

# JCCI Scholars

MEET THE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR THE  
2025-2026 PROGRAMMES

## 1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and your background?

Hello everyone! My name is Alfred, and I am currently a third-year Mathematics student at the National University of Singapore. I am also pursuing a second major in Statistics, along with minors in Japanese Language Studies and Artificial Intelligence. Outside of academics, my hobby is folding origami, which I started when I was nine years old. In particular, I enjoy folding origami roses and cranes, and making decorations out of them.



## Alfred Tan

One-Year Waseda  
Scholarship Recipient  
Sep 2025 – Jul 2026

## 2. What inspired you to choose Japan as your study destination?

Last year, I had the opportunity to participate in a summer immersion programme at NUS, which allowed me to experience Japan firsthand for a month. During this time, I made many Japanese friends and was able to catch a glimpse of Japan's rich and vibrant culture. I was fascinated by how Japan felt similar to Singapore in its urban development, yet had such a distinct and vibrant culture of its own. However, I felt that one month was far too short to truly understand and experience all that Japan has to offer. Given this valuable opportunity to study in Japan provided by JCCI, I am eager to deepen the friendships I have made, learn more about the lifestyle, further explore Japanese culture, and strengthen my connection with Japan.

## 3. What do you intend to study at the university in Japan?

While my primary field of study is Mathematics, I would like to broaden my academic experience by taking courses related to Japanese culture, economy, lifestyle, and traditional arts and crafts. This would be an excellent opportunity to expand my worldview and learn beyond my primary discipline. I also plan to continue improving my Japanese language skills, which will enable me to communicate more effectively with the friends I have made and better appreciate the nuances of daily life and culture in Japan. I hope to gain a more holistic and immersive understanding of Japan through this opportunity.

"I felt that one month was far too short to truly understand and experience all that Japan has to offer."



#### **4. In what ways do you hope to contribute to stronger ties between Singapore and Japan in the future?**

By deepening my knowledge of Japan's history, culture, and society, I aim to foster stronger connections between people from both Singapore and Japan. I believe that communication and mutual understanding are important for maintaining healthy, long-lasting relationships. In the future, I hope to be in a career and position where I can support companies and initiatives that work toward building closer ties between the two countries, and to play a meaningful role in connecting people by facilitating communication through my skills and experiences.



## **Cheryl Lim**

One-Year Waseda  
Scholarship Recipient  
Sep 2025 – Jul 2026



#### **1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and your background?**

Hello everyone! I am Cheryl Lim, and I am currently studying Business Administration at the National University of Singapore! I also have a minor in Japanese Language Studies as well. During my free time, I like to play the electric bass and sing!

**"I believe that spending an extended period immersed in the language and culture is essential for achieving true proficiency and cultural understanding."**

#### **2. What inspired you to choose Japan as your study destination?**

My interest in Japan began through my love for Japanese music. I was drawn to the emotions and stories conveyed through the songs, and this sparked a strong desire to truly understand the meaning behind the lyrics rather than just enjoying the melody. Motivated by this, I started learning Japanese. As I progressed, I realized that the language opened a window into a rich and fascinating culture that extended far beyond music — into everyday life, traditions, values, and ways of thinking.

Later, I had the opportunity to go on a short-term exchange program to Aomori through NUS. Living in Japan, even for a short time, was a transformative experience. It allowed me to experience Japanese culture firsthand — not just through textbooks or media, but through daily interactions with local people, participating in cultural activities, and adapting to a new environment. This immersion deepened my appreciation for Japan's way of life and made me realize how much more there is to learn and experience. It also highlighted how much further I needed to go in developing my Japanese language skills to communicate more naturally and build deeper connections.

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This experience inspired me to pursue a longer-term exchange in Japan. I believe that spending an extended period immersed in the language and culture is essential for achieving true proficiency and cultural understanding. I hope to not only improve my Japanese to a high functional level but also to build lasting relationships and gain deeper insights into Japanese society. Ultimately, I am excited to challenge myself, grow both personally and academically, and lay the foundation for contributing meaningfully to the ties between Singapore and Japan in the future.

