



Dublin-Laurens
International
Committee

2024 DUBLIN-OSAKI, JAPAN SISTER-CITY EXCHANGE

Student Application Cover Letter

A Sister-City relationship was established between Dublin and Osaki on May 29, 1998 to foster good relations between the cities, as they are both home to YKK. Since 1998, more than 100 students and adults have traveled between the two cities, building lifelong relationships. YKK-AP, the City of Osaki, Japan and the City of Dublin's International Committee work together to provide this opportunity to share their unique culture with one another. In 2023, Dublin had the honor of hosting Japanese students and chaperones. In 2024, we will be sending nine students and three chaperones to Japan to tour Tokyo, and visit Osaki, staying with host families. Students are to be ambassadors for our city; therefore, they should be in good standing academically and have knowledge of our local area. They should be friendly, flexible, cooperative, responsible, attentive, and have a sense of adventure. Selected students must be willing to attend informational meetings, and on return, willing to share highlights of the trip with civic or school organizations. Please read over the cover letter and application completely and follow the instructions carefully. Only complete applications will be considered for an interview. Nine students will be selected as ambassadors by a community panel using application information, references, transcript and interview.

Before you proceed, ensure that you qualify by meeting the following minimum requirements:

- Current resident of Laurens County
- A student in 10th, 11th or 12th grade for the 2023-2024 school year.
- In excellent standing both behaviorally and academically with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- No restrictions on international travel from **April 13-23, 2024** with a passport that does not expire before January 2025 OR willing to apply for a passport BEFORE interview date.

Cost paid by student participant: \$2,000. In addition, students are also responsible for the cost to obtain a passport, and spending money for souvenirs and incidentals.

Important Dates:

August 1, 2023 Applications available on CityofDublin.org; School Counselors notified.

September 5, 2023 Reminders go out about the Application deadline to school counselors.

September 11, 2023 Application Deadline. No incomplete or late applications will be accepted. Application must include references and current high school transcript.

September 18, 2023 Students, parents, and school counselors are notified of selection for interview and interview time by email. Maximum number of students interviewed is 20 for the nine positions.

September 25, 2023 Selected students interviewed at Dublin City Hall from 3-6 pm. Last date for students to provide a copy of passport or passport application AND parent/guardian permission slip acknowledging cost, dates, and requirements of trip.

September 26, 2023 All interviewed students, parents and counselors are notified of selection status by email.

November 1, 2023 First Payment (\$800) Due.

January 1, 2024 Second Payment (\$600) Due.

February 1, 2024 Third and Final Payment (\$600) Due.

March, 2024 2-3 trip & cultural informational sessions; dates/time TBD

April 13 - 23, 2024 Trip to Osaki, Japan

Complete Application to be emailed to dcckolbie@dublinga.org OR delivered to Dublin City Hall care of Dublin-Laurens International Committee by 5pm on September 11, 2023. All documents listed must be delivered together to be considered complete:

- Completed 2 page Application with short-answer questions on separate paper(s)
- 2 letters of recommendation from adults who have worked with you in some organization or supervisory capacity describing why you would be a good ambassador for Dublin-Laurens County.
- Copy of your current high school transcript.
- Headshot similar to a passport photo (jpg) OR copy of your passport.

***Any questions, contact Dublin-Laurens International Committee Chair:
Sara Kolbie: dckolbie@dublinga.org 478-697-0966***

STUDENT APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name as on passport:			
Date of birth	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	Mobile Phone
Address	City	State	Zip
Email			
High School		Current Grade	

PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN'S INFORMATION / PRIMARY EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name	Relationship
Address	City Zip Code Home Phone
Email	Mobile Phone
Employer	Work Phone

HEALTH

Are you able to walk 5+ miles/day?	Are you able to lift/carry your own luggage?
Do you take any prescription medication? Please list and describe reason for taking.	Do you have any food sensitivities or special dietary restrictions?
List any other health conditions or disabilities:	Do you have any allergies? Please list:

INSURANCE

Name of Insured	Name of Insurance Company
Address of Insurance Company	Policy Number
Phone	Group Number

Short-Answer (answer on a separate piece of paper)

1. How long have you lived in Laurens County?
2. Where else have you lived?
3. Where is the furthest you have traveled from home?
4. Describe one cultural aspect of Japan you are most interested in experiencing and why.
5. What part of traveling to Japan do you believe will be most challenging and why?
6. What character trait do you have that you think will make you a great selection for this trip and why?
7. What does YKK-AP produce in Dublin, Georgia?
8. What does it mean to you to be an ambassador of your community and country?
9. How many miles is it from Osaka, Japan to Dublin, GA?
10. List and describe your position in your three or four favorite extra-curriculars, hobbies or service activities.

Applicant, please initial that you acknowledge and understand the following requirements:

- I verify I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the application & cover letter.
- The content I provided in this application is true and accurate information.
- I am willing to be a patriotic and respectful ambassador of the United States and of Dublin-Laurens County.
- I understand I must have a valid passport that does not expire until January 2025 OR provide a copy of a passport application and date submitted if I am selected for an interview.
- I understand that I will be responsible for the estimated cost of \$2000 plus money for souvenirs and incidentals.
- I will try any food that is offered without making faces or spitting it out.
- I am open to new experiences and friendly to new people.
- I am willing to learn and use some basic Japanese phrases.
- I am willing to bring my host family a small gift for their kindness.
- I will respectfully listen and attend to my host and chaperones' instructions.
- I understand that making an application does not ensure a position in this program.
- I understand that if chosen, I will be required to attend 3 informational sessions for instruction on culture, language and trip preparation.
- I have my parent or guardian's permission to apply for this opportunity.

Signature of student

Date:

I verify I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the application & cover letter. The content provided in this application is true and accurate information.

Date:

Signature of parent or guardian

