

2025 SHU Japanese Language Study Awards

Monday, March 31, 2025

12:00 p.m. -12:45 p.m.

Chancellor's Suite, University Center

Awards Presenters

Jonathan Farina, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Christopher Kaiser, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Mary Balkun, Department English/Japan Week Committee

Diana Alvarez-Amell, Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Jessica Wilson, Director, Global Learning Center

Shigeru Osuka, Director, Japanese Program

Seton Hall University has been offering Japanese Language since the 1950s. The Japanese Program is pleased to honor its motivated and hardworking Japanese language learners. In the 2024-2025, over 50 students are studying Japanese language and culture that entails demanding curriculum and one of the internationally well-known programs. In recognition of the students' hard work, dedication and further promises to the role in global community, the Japanese program honors the following 2025 Japanese language awardees:

Name	Year	Major
First Year Japanese		
Christine Franco	Freshman	Visual and Sound Media
Giovanna Giancarlo	Senior	Visual and Sound Media
Victoria Matteson	Freshman	Graphic Design
Jacob Mudd	Sophomore	Visual/Sound Media & Creative Writing
Kinsey Rogers	Senior	Biology
Jon Peter Salazar	Junior	Physics
Second Year Japanese		
Joseph DeFazio	Senior	Criminal Justice
Erick Seibel	Junior	Asian Studies
Advanced Japanese		
Laurn Hill	Senior	Biology
Tasiah Mayfield	Senior	Misic/Asian Studies
Brennan Ozkan	Junior	Diplomacy & International Relations

NJATJ Awards

New Jersey Association of Teacher of Japanese (NJATJ) awarded the following three SHU students for the NJATJ 2025 Japanese Language and Cultural Study Awards. The ceremony was held at Seton Hall University on March 28, 2025. There were over 50 students who received the awards, and more than two three hundred people attended the awards ceremony.

Name	Year	Major
Ava Lee	Junior	Biology/P.T. Track
Akira Bofinger	Freshman	Business Administration
Willem Akian	Junior	Philosophy/Asian Studies
Robert Villarin	Seniors	Diplomacy & International Relations

Japanese National Honor Society - College Chapter

The Japanese National Honor Society – College Chapter (JNHS–CC) recognizes and encourages scholastic achievement and excellence in the study of the Japanese language. Academic criteria for student membership in JNHS–CC are as follows: completion of five semester courses of Japanese language study (or their equivalent) at the college undergraduate level, a GPA of 3.5 in Japanese language courses; and an overall GPA of 3.0. The following seven students are the JNHS College Chapter Inductees in 2025:

Name	Year	Major
Willem Akian	Junior	Philosophy/Asian Studies
Oluwayinka Akindebe	Senior	Diplomacy & International Relations
Wilnica Destine	Junior	Diplomacy & International Relations
Zachary Edwards	Senior	Diplomacy & International Relations
Lauryn Hill	Senior	Biology
Kaylee Hoo	Senior	English/Asian Studies
Tasiah Mayfield	Senior	Misic/Asian Studies
Brennan Ozkan	Junior	Diplomacy & International Relations
Robert Villarin	Seniors	Diplomacy & International Relations