



Ashinaga Africa Initiative 2020

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12:00 GMT FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2019

Ashinaga is a Japan-based non-profit organisation, which provides educational and emotional support to orphaned students. Ashinaga has supported over 100,000 orphans over the last 50 years, and many of its graduates are actively contributing to society in a variety of fields across the world.

Programme Overview

The Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) began in 2014. Its mission is to contribute to Sub-Saharan Africa's expanding role in global development through increasing access to higher education abroad. We support orphaned students who are committed to returning home and initiating change by providing access to full financial support to study at university abroad (equivalent to an undergraduate degree), including tuition, room, travel costs and other necessary fees. The programme has three stages which are described on this page.

The application is open to those who:

1. Have lost one or both parents.
2. Have completed secondary school and passed the national secondary school examination (technical and vocational degrees not accepted) within the last two years (any date after 1st September 2017, including all of 2018 and 2019) or will have completed secondary school and received final exam results before February 28th, 2020.
3. Have citizenship and have completed / are completing high school in one of the following countries: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Kingdom of eSwatini, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
4. Were born after 1st September, 1997.
5. Do not have the means to attend university until graduation without external financial support.
6. Are proficient in English or French.
7. Are regularly ranked in the top 10% of their class during their last 2 or 3 years of secondary school.
8. Are able to participate in the two Ashinaga preparatory programs, over the course of one year, before attending university.
9. Are committed to return home, or to Sub-Saharan Africa, and contribute to society after graduating from university.
10. Have no dependents who could interfere with academic progress.
11. Are in good health and capable of studying abroad.

Study Camp and Preparation Camp

Ashinaga will select students from each Sub-Saharan African country to participate in a Study Camp in Uganda or Senegal from July to December 2020. Anglophone students will normally attend the Camp in Uganda, with Francophone students attending the Camp in Senegal, however the final decision will be made at the point of selection. During the Study Camp, students are assisted in their academic preparation, university applications (to either Japan, the U.K., the U.S.A., or Europe), career planning and leadership development. After completing the Study Camp, the students will progress to a second camp called Preparation Camp. This happens in May and June 2021 after students gain a place at university. Students meet again to prepare for the social, cultural, and academic differences they will discover abroad. Students will then proceed to university in August or September of 2021. All of the costs during both camps are fully covered by Ashinaga.

Students who wish to join our Japanese language track, in which they study in the Japanese language at a university in Japan, will follow a similar schedule, however they will focus on intensive Japanese language learning throughout both Camps. Following the camps in Africa, they will move to Japan to spend one or two years at a language school prior to starting their full university studies.

During University

The AAI helps students access full financial support to study abroad. The support covers the first possible qualification that can be earned, and the costs of a foundation or preparatory course will also be covered if required. Ashinaga has regional offices to support students during studies in Japan, the U.K., the U.S.A., and France. Scholars will participate in a mandatory internship in their home country or Sub-Saharan Africa and join Ashinaga's leadership development programmes. AAI does not select students who wish to study for a second degree or master's degree.

