Tanaka Fund 2027

Tanaka Fund Grant to Support
Promising Junior Japanese Studies Scholars

Program Guidelines

October 2026

Application deadline: **February 2, 2027**

Historical Background

The **Tanaka Fund** was established in 1974 as the result of an exchange of gifts between the governments of Canada and Japan. Canada offered $1,000,000 to Japan to promote Canadian studies in Japanese universities, while Japan provided 300 million yen for the enhancement of Japanese Studies in Canadian universities. The funds were used to establish the "Japan Foundation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Japanese Studies in Canadian Universities". Guidelines developed by The Japan Foundation stipulated that the Trust Fund would be administered as an endowment and that the income thereof should be made available for the support and promotion of Japanese Studies at universities and colleges in Canada. Universities Canada has administered the Fund since 1975.

Until 2016, support for Japanese language lectureship at Canadian universities was funded. In 2018, the Tanaka Fund was restructured to focus support on young emerging scholars to foster the next generation of Japanese Studies scholarship in Canada.

We are pleased to announce the call for applications for the **2027 Tanaka Fund Grant to Support Promising Junior Japanese Studies Scholars.**

- Grants up to a maximum of $14,000 are available for Master's and Doctoral level students.
- Grants support a maximum of three months in Japan.
- A total of $100,000 is available in the 2027 competition.
- Applications are due on Tuesday, February 2, 2027.

Program Implementation

Results of the 2027 competition will be announced in April 2027, and all travel must be completed by March 31, 2028. All reports must be submitted within 30 days after the funded travel ends.

Eligibility

The 2027 Tanaka Fund competition is open to:

- Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- Doctoral or master's level students who:
    - Are enrolled in a Canadian university.
    - Are conducting research related to Japan (comparative research included) with methods in the humanities and social sciences.
- Master's students who are conducting research towards their master's thesis.
- Doctoral students who are conducting research towards their dissertation proposal.
- **PhD candidates are not eligible for the Tanaka Fund.**
- Priority will be given to applicants whose most recent degree was no more than five years ago.

Conditions

1. The Tanaka Fund Grant is tenable in Japan but travel to other locations may be considered if justified.
2. While in Japan, grantees are expected to devote their full-time to the pursuit of the goals described in their application.

3. Grantees will receive ethics approval before travelling (if applicable).
4. If a successful applicant is offered any other grant whose duration overlaps with the Tanaka Fund Grant, they must decline one of the grants for the overlapping period.
5. No extension to the duration of travel to Japan (supported by the grant) can be allowed for any reason.
6. Grantees are responsible for making the necessary arrangements for visas, flights, institutional affiliations, accommodations, and health insurance.

Funding

Eligible expenses:

- Airfare – roundtrip economy-class airfare; the most direct route from the scholar's residence.
- Research expenses (please refer to the list of ineligible expenses).
- Daily stipend - $150.00 CAD.

Ineligible expenses:

- Indirect costs – expenses that are not essential to carrying out the specific project.
- Materials/equipment that may be used on a permanent/ongoing basis, such as computers, PC supplies, office supplies (e.g., photocopiers, electric appliances), or furniture (e.g., desks, chairs).
- International airfare exceeding the estimated fare for the shortest route from the city of boarding to the destination using economy class.
- Entertainment costs, recreation costs, and costs related to language study or other skills acquisition.

Disbursements:

- Universities Canada will disburse the grant in two instalments:

    1. 80% of the grant will be disbursed upon receipt of the travel dates and signed grant agreement.
    2. 20% of the award will be disbursed upon approval of the scholar's narrative and financial reports (to be submitted no later than 30 days after the funded travel ends).

    Unspent funds must be returned to Universities Canada.

Application Information

All applications must be received by Universities Canada no later than **Tuesday, February 2, 2027**.

Applications must be submitted through the Universities Canada online portal https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca/s_Login.jsp

Register an account through the link by clicking on the "Register" button. Once your email has been confirmed and the account password is set up, you will be redirected to the landing page. Here, you can search for the Tanaka Fund and apply.

No emailed, faxed or hard copy applications will be considered. Incomplete applications will not be

submitted to the selection committee.

To be considered complete, an application must include:

- A complete application form (through the online portal).
- Transcripts.
- A complete budget form.
- A current curriculum vitae.
- Two reference forms or equivalent letters of reference.

Selection Committee

Universities Canada will appoint a selection committee to review applications. All applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision in April 2027. All decisions are final.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria are as follows:

A. *How this research will contribute to Japanese Studies in Canada (20 points)*
Each proposal will be assessed on the extent to which it contributes to the field of Japanese Studies (a subcategory of area studies centered around social sciences and humanities research on Japan, which includes the study of language, culture, literature, politics, history, religion, economics, philosophy, film, arts, and science) in Canada, which includes dissemination of research results.

B. Relevance and innovativeness of proposed research (20 points)
The extent to which the proposed research is related to the creation, dissemination, and sustained application of knowledge to support Japanese Studies in Canada, as well as explaining the importance of the proposed travel to achieve expected results.

C. Objectives, methodology, and results (40 points)
The clarity of the project objectives, as well as the soundness and viability of the proposed methodology, action plan, and expected results.

D. Applicant qualifications (10 points)
Suitability of the applicant, including qualifications and language capacity.

E. Budget (10 points)
Extent to which the proposed budget is realistic, well-supported, and if it presents an efficient use of resources.

Reporting Requirements

All Tanaka Fund recipients must submit a final narrative and financial report (a report template will be provided by Universities Canada).

All reports must address the following topics:

- A 250-word summary of the project rationale, objectives, methodology, and results,

emphasizing outcomes attributable in whole or in part to the Tanaka Fund supported activities, including how the research advances Japanese Studies in Canada.

- A description of the methodology and activities.
- A list of all outputs, results, and achievements.
- Overall assessment and recommendations.
- Two or three high resolution photos from the project, with captions, that can be used by The Japan Foundation in publications.

For any questions, please email tanaka@univcan.ca