Application Guidelines for the Education in Ireland Cup – First Edition

A new English Language Speech Contest based in Kanazawa City.

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**I. Introduction**

In June of 2024, Education in Ireland and Kanazawa University will proudly present the inaugural Education in Ireland Cup. This is a brand-new English language speech contest based in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture. Both institutions are known for their commitment to educational excellence. This collaboration will offer a unique opportunity for both high school students and university level students based in Ishikawa Prefecture. Students will showcase their English language abilities, speak on topics of personal interest, and display their presentation skills in an exciting and unique setting.

Education in Ireland is responsible for the promotion of Irish Higher Education Institutions overseas. It is a key player in Ireland's global standing and greatly contributes to Ireland’s reputation for education excellence. Education in Ireland is managed by Enterprise Ireland under the authority of the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science.

Kanazawa University is dedicated to global perspectives and is consistently producing graduates with exceptional language proficiency. The university's modern facilities and diverse learning environment reflect its commitment to a comprehensive education. In collaboration with Education in Ireland, this competition showcases Kanazawa University's dedication to fostering linguistic talents and cross-cultural communication.

Ireland, with its rich cultural heritage and world-renowned welcoming environment, is an increasingly attractive destination for Japanese students. Through this collaboration with Kanazawa University, Education in Ireland emphasizes their commitment to showcasing the brilliant opportunities available for Japanese students in Ireland.

We warmly invite enthusiastic individuals to join this celebration of language, culture, and academic brilliance. Experience the blend of Kanazawa University's academic distinction and Ireland's allure as a destination for education excellence.

**II. Contest Details and Important Dates**

1. **Name**: The Education in Ireland Cup – First Edition.
2. **Purpose**: The purpose of this contest is to promote English language proficiency amongst Ishikawa Prefecture students and to provide them with an exciting opportunity to showcase their English language skills. Furthermore, the contest aims to introduce to Ishikawa Prefecture students the excellent study abroad opportunities that exist in Ireland.
3. **Event Organisers**: Education in Ireland and Kanazawa University.
4. **Categories**:
5. Senior High School Students. (All grades may apply. This category also includes 1st to 3rd year students from Ko-sen schools).
6. University Students. (All years from undergraduate and postgraduate may apply. This category also includes 4th and 5th year students and Senko-ka students from Ko-sen schools).
7. **Eligibility:**
8. Students (both senior high school and university) who are, at the time of competition (23 June 2024), studying in Ishikawa Prefecture, are **eligible** to apply.
* Students who live outside of Ishikawa Prefecture, but study [in person] at a school or university in Ishikawa Prefecture, are **eligible** to apply.
1. Students who will no longer be studying in Ishikawa Prefecture, at the time of the Final Round (23 June 2024), are **ineligible** to apply.
2. All Students who apply must be able to participate **in-person** in the Final Round (23 June 2024).
3. **Number of Rounds**: Two.
4. Preliminary Round: Application to be submitted.
5. Final Round: In-person speech at Kanazawa University.
6. **Schedule of Preliminary Round**:
7. Preliminary Round Application Period: From 9am 1 April 2024 to 5pm 26 April 2024.
8. Announcement of Preliminary Round Results: Mid-May 2024.
9. Regardless of the outcome, all applicants will receive notifications of the result of their Preliminary Round application via email notification.
10. **Date of Final Round**: 23 June 2024.
11. **Expected number of finalists**: 16 (Senior High School Category), 16 (University Category).
12. **Final Round Venue**: Kanazawa University.
13. **Contest Support**: Proudly supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Japan, Emerald Cultural Institute, University College Cork, Griffith College and ICDL.

**III. Speech Parameters and Evaluation Process:**

1. **Speech Length:**

A. High School Student Category: More than 2 minutes but less than 3 minutes.

B. University Student Category: More than 3 minutes but less than 4 minutes.

(Note: Time excludes reading title, school name, and personal details).

1. **Speech Theme:**

A. The theme for this year’s contest is Aspirations.

B. Applicants are encouraged, and indeed will be awarded additional points, for speeches which include creative and original perspectives on this theme.

C. Applicants should choose topics (within the theme of Aspirations) which are of importance and of interest to them. This may include Traditions and Modernity, Family, Friendship, Sports, Career, Travel, Academia etc.

D. Applicants are responsible for determining whether the content of their speech aligns with the theme of Aspirations.

Note: Kanazawa University’s future vision is related to *Kokorozashi* (Aspirations). For an insight into this vision, please visit the university’s website:

<https://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/e/about-ku/vision>.

1. **Evaluation Criteria:**
2. **Preliminary Round:** Evaluation is conducted through the assessment of the written manuscript and the audio file. Judges may comprise of members from Kanazawa University, Education in Ireland, Emerald Cultural Institute, University College Cork, and Griffith College.
3. **Final Round:** Beyond assessing English grammar, pronunciation, and presentation abilities, the evaluation also considers the structure of the speech, the persuasive quality of the presentation, and the originality of the content [within the overall theme of Aspirations]. In addition to this, each participant [in both categories] will be asked 1 question by 1 judge at the end of their speech. This question will be related to the participant’s speech. Their answer, along with the evaluation criteria listed above, will be used to create a comprehensive assessment of the participant’s performance.

**NB:** Participants are not required to memorise and read their scripts verbatim. Participants are actively encouraged to speak in a natural, free flowing way which follows the general course of their submitted script.