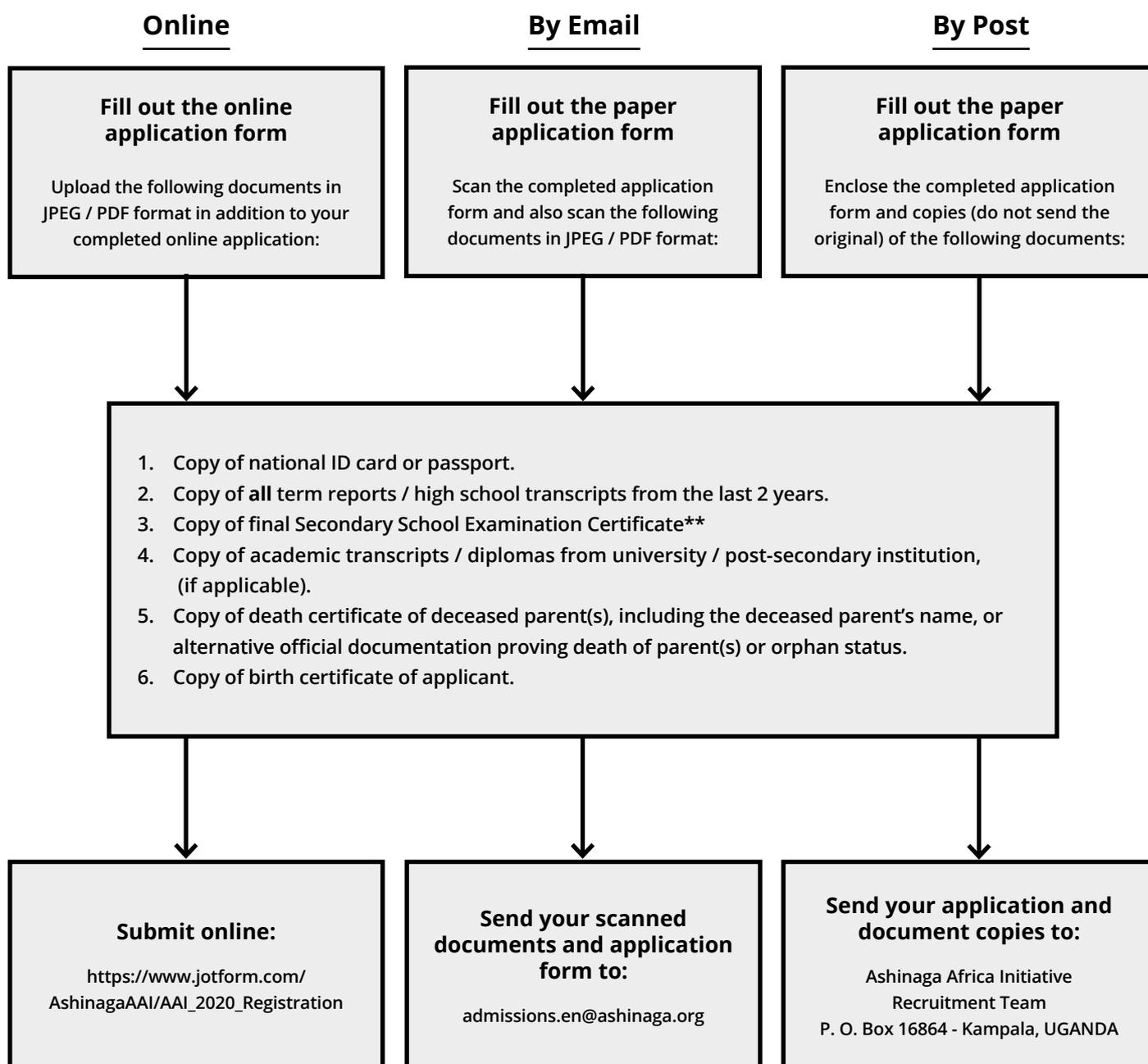
After Graduation

Scholars are required to return to their home country or the region of Sub-Saharan Africa within five years after graduation and contribute to the country/region while living and being a resident there for at least a total of four years within the nine year period after graduating. They will have to contact Ashinaga at least once a year to confirm and provide proof of their activity and residency during this period. If Scholars fail to return, they are required to refund the costs of the financial support they are given in order to fund other AAI Scholars.

How to Apply

There are three ways to apply to the Ashinaga Africa Initiative. Please choose one method and submit all the correct documents before the deadline. If you choose to apply by post please ensure you send your application **by November 1st 2019** to guarantee it arrives on time.

We strongly recommend applying online.



Note: All documents must be submitted in French or English if possible. Use Gregorian (Western) calendar to fill in the application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12:00 GMT FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2019

**For students receiving their examination results after December 13th 2019 and before February 28th 2020 we will ask you to send your examination certificate if you are selected to progress to the second round of the application process.

Please note that ONLY successful candidates will be contacted via email to be invited to the second round of the application process.

This application process is free, and anyone asking for payment at any stage is doing so against the will of Ashinaga.

Important Dates

2nd September 2019
Application opens

13th December 2019
Application deadline

Late January 2020
Successful applicants invited to next application round

Late March 2020
Shortlisted applicants invited to Ashinaga Assessment Day in home country

Late May 2020
Selection results announced

June 2020
Selected applicants prepare for Study Camp in Uganda or Senegal

July 2020
Study Camp Begins

Selection

Applications are open between 2nd September - 13th December 2019. Successful applicants will be invited to a second application round in late January which will be open between 27th January - 28th February 2020. This second round will include additional questions and essays to help us better understand your leadership potential and how you intend to use your university education to help others in the future. Successful applicants from the second round will be invited to the Ashinaga Assessment Day in April 2020 where Ashinaga conducts individual interviews, group activities and sets an examination to better understand students' academic abilities and career goals in Sub-Saharan Africa. Students must bring all original academic documents and identification documents to the interview. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the application process.

