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The Natsuyasumi Project
August 1 – 7, 2026 | Tokyo

NATSU CAMP '26



A Social Enterprise | Tokyo, Japan | (株)夏休みプロジェクト

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OVERVIEW

The Natsuyasumi Project (Natsu Project) is a Tokyo-based youth-centered social enterprise rethinking education for the next generation. We create spaces where teenagers can explore ideas across disciplines, express themselves, and work together to tackle meaningful questions about the world around them.

Our flagship initiative is **Natsu Camp**, an annual summer program where international mentors lead students in team-based projects that connect classroom knowledge with hands-on fieldwork. Each year, a new group of mentors and guest speakers brings expertise from leading universities, global organizations, and creative industries to guide students in developing critical thinking, collaborative skills, and confidence in presenting their ideas.

In our inaugural 2025 camp, students worked with a mentor from the World Bank on projects addressing educational practices, environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation. Our mentors brought experience from leading universities such as the University of Tokyo, Keio, Waseda, Harvard, Stanford, the University of Hong Kong, LSE, and Johns Hopkins, as well as from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Miss World, Deloitte. We also welcomed a Tokyo-based indie musician—whose band has performed at international festivals like Summer Sonic—who collaborated with students to create an original track that became the camp’s theme song.

We pride ourselves on interdisciplinary, hands-on learning that builds leadership and drives real-world impact. Our goal is to prepare students not only for university, but for life—empowering them to lead with purpose.

**A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
RETHINKING GLOBAL EDUCATION**

OUR STORY

Natsu Project was founded in 2024 by Stanford alum Ria 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.**



FEATURES

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:

Our inaugural camp attracted applications from **over 20 countries**, with the first cohort including students not only from Japan but also from the UK, US, China, Kenya, Bangladesh, and beyond. This diversity creates an environment where students learn to collaborate across languages, cultures, and disciplines.

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.

**EXPLORE BOLD
IDEAS. LEARN
FROM THE BEST.
GROW WITH
PURPOSE.**



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.

Special Guests

Alongside our honorary advisors, we are joined by two distinguished young speakers at Natsu Camp '26.



Eric Senkit Suen

Ph.D. Candidate, Harvard University

Eric Senkit Suen is a Ph.D. researcher in modern Japanese history at Harvard University. His research interests include animal, environmental, food, and migration history.



Aiki Shusa

Founder & Director, YOAKE

Aiki Shusa is the founder and director of YOAKE, a cram school based in Shibuya, Tokyo. He holds a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Tokyo.

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

Mentors



Shogo Takatsu, BA

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**.



Sharon Shen, MA

United Nations, Consultant

Sharon is committed to global sustainable development, with experience at a leading **UN-affiliated institution in Washington, D.C.** She founded the **Echo Bloom Initiative** on adolescent mental health and holds degrees from **Stanford** and **LSE**, specializing in history and **educational innovation**.



Lauren Barnes, MA

U.S. Fulbright Association, Fulbright Scholar

Lauren graduated from **Stanford University**, where she researched Taiwanese history and literature with a focus on colonial-era texts, and gained experience at the **Hoover Institution**. She spent two years in East Asia teaching and building cross-cultural initiatives under a **Fulbright grant**.



Mona Shirakawa, BA

Sony Corporation & University of Tokyo

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, MS

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 | Analyst

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) This year, all mentors will be on-site.
- 2) The format of guest speaker sessions will be announced closer to the event.
- 3) Affiliations listed under mentors indicate relevant experience and may not reflect current positions.
- 4) While we aim to deliver the lineup as listed, changes may occur if unexpected circumstances arise.
- 5) Participation does not constitute institutional endorsement.

OUR LEADERS



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



Hitoshi Kiyokawa, MSE

Class Director

- 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**



KuoChuan Tseng, BA, LLB

Youth Advisor

- From **Singapore**, a double-degree graduate in International Relations from **Waseda University** and **Peking University**
- Experience at a **geopolitical consultancy**, an **entertainment VC** firm, and the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- Teaching and leadership roles at **leading international summer camps**



Tamaki Hoshi, MA

Activity Coordinator

- 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

'26 CORE THEMES

Music 

International Relations 

Sustainable Development 

Autonomous Driving 

Literature 

Entrepreneurship 

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

APPLY TO NATSU CAMP '26

Eligibility

High school students or recent high school graduates on a gap year, **aged 15–19** as of August 1, 2026, who are **comfortable participating fully in English** — all classes, discussions, and final projects will be in English.

