



ASHINAGA

Ashinaga Africa Initiative 2021

Young Leaders for Africa

Anglophone and Francophone Application

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 19TH FEBRUARY

Ashinaga is a Japanese foundation headquartered in Tokyo. We provide financial support and emotional care to young people around the world who have lost either one or both parents. With a history of more than 55 years, our support has enabled more than 110,000 orphaned students to gain access to higher education.

Program Overview

The Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) is an international leadership program that cultivates the next generation of leaders to contribute to the development of sub-Saharan Africa.

AAI Scholars have lost one or both parents and are committed to returning to sub-Saharan Africa to initiate change, innovation, and development. The AAI provides 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 program has three stages which are described on the next page.

1. 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 2021. Anglophone students will normally attend the Camp in Uganda, with Francophone students attending the Camp in Senegal. 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 between April and June 2022, although the dates are subject to confirmation. 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 2022. 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 the Study Camp. After the Study Camp, they will move to Japan to spend one or two years at a language school prior to starting their university studies.

2. 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., France and Brazil. Scholars will participate in a mandatory internship in their home country or sub-Saharan Africa and join Ashinaga's leadership development programs. The AAI does not support studies for a second degree or master's degree.

3. After Graduation

Scholars have the responsibility to return to their home countries or sub-Saharan Africa within four years after graduating and contribute to the country/region while living there for at least one year. They will have to contact Ashinaga during this period to provide information about their activity and residency during this period.

Criteria/Eligibility

The application is open to those who;

1. Have lost one or both parents.
2. Have completed secondary school and passed national secondary school examination (technical and vocational qualifications not accepted) within the last two years (any date after 1st September 2018, including all of 2019 and 2020) or will have completed secondary school and received final exam results before February 28th, 2021.
3. Have citizenship and have completed/are completing high school in one of the following countries: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Kingdom of eSwatini, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
4. Were born after 1st September 1998.
5. Do not have the means to attend university abroad 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. Students without strong grades are unlikely to be successful.
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 in sub-Saharan Africa after graduating from university.
10. Have no dependents who could interfere with academic progress.
11. Have a good enough health condition to be able to study abroad.

How to Apply

There are two stages to the Ashinaga Africa Initiative application process;

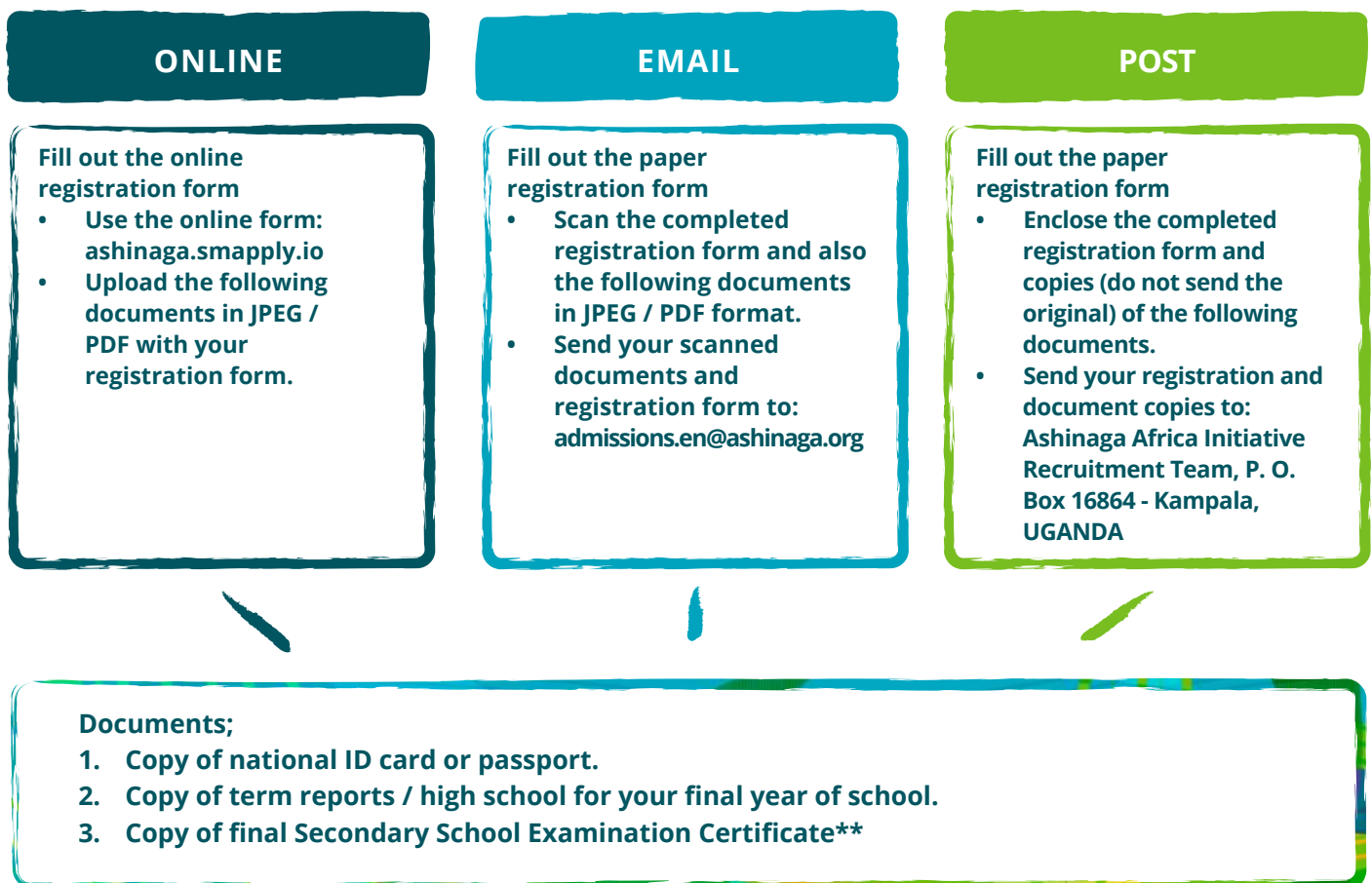
1. Registration: all applicants must first confirm their eligibility by registering for the program. Only students who register for the program and are deemed eligible (based on criteria/eligibility on previous page) will receive the application form.
2. Application: all students who register for the program will receive an email with a link to the application form within 1 month of their registration if they are eligible for the program.