Becoming a Scholar

Students will only officially become the Scholars of the "Ashinaga Africa Initiative" after receiving admission from a university and a visa from the potential country of study. Please know that joining the Study and Preparation Camp does NOT guarantee admission to university or visa acceptance. University admission and visa application are the student's own responsibility, but Ashinaga will do its best to support students in both.

Choosing a subject / country / university

Ashinaga takes students' goals and preferences into account, but has the right to make the final decision with regards to selection of major, country and university. Students are able to express their initial choice of major at the time of interview, and a final decision will be made during the course of the Study Camp through consultation with Ashinaga. Scholars are encouraged to apply to the universities that Ashinaga has an existing relationship with, therefore it is not possible for students to choose universities themselves. Please note Ashinaga does not support candidates for medical (doctor), dentistry, veterinary science or pharmacy degrees although it does support three or four-year degrees in biomedicine. In addition, candidates wishing to study engineering should be aware that we will require particularly strong high school grades for a successful application.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many students do you select per country?

Ashinaga takes great care to select and develop our students. We believe in quality over quantity and invest a significant amount of resources in those who are accepted into our programme. As a result of this, to ensure sustainability, we are only able to take about one student per country per year. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to select a student from each country every year.

Why is the age limit 23?

There are two reasons for this. The first is that Ashinaga wants to prioritize young people for this leadership programme, and the second is that students aged 23 or older typically have greater difficulty in obtaining a student visa to study abroad.

Why is the scholarship only for orphans?

Ashinaga is first and foremost an organization that supports the education of orphaned young people.

Can exceptions be made to the eligibility criteria?

You must match all of the eligibility criteria to apply for this programme.

Why only undergraduate level?

As there are many other organizations, universities, and foundations offering funding for masters degrees, we have decided to prioritize students applying for undergraduate university studies.

How will my university/country of study be decided?

This will be decided during the Ashinaga Study Camp for students selected for this programme. It will be decided together with the student, but the final decision ultimately lies with Ashinaga. It will depend on numerous criteria, including visa requirements, language requirements, academic grades, and the availability of the student's desired course of study.

If I applied last year, can I apply again?

As long as you still satisfy the requirements, you are welcome to apply again.

I do not have one of the required documents. What should I do?

All of the required documents listed are necessary to apply, particularly proof of age and proof of the death of a parent. If you do not have a death certificate, then any other official document can be considered, including a court record, affidavit, or an official letter from a local government official.

I am from a French-speaking country but want to study in English. Can I still apply?

Yes, you may still apply. Some students from Francophone countries with sufficient quality English can study in English.

What is assessed in stage 1?

Applicants are scored on their academic performance, with readers looking to identify any patterns in a student's performance. They are compared against all other applicants from their country for that year to produce a country ranking. Applicants are also assessed on their ability to access higher education, with those who have secure access to quality higher education in their field of choice not being eligible for the program. You will submit key eligibility (to prove age and orphan status) and qualification (to prove academic excellence) documents.

What is assessed in stage 2?

Applicants are assessed on their academic performance, the challenges they have faced and overcome, their future plans and their leadership potential. You will submit 2 essays and respond to long and short answer questions.

What is assessed during the Ashinaga Assessment Day?

Applicants are assessed on their knowledge and aptitude, challenges faced and future planning and initiative. You will be assessed through an examination, two interviews and group exercises.

Name	
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Do you have family members abroad? If yes, please specify the number and their activities.

Complete the table below with information about your family members. Note that you do not have to completely fill the table, but you should provide as much detail as possible.

