

## Exchange Student Possibility (Supplemental Information)

### CONTENTS

- I. Background
- II. Requirements/Details of Hosting a Student Through the Laurasian Institute/Japan Foundation
- III. Advantages to Hosting A Student, Sponsored by the Laurasian Institute, Japan Foundation
- IV. Additional Information Regarding the 88 Student Cap
- V. The Evolution of Sheridan Japanese School as a Training Institution and Hub For Japanese Language and Culture
- VI. Conclusion

### I. Background

**A. Purpose of Document:** To provide supplemental and clarifying information regarding the requirements and benefits hosting a one-year Japanese exchange student through the Laurasian Institute and Japan Foundation, based in Seattle and Los Angeles respectively.

**B. Background:** This opportunity was brought to Andrew Scott, Japanese Program Director, Sheridan Japanese School by the Laurasian Institute, in Seattle, Washington, the co-sponsor of our two-year JLEAP grant (2012-2014) providing a trained Japanese language instructor for two years, with no cost for the Sheridan Japanese School, and with all insurance, salary, visa processing, performed by the Laurasian Institute. Due to the strength and success of our JLEAP application, the Laurasian Institute expressed an interest in establishing a multi-year (non-binding) relationship with SJS to host foreign exchange students, and serve as a "partner" school in the West Coast. All applications have been waived, and the Sheridan Japanese School is their top choice.

### **C. Organizations Involved**

**1. Primary Organization: Laurasian Institute, Seattle, WA.** This is an organization which in partnership with the Japan Foundation LA., provides both trained\* Japanese interns provide exchange opportunities for students from various countries.

*\*Trained: 2-3 year experience with teaching the Japanese language. In comparison to organizations such as Amity International (previous interns: Sugimoto, Ogura, Igarashi), interns are heavily screened for specific teaching experience related to Japanese language instruction.*

In terms of the relationship with Sheridan Japanese School :

- Relationship established 3/2012, with Andrew Scott's successful application for the two-year JLEAP/intern grant
- The Laurasian Institute has indicated (and ready to commit formally) to the following:
  - Providing us with an intern for two years, cost-free, minus homestay placement; host-family will be provided with approximately \$500/month, and the intern's salary/benefits/insurance will be covered by the Japanese government.
  - Providing us with a multi-year opportunity to host high-school-level, English proficient Japanese exchange students. All fees, paperwork, etc., will be completed by the institute. SJS is responsible for academics, and finding a host-family. They have waived all typical applications and screening protocol (for SJS)
  - Formally recognizing our school as a national/international partner school. Andrew Scott

has been formally invited to serve as regional coordinator for three Laurasian students.

**2. Secondary Organization: The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles.** This is the international organization, supporting anything related to Japanese language instruction/learning. Andrew Scott, Japanese Program director, through board membership (ATJO, COFLT, NCJLT) and several successful grants, has established a long-term (approximately eight years) relationship with this foundation. As a result, this organization has provided the following:

-2005-2006	One-month, fully paid institute in Japan for Andrew Scott
-2009	Two-week, fully paid study tour to Japan for Andrew Scott
-2009-11	(With Kathryn Mueller as chief grant applicant) Provided us with the <i>Japan Foundation Special Salary Assistance Grant</i> , valued at \$60000 over two years, with an additional \$2000 provided to supplement our Japanese language materials.
-2012-2014	Co-Sponsoring with the Laurasian Institute, awarded us the JLEAP grant for two years. (Approximately \$40000/year value)
-2012~	Numerous grants are available for materials, taiko performances, etc.

## II. Requirements/Details of Hosting a Student Through the Laurasian Institute/Japan Foundation

### **A. The Student**

1. High-School-level, over 15 years old, with moderate English proficiency (formally assessed), screened heavily by the Laurasian Institute. (Please consult the SSD policy on foreign exchange students)
2. The student will be with us for school-year 2012-13 (August through June)
3. The student will participate as an assistant in Japanese classes, but will participate in all SJS activities and classes (for credit)
4. The student will be responsible for additional living money, activity fees (if she decides to play sports, go on trips, etc.