There are three ways to register for the program: via online website, via email, or via post. 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 registration **by January 15th 2021** to guarantee it arrives on time.

We strongly recommend registering and applying online.

Please note that we will communicate with all applicants by email and so you must include an email address when you submit your registration form, even if you register by post.

Registration



**For students receiving their examination results after February 19th 2021 and before February 28th 2021 we will ask you to send your examination certificate if you are invited to submit the application for the program.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MIDNIGHT GMT FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2021**

Application

If you are invited to complete the application you can submit the application online or by email;

ONLINE

Fill out the online application form

- Use the link for the online form included in the email inviting you to complete the application.
- Upload the following documents in JPEG / PDF with your application form

EMAIL

Fill out the paper application form

- Scan the completed application form and also scan the following documents in JPEG / PDF format.
- Send your scanned documents and application form to: admissions.en@ashinaga.org

Documents;

1. Copy of all term reports / high school transcripts from the last 2 years.
2. Copy of final Secondary School Examination Certificate (if you did not submit it with your registration form)
3. Copy of academic transcripts / diplomas from university / post-secondary institution, (if applicable).
4. 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.
5. Copy of birth certificate of applicant.
6. Copies of certificates for extracurricular activities, training courses, jobs or commitments (if applicable).
7. A letter of recommendation from a principal or school teacher. This should be inclusive of their email address, phone number and must contain information about your performance and character whilst at secondary school. All recommendation letters should contain an official signature or stamp.

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

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

Important Information

19th October 2020
Application opens

19th February 2021
Deadline to register for the program

1st March 2021
Deadline to submit application

Late March 2021
Shortlisted applicants invited to Ashinaga Assessment (Interview and Exam)

April 2021
Ashinaga Assessment conducted during this month

May 2021
Selection results announced

June 2021
Selected applicants prepare for Study Camp in Uganda or Senegal

July 2021
Study Camp Begins

Selection

Applications are open between 19th October 2020 and 1st March 2021, but all applicants **MUST** register before the 19th of February. After registration, eligible applicants will be invited to complete the application before the 1st of March 2021. After reviewing each application, successful applicants will be invited to the Ashinaga Assessment in April 2021 where Ashinaga conducts individual interviews and sets an examination to better understand students' academic abilities and career goals in sub-Saharan Africa. Students must bring all original academic 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 the 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 and relevant 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 program. 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 program, 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 program.

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 program. 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 the registration form for?

The registration form allows us to register applicants in our system, and we will use the information provided to determine if 1) the applicant fulfills all the eligibility requirements and 2) has a strong enough academic record to be considered for the program. Only applicants who are eligible when assessed according to these criteria will be invited to complete the application.

What is required for the application and what does it assess?

Applicants are scored on their academic performance, with readers looking to identify any patterns in a student's performance. Applicants are also assessed on 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 and interviews.



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Requirements



Lost one or both
parents



Have completed high
school in the last two
years



Aged between 17-22
years old



Committed to return
home and initiate
positive change

Apply now:

en.ashinaga.org/apply/aai