

# 15th Anniversary Essay Contest & Nagasaki Culture Program



## OVERVIEW

The Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture (NMHC) is one of the few museums in Japan dedicated to the history of international exchange. The only port open to the West during the period of Japan's national isolation, Nagasaki has especially deep connections with **Portugal**, **The Netherlands** and **Italy**. On the occasion of the museum's 15th anniversary, we are holding an essay contest open to university students from these three countries, in order to foster international communication and exchange, as well as to promote knowledge of Nagasaki's unique history and culture. Three winners, one for each country, will be invited to take part in the **Nagasaki Culture Program** organized by the NMHC.

## ELIGIBILITY

The "NMHC 15th Anniversary Essay Contest" is open to undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in a university in Portugal, The Netherlands or Italy, with no limitations regarding the department they belong to or their field of specialization. Candidates, however, must be able to understand Japanese used in everyday situations (**N3 level** or higher).

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## PRIZE

Winners will receive a round-trip air ticket to Nagasaki, where they will take part in the **Nagasaki Culture Program** (from **August 1** to **September 14**, 2020).

Accommodation and domestic travel expenses will be covered by the organizers (per diem and personal expenses are excluded).

The program will include a short internship at NMHC, focused on the promotion of Nagasaki's cultural heritage. The participants will also take part in traditional cultural experiences and visits around the City and Prefecture of Nagasaki. Trips to other destinations of historical and cultural value (Kyoto, Kobe) may be organized, taking in consideration the participants' requests and the cost of the trip.

## HOW TO APPLY

Candidates must submit TWO essays:

- ① "If you could stay 1 month in Japan, what would you like to do?"  
(400 characters, in Japanese)
- ② "What is the significance and role of Cultural Heritage (e.g. World Heritage sites, historical monuments, intangible heritage, museum collections, etc.)? Explain your thoughts by making reference to examples from Japan and your own country."  
(1600 characters in Japanese OR 800 words in English)

The following information should be added on the cover of each essay: 1.name 2.nationality 3.university 4.email address 5.essay title. The NMHC reserves the right to use this information to contact the participants if needed.

Essays should be submitted as PDF files by email to: **essaycontest@nmhc.jp** with the subject heading "15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Essay Contest".

## DEADLINE

Entries must be received by **February 29, 2020**. The winners will be informed directly by the end of March. Arrival of the winners in Japan is planned for July 31.

## JUDGING COMMITTEE

- NMHC Director General Dr. Eiji Mizushima
- NMHC Ambassador Valentina Odino
- The Japan-Netherlands Society of Nagasaki
- The Japan-Portugal Society of Nagasaki
- The Japan-Italy Society of Nagasaki

For more information, contact us at [essaycontest@nmhc.jp](mailto:essaycontest@nmhc.jp)

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