### **B. Sheridan Japanese School's Responsibility**

1. *Fiscal Responsibility:* As per the requirements of a J-1 visa (see also the SSD policy), no tuition will be paid to the school district/SJS. Insurance, travel, visa fees will be provided by the student/Laurasian institute. If this student is unsuccessful and we need to send her back to Japan, we will not be responsible for any costs.
2. *Academic Responsibility:* She will participate in all classes as a "regular" student and will receive a transcript from us. Andrew Scott will provide support/tutoring. for her if language proficiency is lacking. He/she will return immediately to Japan after our school year, and will not be seeking a US/SJS/SSD diploma.
3. *Other responsibilities:* Arranging a host-family from August '12 to June '13. Andrew Scott, will be the site coordinator. If I get board approval, I will start immediately. Likely our school community will jump at this opportunity.

### III. Advantages to Hosting A Student, Sponsored by the Laurasian Institute, Japan Foundation

#### **A. Relationships and Networking**

1. As this foreign-exchange student is co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation LA, our longest, most consistent financial supporter (approximately \$140000 from 2010-2014), participation in this program demonstrates our willingness to both maintain this relationship and ensure that it is mutually beneficial. This is a key to receiving grants from them. Refusing a program that they are providing could jeopardize this relationship.

2. This will begin a prosperous relationship with the Laurasian Institute. As they are both responsible for intern and exchange student placement, their organization's assistance is extremely beneficial for maintaining the quality and size of our Japanese language program. They have committed already to sending us future interns and exchange students.

3. As the Japanese Program Director, Andrew Scott, will serve as regional coordinator for the Laurasian Institutes exchange program, we will be placed in touch and form relationships with several additional schools on the west coast .

4. As we are making a relationship (hopefully many more in the future) with a Japanese high-school student AND their home-institutions, we are forging potential sister-school relationships, and perhaps sponsors for future travel to Japan.

#### **B. Dissemination and Promotion of Our School**

1. Through participation in the Japan Foundation/Laurasian Institute's programs, we are given multiple chances to gain publicity through their website and other forms of media.

2. It would be a huge promotional tool for us, and is well-timed as we received the JLEAP grant.

3. Articles will be written in local newspapers, state-wide and national newsletters, and at presentations given by the Japanese program staff, at both local and national conferences. We would continue to cement our position as not only one of the strongest Japanese programs in the states, but as a national leader and hub for language training, instruction, and leadership.

#### **C. Learning Benefits for our SJS Community**

1. Sheridan Japanese School students will gain a further opportunity to experience Japanese language and culture first-hand, through not only classes, but in all school activities, for an entire year, rather than in temporary programs such as Linfield/Kyoai visits.

2. This student will serve as an assistant in Japanese classes.

3. As this student is longterm, our students will have numerous opportunities to both use the Japanese language and culture.

4. Through our participation in this program, we will establish sister-school relationships which could lead to Skype interaction with schools in Japan, travel and hosting by their schools, and possibilities for our students to travel as exchange students to Japan.

### IV. Additional Information Regarding the 88 Student Cap/ SSD Policy

Even though the Japanese Program Director is unfamiliar with the details of the MU/ cap of *eighty-eight students*, *this further information may assist in making your decision:*

**1. Tuition/ADMW Payments:** Even though this student is over our 88 cap, as described in the United States Department of State and Sheridan School District Policy on Foreign Exchange students, this student is **not required to, must not pay tuition to anyone (SJS or SSD)**. This

is a stipulation of his/her J-1 visa. He/she can be made responsible for all other non-tuition/ADMW fees.

2. All policies, as stated by the Sheridan School District 48J, regarding Foreign Exchange *Students are met and satisfied. (age, host-family, etc.)*

## **2. Questions to ponder:**

a. As the student **cannot** pay tuition to **either** the Sheridan School District or Sheridan Japanese School, as stipulated by the nature of his/her visa, does this affect our firm cap of 88 students? (In the case that the board does not make this person #88)

b. As this student is receiving only a transcript from us, is temporary, and **is not** pursuing graduation/diploma, and **not required to take MAPS/OAKS testing, in the United States**, does this affect the 88 cap as stated in the MU.?