### **3. What do you intend to study at the university in Japan?**

As I am currently minoring in Japanese Language, I intend to take up the Japanese Language courses to improve my Japanese language proficiency by the end of the scholarship. Additionally, I would like to take on modules to deepen my understanding of Japan's rich tradition and culture. An example would be the courses "Japanese Art History" and "Art and Lifestyle of Japan: as seen through Two Centuries of Japanese Arts and Crafts". I also plan to try out other interesting modules such as Japanese philosophy, photography, psychology, to aid in my holistic development.



### **4. In what ways do you hope to contribute to stronger ties between Singapore and Japan in the future?**

In the future, I aspire to contribute to stronger ties between Singapore and Japan by building a career that bridges both cultures. Studying in Japan will allow me to immerse myself deeply in the language, society, and business environment, providing me with the firsthand experience needed to foster genuine cross-cultural understanding. I am committed to working hard to improve my Japanese proficiency, as I believe Japanese language is key to meaningful communication and respectful collaboration.

One of my strengths is building connections with others. I truly enjoy meeting people from different backgrounds, learning about their cultures, and understanding their goals and aspirations. I am confident that this ability will allow me to facilitate partnerships between Singaporean and Japanese individuals and organizations.

In the long term, I hope to work in Japan, where I can contribute directly to strengthening economic and cultural relations between our two countries. By combining my understanding of Singapore's global outlook with the cultural insights gained from living and studying in Japan, I aim to support cross-border initiatives, encourage collaboration, and help both sides navigate differences with mutual respect. Ultimately, I am passionate about playing a role in building a future where Singapore and Japan grow even closer through shared values, innovation, and trust.

## **Clare Lin**

One-Year  
International Christian  
University (ICU)  
Scholarship Recipient  
Aug 2025 – Jun 2026



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## 1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and your background?

Hello! I'm Clare, a second-year History undergraduate at Nanyang Technological University. I am currently pursuing a minor in Linguistics, and Modern Languages with a focus in Japanese. I love running, finding exciting cafes and restaurants to eat at, and playing Judo in my free time.

## 2. What inspired you to choose Japan as your study destination?

Since young, I've always loved Japanese culture and entertainment due to the influence of my older siblings, who exposed me to shows like the Kamen Rider Series and films by Studio Ghibli. But after getting the chance to do several research papers on the Ainu people of Hokkaido, and studies on Japanese ethnic identity and culture in the past few semesters, I've come to be even more invested in wanting to learn more about Japan. That is, on a deeper academic, cultural and linguistic level.

I believe studying in Japan would also allow me to study Japanese history more in-depth, and even visit some of the historical sites I have researched about. As I also started playing Judo in university, I hope to experience Japanese Judo and learn more about its origin and philosophy. I am excited to immerse myself in Japan's vibrant culture and language through this opportunity that JCCI has given me.

**"I am excited to immerse myself in Japan's vibrant culture and language through this opportunity that JCCI has given me."**

## 3. What do you intend to study at the university in Japan?

As I love studying about East Asian History, I intend to take modules related to Japanese culture and perhaps even public policy. I am also quite interested in translation and interpretation, and hope to take the course "Interpreting in Society" which explores Japanese-English interpretation in different contexts. As one of my goals by the end of this one year journey is to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test at the N1 level, I also plan to enroll in the Japanese language classes at ICU. By doing so, I wish to enhance my comprehension of more complex societal issues,



## 4. In what ways do you hope to contribute to stronger ties between Singapore and Japan in the future?

I hope to return armed with a better understanding of Singapore-Japan relations, as well as a better understanding of Japan's socio-political landscape in relation to the world. As someone who intends to work in, or with foreign relations in future, I hope to be able to leverage on my experience and insights gained in my year in Japan (and hopefully more to come!) to foster stronger bilateral ties. By working on my Japanese language skills, I also hope to ease communication between English and Japanese speakers in future.

### **About the JCCI Scholarship**

*Established in 1995 by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry Singapore Foundation, the scholarship provides Singaporean students with the opportunity to study and live in Japan for a year, promoting cultural and educational exchange.*

***We thank all JCCI members for their generous donations in making this meaningful opportunity possible!***

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