**IV. Awards**

* Please note that all advertised prizes are subject to change without prior notice.
1. Prizes for the Winner of Each Category:

A. Senior High School Student Category Prize:

The winner of the Senior High School Student Category will be awarded a prize from Emerald Cultural Institute. This prize will allow the winner to study at Emerald Cultural Institute’s Dublin Campus for 2 weeks. This prize will fully cover the cost of tuition and home stay. **This prize will not include transport between Japan and Ireland. The recipient of this prize must self-fund all travel.** The winner may choose to claim this prize in 2025, if they cannot travel to Ireland in 2024.

B. University Student Category Prize:

The winner of the University Student Category will be awarded a prize from University College Cork. This prize will allow the winner to study at University College Cork for 4 weeks and will include accommodation for the corresponding 4 weeks. This prize will fully cover the cost of tuition and accommodation. **This prize will not include transport between Japan and Ireland. The recipient of this prize must self-fund all travel.** The winner may choose to claim their prize in 2025, if they cannot travel to Ireland in 2024.

1. Prizes for the Runner-up of the University Student Category:

A. The First Runner Up:

The first runner up of the University Student Category will be awarded a prize from Griffith College. This prize will allow the winner to study at Griffith College’s Dublin Campus for 4 weeks. This prize will fully cover the cost of tuition and home stay. **This prize will not include transport between Japan and Ireland. The recipient of this prize must self-fund all travel.** The winner may choose to claim this prize in 2025, if they cannot travel to Ireland in 2024.

* The student who is awarded this prize must be 18 years old before they can claim this prize.

B. The Second Runner Up:

The second runner up of the University Student Category will be awarded a prize from Griffith College. This prize will allow the winner to study at Griffith College’s Cork or Limerick Campus [TBC] for 4 weeks and will include accommodation for the corresponding 4 weeks. This prize will fully cover the cost of tuition and accommodation. **This prize will not include transport between Japan and Ireland. The recipient of this prize must self-fund all travel.** The winner may choose to claim their prize in 2025, if they cannot travel to Ireland in 2024.

* The student who is awarded this prize must be 18 years old before they can claim this prize.
1. ICDL is to award the winners and the runners-up of each category additional prizes. The details of these prizes, as well as the number of runners-up who will receive a prize, are both to be confirmed prior to the Final Round.
2. All participants who reach the Final Round will be awarded a certificate of participation.
3. Additional prizes may be confirmed prior to or during the Final Round.

**V. Application Process**

Eligible senior high school students and university students who wish to participate in this contest must follow the Application Process described below and submit their applications by the specified deadline.

**1. Submission Requirements:**

1. Complete the designated ‘Education in Ireland Cup – Application Form’ (downloadable at [大学留学 – アイルランド政府商務庁 (enterprise-ireland.or.jp)](https://www.enterprise-ireland.or.jp/archives/category/%E5%A4%A7%E5%AD%A6%E7%95%99%E5%AD%A6)).
2. Prepare a speech manuscript:
* Please pay close attention to the required format:
1. Use A4 size in horizontal writing using a Microsoft Word file.
2. Do NOT include participant’s name, school/university name or grade/year anywhere within this manuscript.
3. Save the manuscript data in a Microsoft Word (doc./docx.) file.
4. Use the manuscript title as the file name (E.g., Shared Irish and Japanese Aspirations.doc).
5. Prepare the audio file:
	* 1. This must be recorded by the participant.
		2. Participants may use the built-in voice recorder app on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer to record their speech.
		3. Any recording device is acceptable, so long as the audio file is saved in mp3, m4a, or wav format and can be attached to an email.
		4. Do NOT include the title, participant name, school name or grade in the recording.
		5. Use the title of the manuscript as the file name (see above).
		6. Do NOT include names, school names, etc. in the file name.
		7. After recording, please be sure to listen to the recording to confirm that the speech is clearly audible.

**2. Submission Method and Details**:

1. Ensure all items (1.A), (1.B) and (1.C) are complete and submit via email by the deadline.
2. University students must submit their own applications. Senior high school students may either submit their own applications [preferred option] or request their school to submit applications on their behalf.
3. For schools submitting more than 1 application, please submit 1 application at a time. If attempts are made to submit multiple applications on 1 email, the email may be automatically blocked by the Organisers’ email servers due to excessive size.
4. Submission is via email only. In case of incomplete application or late submission, the application will automatically be disqualified.
5. For applicants who successfully reach the Final Round: Minor changes may be made to the wording of the script (between Mid-May and 23 June), so long as the theme, general content and structure of the speech remains the same. Any changes must be minimal. These changes do not need to be reported to the contest organisers. Please note that the title cannot be changed.

**3. Submission Deadline:**

A. 5pm, Friday, 26 April 2024.

B. No application received after this deadline will be accepted for any reason.

**4. Submission Address:**

A. Please submit your application by email to EducationinIrelandCup@enterprise-ireland.com

B. Please write ‘Application for Education in Ireland Cup’ as the title of your email.

C. Please be sure to attach your application to the email.

**VI. Contact**

Inquiries can be made by sending an email to the following email addresses:

For inquiries through English:
Mr. Jonathan Kelly,
Education in Ireland,
EducationinIrelandCup@enterprise-ireland.com.

For inquiries through Japanese:
Professor Hidehiko Adachi,
Kanazawa University,
hadachi@staff.kanazawa-u.ac.jp.
(Please Cc EducationinIrelandCup@enterprise-ireland.com).

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