## **V. The Evolution of Sheridan Japanese School as a Training Institution and Hub For Japanese Language and Culture**

### **A. Our Reputation as a Training Hub**

Even though we are located in Sheridan, and have a cap of 88 students, have limited funds, we are going through a large-scale evolution of our Japanese program (and SJS in general). Due specifically to the relationships between the Japan Foundation, Laurasian Institute, local and national boards, local colleges and universities, *we have been able to expand not only what we offer to the SJS community but to potential Japanese language teachers, nationally.* We are seen as one of the strongest Japanese programs in the states, and are seen as reliable choices for grants and other programs, cutting through a great deal of red-tape. With this in mind, please look at what these relationships have done to contribute to our school's image in the foreign language community:

**1. Board Service:** *The entire Japanese staff is on the boards of the major Japanese and foreign language organizations.* Rather than just participating in conferences and being passive members of these organizations, we are leading these organizations, and thus as a result are given exposure to Japanese organizations such as the Japan Foundation and Laurasian Institute. All Japanese student-teachers are required to participate in these organizations, and work is done to establish networks for them to receive obtain jobs and professional development.

We are not perceived as being a staff looking for a handout, we are seen as leaders that assist significantly in developing the programs these organizations offer. As a result of the reputation we have taken numerous years to establish, we are often placed highest on the priority-list for grants, etc.

**2. Training:** Each year, we gain more student teachers from Willamette, Pacific, not to mention the JLEAP interns, and are respected as a national foreign language-training hub. We are working on developing a wide-scale foreign language methods training program to supplement our annual conference presentations. As mentioned above, our Japanese staff often lead numerous professional development workshops and often chair state-wide foreign language conferences.

**3. Ambassadors:** Due to the success of SJS and the work the Japanese language program staff has done, we are perceived as ambassadors for the ODE, Japan Foundation, etc., and are on the forefront of the sister-state relationship between Oregon and Toyama, Japan. We have

been recommended to receive and train an exchange teacher from Toyama (from May 2012 , for 18 months)

#### **B. SJS and the Japanese Language Program in 2012/13**

In the past three years, we have received grants, doubled the size of our Japanese language program (hours and proficiency-levels), established a successful and sustainable immersion camp, and established ourselves as a training hub. In 2012/13, we will have an exciting year for our school:

1. The first large-scale SJS trip to Japan, taking 22 students, and six chaperones (including Mary Stern, County Commissioner, Consuelo Christenson (Linfield College), and potentially a representative of the ODE.
2. Selection to be a participant/trainer in the JLEAP program, and receiving a free and experienced Japanese language instructor for two years.
3. Establishing a program and a grant to integrate Japanese language and culture into Language Arts/social studies classes. Mclay-sensei was selected to travel to Japan through the Japan Society.
3. Selection to be a delegate for the Toyama-Oregon sister state relationship, with potential of receiving and training another exchange Japanese teacher for 18 months.
4. Selection to present two presentations on our immersion camp, and Skype-based language teaching, at the national ACTFL conference.
5. Potential to establish a long-term mutually beneficial relationship with the Laurasian Institute and continue our relationship with the Japan Foundation.
6. Potential to host an exchange student, and establish sister-school relationships that we are seriously lacking.

As we already have one of the strongest Japanese programs in the state, the participation in the activities above place us as one of the most unique, and strongest Japanese programs in the nation.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

Please excuse the length of this document, but I wanted to stress the importance of the foreign exchange program I have described and hopefully justify the need for quick acceptance. It will not only benefit our students tremendously in 2012/13, it will continue to cement our relationship (for years to come) with the Japan Foundation and the Laurasian Institute, our two greatest supporters/partners. We have worked hard to establish our school as a reliable and successful participant in their programs. As we are dealing with Japanese organizations, refusing this opportunity could work to set this relationship back quite significantly, especially considering that they bypassed their entire application process to encourage us to be a host.

I appreciate your consideration and all of the support you show our school,

Andy Scott