

第36回ケベック州 日本語弁論大会

Le 36^e Concours d'élocution japonaise du Québec

The 36th Japanese Language Speech Contest of Quebec

Date & Time Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 10 a.m.

Location Salle des boiseries (J-2805), Pavillon Judith-Jasmin,
UQAM, Montreal, QC

Organized by The Organizing Committee for the Japanese Language Speech Contest of Quebec
& the Consulate General of Japan in Montreal

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

1. All contestants must reside in the Province of Quebec and must in principle be currently studying Japanese as a foreign language at an educational institution officially recognized* by the Organizing Committee.
2. All contestants must be of a nationality other than Japanese. Individuals possessing dual nationality which includes Japanese citizenship are however eligible.
3. All contestants must be 18 years of age or older. High school students are excluded.
4. Candidates must meet all criteria specific to their participation format and category when applicable.

* The term "officially recognized" institution designates an institution which offers Japanese language courses within a specific framework known by the Organizing Committee. The Committee is therefore able to assess the appropriate category assignment of the participants. The term "officially recognized" institution is not to be interpreted as a judgement or endorsement of the quality of the teaching offered by said institutions. The institutions recognized by the Organizing Committee for the Japanese Language Speech Contest of Quebec to date are (in alphabetical order):

✓ Bishop's University	✓ Montreal Japanese Language Centre
✓ Centre japonais de Québec	✓ Numa Institute
✓ Dawson College	✓ Université Laval
✓ Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre of Montreal (JCCCM)	✓ Université de Montréal
✓ McGill University	✓ Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Any institution not included in the above list that wishes to register students in the contest should contact the Organizing Committee at culture@mt.mofa.go.jp no later than January 30, 2026; requests sent by students will not be considered.

The Japanese Language Speech Contest of Quebec offers students two different ways of participating in the event, either through the **Speech Format** or the **Freestyle Format**. Participation through both formats is not excluded.

SPEECH FORMAT

SPEECH TITLE, CONTENT, AND DURATION

Reference: [Scoring - General Criteria](#)

For individual participants. Contestants are free to choose the subject and title of their speech and must write the text themselves.

No excessive movements, theatrical performances, or props of any kind are allowed. Those who read their speech instead of reciting it will be severely penalized.

Points will be deducted for any speech significantly over or under the time limit.

Speech Categories	Total Duration
Novice	2 minutes
Beginner	3 minutes
Intermediate	4 minutes
Advanced	5 minutes
Open	5 minutes

ELIGIBILITY BY CATEGORY

Students who have taken part in the Japanese Language Speech Contest of Quebec before may only compete in a higher category. Therefore, those who have already participated once in the Open category are no longer eligible.

Novice

1. Contestants must have received less than 75 hours of Japanese language instruction*.
2. Contestants must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total of 3 months since the age of six.
3. Contestants must not have a parent who is a native speaker of Japanese**.

Beginner

1. Contestants must have received less than one (1) year or 130 hours of Japanese language instruction*.
2. Contestants must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total of 3 months since the age of six.
3. Contestants must not have a parent who is a native speaker of Japanese**.

Intermediate

1. Contestants must have received a maximum of 260 hours of Japanese language instruction*.
2. Contestants must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total of 6 months since the age of six.
3. Contestants must not have a parent who is a native speaker of Japanese**.

Advanced

1. There is no limit to the contestants' total number of hours of Japanese language instruction*.
2. Contestants must not have stayed in Japan for more than a total of 3 years since the age of six.
3. Contestants must not have a parent who is a native speaker of Japanese**.

Open

1. There is no limit to the contestants' total number of hours of Japanese language instruction*.
2. There are no restrictions on the contestants' total length of their stay(s) in Japan.
3. Either one or both of their parents may be native speakers of Japanese, as long as the contestants are studying Japanese as a foreign language.

* The **calculation of hours of Japanese language instruction** must include the contestant's total number of instruction hours since their admission to post-secondary education up to the day of the regional Quebec contest (March 7, 2026).

** Exceptions regarding the **native language of parents** could be made depending on the contestant's level of Japanese proficiency.

In case of inquiry, Japanese language instructors should email the Organizing Committee at culture@mt.mofa.go.jp; inquiries sent by students will not be considered.

The Organizing Committee has the final word on students' eligibility and category assignment.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CANADIAN NATIONAL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

The 1st place winners of the Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Open categories will be invited to take part in the Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest to be held at the **University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, on Sunday, March 29, 2026**, provided that they also meet all applicable national speech contest eligibility criteria. If, for any reason, the 1st place winner cannot participate, the Organizing Committee may decide to recommend the 2nd place winner.

The Novice category is not offered at the Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest; therefore, no Novice category contestant will not be invited to participate in the national speech contest.

For more information: [Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest Guidelines](#)

----- FREESTYLE FORMAT -----

GENERAL INFORMATION

For individual students or groups who wish to present a speech or skit during which theatrical performances and props are allowed.

Freestyle Format participants may choose between a Short Presentation or a Long Presentation, and must respect the minimum and maximum length accordingly.

Short Presentation	min. 2 to max. 4 minutes
Long Presentation	min. 4 to max. 6 minutes

No winners are selected for this participation format.

Presentations in a Freestyle Format are permitted in the Japanese Language Speech Contest of Quebec but not in the Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest; therefore, Freestyle Format participants will not be invited to participate in the national speech contest.

----- SPEECH & FREESTYLE FORMATS -----

TO REGISTER AS A PARTICIPANT

Registrations are done via the Google Forms link provided by the participant's Japanese language instructor after consultation. All entries will be checked by both the Japanese language instructor and the Organizing Committee.

Registration forms must be completed and submitted via Google Forms **by 5 p.m. EST on Friday, February 13, 2026**. Should any issue arise at the time of registration, the participant should consult their Japanese language instructor.

Space is limited and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis according to the submitted form's timestamp.

In the case of Freestyle Format participation as a group, members must designate a representative, but all must register individually by completing and submitting the form. The last team member to submit their form will determine the team's official registration date and time.

Participant names and speech titles will appear on the program as they appear in the registration form. Any change must be requested by Japanese language instructors. Modifications in speech titles will not be possible once contest material preparation has begun; only correction of errors will then be accepted.

For any questions related to contest rules, students should contact their instructor.

CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES

Certificates and prizes will be awarded at the jury's discretion. Participation certificates and/or prizes may also be given.

