

## HLAB 2019 Cost & Financial Aid Information

Dear Hopeful HLAB Camp Mentor,

As we go through the selection process to decide on the Camp Mentors who will attend the HLAB Summer School 2019, we understand that you may need assistance financing some of the flight costs to make the trip possible.

HLAB offers **a need-based** financial aid to offset some of the flight cost and small incidental expenses mentors may have during the program (e.g. eating out 1-2 meal(s) in Tokyo). **For students with demonstrated financial need, we may award financial aid stipends up to 70,000 yen to be distributed in cash towards the start of the Summer School period.**

Below are some questions you might consider and information you should look through before applying for financial aid:

### What exactly does HLAB cover financially?

- **Accommodations:** All accommodations during the program dates will be provided.
- **Transportation costs during the summer school:** All train rides, bus rides, and airplane rides DURING the summer program will be provided for. However, transportation to and from the HLAB program, including flights to-from Japan, and ground transportation to/from the airport, are NOT PROVIDED.
- **Meals:** Most meals during the summer school are covered. Your meal schedule may look something like this:

Date	Meal Details
8/12	<b>Dinner:</b> Welcome Dinner
8/13	<b>Breakfast; Lunch:</b> bento box; <b>Dinner:</b> eat out (free time - may not be provided)
8/14 - 8/21	During the summer school, you will be eating with the students, 3 meals a day.
8/22 - 24	<b>Breakfast; Lunch:</b> bento box; <b>Dinner:</b> eat out (free time - may not be provided)

Please note that the plan above is based on past years' plans, and that we will send you a more detailed itinerary of this year's plans upon acceptance.

### What expenses should I plan to pay for?

- **Flights to and from Tokyo**

For international travel, it is **always** cheaper to buy tickets as early as possible. Please understand that if you fail to buy your tickets in advance and prices increase over the summer, we cannot assist you with the rising costs, other than with the allocated financial aid.

- **The bus/train ride to/from the Tokyo airport**

The transportation to/from our accommodation in Tokyo will not be covered as this is considered part of your international travel cost. This is anywhere from 2000-4000 yen depending on your arrival airport and desired mode of transportation.

- **Meals during free time**

Each program includes free time, such as a few lunches or dinners on your own where you can explore Tokyo and eat out with your seminar partner and other camp mentors. During these free times, participants are responsible for their own meals.

**\*\*\*You can expect to spend an additional 5,000 yen, budgeting the minimum for the airport transportation and additional meal(s).**

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Additional amenities, such as personal cell phone, wifi, extra snacks, or souvenirs are the responsibility of each individual Camp Mentor. Similarly, some CMs wish to arrive early in Japan, or leave later than the program end date, in order to explore Japan on their own time. All expenses related to personal travel are the sole responsibility of each individual CM.

- **Data plan/SIM card/Portable Wi-Fi**

Portable wifi tends to be much easier than obtaining a SIM card. Free wifi-spots are limited in Japan, especially outside of Tokyo.

- **Extra food bought throughout the program**

Japanese portions are generally smaller than American/Western portions, and in the past some students bought extra food/snacks at convenience stores and supermarkets.

- **Souvenirs & other things you want to buy**

Japan is a culturally and historically rich country, with many traditional types of crafts and heritage foods available for purchase.

- **Personal travel before or after the HLAB program dates**

## **FINANCIAL AID ALLOCATION:**

**PLEASE NOTE: All applications to HLAB 2019 Summer School are \*NEED BLIND\* - your acceptance to the program will be based on your program application, NOT your need for financial aid or lack thereof.**

### **How aid is announced:**

Once your application award amount is confirmed by the HLAB Finance Team, we will notify you of the aid amount via the contact email you provided on your program application. We hope to make these award announcements by early May. Knowing your aid decision, you are then encouraged to purchase your flights as early and cheaply as possible, no later than **May 10th**. (Please know that the aid money comes directly from the Japanese Government, and thus, we must wait for their approval first. You will be notified if decision announcements are delayed for this reason.)

### **How you will receive your stipend:**

Once you are notified of your financial aid decision amount, HLAB will hold your allotment in **the form of a cash stipend (in Japanese yen)**. Upon submitting your **final flight receipt (including the final price you paid for the flight)** when you arrive at the HLAB Summer School venue, you will be given your cash stipend. You will have to sign an HLAB receipt acknowledging that you received the agreed upon amount.

### **Additional aid information:**

The finance team looking at your aid eligibility will take into account your flight dates. If you come to Japan far before or after the program, we will assume

that you have the resources to fund your expenses. (A few days for tourism on either end of the program will not impact your financial aid.)

For those who feel that the maximum stipend of 70,000 yen is insufficient, we suggest you reach out to places such as the Japanese/East Asian department in your respective schools or other scholarships that fund teaching or cultural exchange.

Pursue scholarship, grant, stipend and bursary opportunities for opportunities like “independent research abroad” or “unpaid volunteer programs.” There are many programs, both within universities, as well as through outside private foundations and even local government funds, that will grant small amounts of money for programs like HLAB, and we encourage you to search for these opportunities.

Please keep in mind that HLAB is a Non-Profit Organisation with limited funds, and can truly not guarantee financial aid - applicants should be prepared for the possibility that they get no financial aid from HLAB.

### **FURTHER QUESTIONS?:**

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the HLAB Global Team if you have questions about funding and finances.

Email us at: [teach@h-lab.co](mailto:teach@h-lab.co) using subject line “Financial Aid Question”

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCITEMENT ABOUT HLAB - WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN JAPAN THIS SUMMER!**