	Full Name (e.g. James Ndoykwe)	Relation (e.g. Step Brother)	Occupation (e.g. Teacher)	Income (please use national currency)	Highest Level of Education (e.g. Secondary School)
Family Member 1					
Family Member 2					
Family Member 3					
Family Member 4					
Family Member 5					
Family Member 6					
Family Member 7					
Family Member 8					
Family Member 9					
Family Member 10					

Name	
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Academic History

When did you or will you graduate from secondary school? 2017 2018 2019 2020

Please list your educational background and qualifications, starting with the most recent:

Date	School / Institution	Qualification
<i>ex.2017-2018</i>	<i>Collingwood College</i>	<i>General Certificate of Secondary Education</i>

What type of school did you attend? Government / Public Private

What was the cost of your school for each year? _____

Have you ever received a scholarship or financial assistance to support your education (if yes please tick the correct box)?

Independent Organisation Scholarship Government Scholarship

Other (e.g. family or community support)

Please specify (including name of scholarship or family member): _____

Did you work part time to earn money during your studies? If yes, please specify: _____

Have you ever been excluded or prevented from attending school? If yes, please specify: _____

Secondary School Exam Results:

For Those Who Have Already Received Their Secondary School Exam Results*:

Name of exam			
Exam ID number			
Date of Exam	day	/ month	/ year
Date results were given	day	/ month	/ year

*if you have not received your secondary school examination results please move to the next section.

Name	
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Academic History Post-Secondary School

Are you attending or have you attended university?

- Yes (please answer the questions in Section A)
 No (please answer the questions in Section B)

Section A - Are you still attending or have you stopped attending? still attending stopped attending
(please also answer Section B)

What is/was the name of your university? _____

What is/was the name of your degree? _____

When did you start your studies? _____

How many years, terms/ semesters have you completed so far? If you were unable to continue, how many years, terms/ semesters did you complete in total?

What is/was the cost of studies per year? _____

What is/was the source of your funding? Scholarship Privately Funded Other

Please provide further details, including the duration of the scholarship provided, if applicable: _____

What activities or work are you doing outside of study? _____

Section B - Please answer these questions if you have stopped attending university or if you have never attended university.

What activities or work are you doing at the moment?

If you plan to attend/return to university, what will you study?

If you do not plan to attend/return to university, why?

Name	
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External Examinations

Have you taken one of the external examinations below? If yes, please indicate your official score.

TOEFL	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Score: _____
IELTS	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Score: _____
TOIEC	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Score: _____
SAT	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Score: _____
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Score: _____

Future Plans

Please specify briefly what you would like to study abroad if you are selected for this programme:

Please specify briefly what you would like to do for a career after you have finished university:

Japanese Language Track

Are you interested in studying at university in Japan in the Japanese language after attending intensive language school?*

Yes No

**Note that if you select Yes for this question, you will be asked to confirm your choice and complete additional questions regarding your motivation to study in Japanese during the second round of the application process, should you be selected. You will also receive a more detailed explanation of the Japanese Language Track at this stage.*

Agreement

To complete the application, please check the boxes and sign below:

- I have read and fully understand the outline of the Africa Initiative 2020 and fully agree to participate in all mentioned activities.
- I hereby declare that the statements I have made on this form are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I would like to be emailed about future opportunities to study abroad with the Ashinaga Africa Initiative.

_____	_____	_____
Print Full Name of Applicant	Signature of Applicant	Date
_____	_____	_____
Print Full Name of Guardian	Signature of Guardian	Date

Name	
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Please tick if you enclosed		Documents	How to obtain the forms
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Application Form (all pages)	Download from the website / Facebook
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Copy of term reports / high school transcripts (the last 2 years)	Ask your High School Teacher
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Copy of final Secondary School Examination Certificate**	Ask Secondary School / High School
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Copy of academic transcripts or diplomas from university / post-secondary institution, if applicable	Ask university / education institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Copy of death certificate of deceased parent(s), including the deceased parent's name, or alternative official documentation proving death of parent(s) or orphan status	Ask government institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Copy of birth certificate of applicant	Ask government institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Copy of national ID card or Passport	Prepare yourself
Question		<p>How did you learn about this scholarship programme?</p> <p>Please tick for the appropriate answers from the box on the right.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese Embassy <input type="checkbox"/> Ashinaga Website <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram <input type="checkbox"/> Whatsapp <input type="checkbox"/> Family / Friends <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Website <input type="checkbox"/> School (write here: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (write here: _____)

****For students receiving their examination results after December 13th 2019 and before February 28th 2020 we will ask you to send your examination certificate if you are selected to progress to the second round of the application process.**

If any of the documents are not submitted by the deadline, your application will NOT be assessed