Application Components

- **Biographical and personal information**
- **Two short responses** (Prompt 1: 150–250 words; Prompt 2: 50–150 words)
- **Possible casual interview** (by invitation only; most accepted students will *not* be interviewed)
- Applicants seeking **need-based scholarships** must, in addition to the above, submit a self-declared financial statement, proof of income, and a scholarship essay
- An ID and proof of enrollment or graduation will be required *after acceptance*

Rolling Admissions Timeline

- Rolling admissions for both Priority and Regular Rounds
- Applications are reviewed and decisions released on a **first-come, first-served basis**
- **Students are encouraged to apply in the Priority Round** to secure placement
- Small class sizes are maintained to foster community and individual attention
- **Remaining tuition balance** is due on May 30, 2026, at 23:59 JST

Priority Round

- **Preferential** consideration
- ¥33,000 **tuition deduction**
- **Faster decision** within 1–2 weeks of completion
- **Deposit** due within 1 week of acceptance to secure your spot

Sept 19, 2025
to
Jan 11, 2026
23:59 JST

Jan 12, 2026
to
March 1, 2026
23:59 JST

**Change of
Final Deadline:
March 29 → March 1**

Regular Round

- For remaining spots only
- Admission decision within 4 weeks of completion
- Deposit due within 1 week of acceptance to secure your spot



Regarding Need-Based Scholarship:

Scholarship applications close with the Priority Round (January 11, 2026). These applications will be reviewed **collectively** rather than on a rolling basis, and results will be announced by the end of January 2026.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Aug 1 – Aug 7, 2026 | 7 Days, 6 Nights

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	
/	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
Mandatory Orientation & Refreshments <small>(Starts at 10:30)</small>	Impact Lab	Mentor Session	Team-Based Field Trips	Special Guest III	Team Preparation	Team Preparation	
		Special Guest II		Mentor Session			Final Presentation I
Mentor Session	Mentor Session						
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Special Guest I	Mentor Session	Mentor Session		Music Creation Session I 🎵	Music Creation Session II 🎵	Final Presentation II	
Impact Lab	Mentor Session	Team Preparation					Closing Ceremony <small>(Ends at 15:00)</small>
Mentor Session	Cultural Excursion					Dinner	
Mentor Session							
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	/		
Let's Begin	Career Talks	Free Time	Team Debrief	Letter to Myself	Talent Show		

Note: This sample schedule is for reference only and is subject to change.

Q

What are the selection criteria?

A

We look for students who are curious, open-minded, and eager to explore ideas across disciplines. We also value diverse perspectives and aim to build a cohort where everyone can learn from one another.

Q

How much is the program fee? What does it cover?

A

The program fee is JPY 348,000, covering tuition, meals, communal lodging, and all organized activities during the official program period. Students may bring cash for personal expenses. Travel and visa fees are not covered.

Q

Tell me more about the need-based scholarship!

A

We are committed to making quality global education accessible. All applicants go through the same admissions process, and scholarships are reviewed after acceptance. Scholarships are need-based and may cover partial to full program fee. Travel support is *rarely* available, and applicants should plan with the understanding that funding beyond the program fee is unlikely.

Q

What measures will be taken to ensure students' safety during the camp?

A

We hear you — student safety is our top priority. While Japan is generally a very safe country, we take every reasonable precaution. All activities, including free time, are supervised by trained staff. Our camp sites are located within a reasonable distance of emergency medical care, and we have protocols in place to respond quickly in case of illness, injury, or natural disasters. Parents will be promptly notified in the event of any emergency.

Q

What will the sleeping arrangement look like?

A

Students stay in supervised shared houses, with separate arrangements for male and female participants.

Q

Are accommodations available for participants with special needs?

A

Yes. We do our best to accommodate participants with disabilities, allergies, dietary restrictions, or other special needs.

Q

When and how should students arrive?

A

Students must arrive by 10:30 AM on Day 1 for mandatory orientation. Arrival support is available on Day 0 and includes optional airport pickup (at a fee), as well as complimentary hotel check-in help (if located within range) and dinner accompaniment. Students cover their own expenses as this is outside our official period.

Q

Can Natsu Camp count toward volunteer hours or fulfill external program requirements?

A

Students may be eligible to earn up to 8 volunteer hours per day for their participation, and we are happy to provide documentation or conduct a residential program assessment if the requirement is related to social impact, civic engagement, or similar areas.

Q

What's your cancellation policy?

A

All payments, including the deposit and remaining balance, are non-refundable. However, in the case of documented emergencies, we may consider, in good faith, a refund of the balance payment (excluding the deposit) on a case-by-case basis.



Natsu Camp • 2026



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