program.

PART I

PRE-RESIDENTIAL

July 25 - 29 | Online, primarily asynchronous

Purpose: build the foundational knowledge students will need for their team projects in Okinawa.

- Daily assigned readings and short discussion posts
- One-hour live Impact Lab introduction (tentatively July 25)
- Student conduct and local etiquette preparation
- Instructor Q&A support

PART II

RESIDENTIAL

August 2 - 8
Onna, Okinawa

- Mentor-led classroom lessons and guest speaker sessions
- Impact Lab project work, fieldwork, and community engagement
- Creative workshops and program-arranged activities
- Shared accommodation, meals, and local transportation
- Staff on-site throughout the residential program

JULY 30 - AUGUST 1 | INDEPENDENT TRAVEL & TRANSITION

No Natsu Camp activities are scheduled during these days. Students arrange their own travel to Okinawa and any accommodation needed before the residential program.

NATSU PROJECT PRESENTS: NATSU CAMP 2027

Check out our FAQ at natsuproject.org



www.natsuproject.org

info@natsuproject.org

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