

Report to SFFJLE

2016 JSANZ Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest

This is the third year of the JSANZ Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest, which aims to encourage learners who are studying Japanese to showcase their language skills in a challenging context. There was no inter-university or national speech contest targeting tertiary Japanese language students until 2013, and thus the establishment of the Japanese Language Speech Contest is a significant step forwards for learners of Japanese and tertiary Japanese programmes in New Zealand.

We had 12 finalists from all the eight tertiary institutions that offer Japanese programme in New Zealand. It was an extremely competitive nationwide contest, with Finalists rigorously selected from each of New Zealand's tertiary institutions. The speeches were high quality and the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners. The results were announced widely via JSANZ Facebook and website. <https://www.facebook.com/JapaneseStudiesAotearoaNZ>

<http://www.jsanz.org>

Our contest was unique in terms of the use of video uploaded onto YouTube. One of the main reasons was due to the travel cost for each participant to gather at one venue from all over New Zealand, but our contest successfully demonstrated that a fair contest is possible with the use of ICT. Judges were able to watch the same performance several times and have more time to find the strengths of each speech and to choose the best speeches.

A prize-giving ceremony was held on 30 of September at AUT to congratulate the winners, Nathaniel Carter (University of Auckland) and Taylor Marston (AUT). They were congratulated by Professor Gary Barkhuizen (Head of the School of Cultures, Languages & Linguistics, University of Auckland), Debbie Corder (Associate Head of the School of Language and Culture, AUT), Kensuke Hayashi, (Vice Consul, Consulate-General of Japan, Auckland), and Dr Penny Shino (President of JSANZ). Ms Naomi Collins presented them with the JSANZ Speech Contest certificates (Photos: <https://goo.gl/photos/VaHrbERfqWWBU5A6A>). The winners have been reported in their university's newsletters. In addition, an article featuring the three winners in this contest was published in the E-cube magazine. <http://www.ecube.co.nz/content/1691>

Nathaniel's speech can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/mK2MuoaUOaM>

We hope the participants continue their Japanese learning journey with renewed motivation and enthusiasm, and wish them all the best for their future.

JSANZ would like to acknowledge and express appreciation to the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education for providing extremely generous financial support, without which this contest could not have happened.



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We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2016 JSANZ Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest.

First place:	Nathaniel Carter	(University of Auckland)
Second place:	Taylor Marston	(Auckland University of Technology)
Third place:	Anna Gan	(Victoria University of Wellington)

We would like to congratulate all of the participants and in particular, Nathaniel Carter, Taylor Marston and Anna Gan. Nathaniel will receive a return air ticket to Japan, and Taylor and Anna will receive Prezzy cards (\$100 and \$50), sponsored by the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education and the Japan Foundation.

We hope the participants continue their Japanese learning journey with renewed motivation and enthusiasm, and wish them all the best for their future.

JSANZ would like to thank the participants, their teachers and the judges. JSANZ would also like to thank the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education and the Japan Foundation for their generous financial support.

Comments from the Chief Judge

The judges all enjoyed the opportunity to hear these speeches on interesting themes with originality and strong messages. All twelve contestants prepared well for this contest and made commendable speeches with passion and enthusiasm. Especially, we were impressed with the winning speeches, which had power to move and inspire the audience. Those speeches in particular were based on what the speakers have learnt through own experiences. This lead to clear and strong messages elaborated in their own words with concrete examples.

It is desirable for the speakers to include why the topic was chosen, what the main message is, and the relationship between the topic and the contestant him/herself. Also, it is more important to maintain a good interaction with the audience, than to completely memorize the speech, because it can be obvious to the audience when the speaker is trying to remember exactly what is written on the script, and this can detract from the interaction and connection with the audience. We acknowledge that this is a difficult balancing act!

Overall Japanese language skills among the contestants were very high: each contestant successfully demonstrated excellent Japanese language command with grammatical accuracy and richness of vocabulary and expressions. The structure of the speeches and the connection between the introduction and conclusion were well considered and developed. We wish the contestants all the best for their Japanese studies.

Lastly, on behalf of all the judges, I would like to thank all the teachers who put so much time and energy to instruct and encourage the contestants, and the JSANZ Speech Contest Committee for organizing this wonderful contest.



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Name of the Finalist & Institution	Speech Title
Taylor Marston Auckland University of Technology	Club Menu, Rice and Pants
Anran Yu University of Auckland	Japan and Me
Nathaniel Carter University of Auckland	My Journey with Japanese
Mitchell Grout University of Waikato	My Experience in Japan
Michelle Musakwa Massey University	My Japan Trip
Sarah Lee Massey University	The reason why you should be in this world
Ieuan van der Peet University of Canterbury	Future Dreams
Zoe Alexander University of Canterbury	Different Ways of Communication
Anna Gan Victoria University of Wellington	My Parents as Immigrants
Joshua Lee Lamb Victoria University of Wellington	Let's Keep on Failing!
Maya Takahashi University of Otago	Laughter
Shuichi Tanimura University of Otago	The Importance of Stress

JSANZ Speech Contest Committee

Dr Masayoshi Ogino (Chair)

Ms Naomi Collins

Mr Toshi Yamauchi

Speech contest is ticket to Japan

04 October 2016

Nathaniel Carter has won a return ticket to Japan as first prize in the 2016 Tertiary Japanese Language Speech Contest, run by Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand (JSANZ).

Nate is studying Japanese and Māori concurrently with his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery through our Diploma in Languages programme.

He was encouraged by his tutor Reiko Kondo to enter the contest, in which he had to write and present a speech of four and a half to five minutes and answer two questions in Japanese.

Nate wrote his speech about how learning Japanese has been a significant source of support to him during the hardships he has faced in his life, and that this support was a major factor in overcoming these hardships to successfully enter medical school.



In his speech he said that "Despite never having been to Japan, I cannot imagine a future without Japanese, and will continue learning it no matter what."

Now, thanks to the speech contest, he will get the opportunity to visit Japan for the first time.

Entries to the contest need to be digitally video-recorded in front of an audience of at least ten people, so Nate presented his speech and answered the questions in front of his JAPANESE 331 class.

Nate is excited to have won the contest, and is hoping to use his ticket to Japan over the summer break. He is looking forward to using his knowledge of the language to navigate Japan.

He says that his knowledge of Japanese and Māori will be helpful in a future career in hospitals, and is hoping for a placement in Japan in his sixth year.

The JSANZ speech contest has been running for three years, and last year Simon Hseih, a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce student, [placed second with his speech about the experience of migrating from the mega-city of Shanghai to the comparatively small town of Tauranga.](#)

Find out more about the [Diploma in Languages](#)