



Frequently Asked Questions – MIRAI Program 2025/2026

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be citizens of one of the Western Balkans 6 (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, or Serbia), holding a valid passport issued by one of these societies and currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a university located in the WB6. Proof of enrollment will be required if selected.

2. Can students studying abroad apply?

No. Even if they hold WB6 citizenship, applicants who are studying at universities outside the Western Balkans at the time of application and implementation of the program are not eligible for this edition.

3. What is the eligible age range?

Applicants must be 20 years+ at the time of application.

4. Will there be interviews?

Yes. Pre-selected candidates will be invited for an online interview before final selection.

5. Do I need to pay any participation fees?

No participation fee is required. However, participants are responsible for personal expenses such as passport and visa issuance, excess baggage, travel between their home and the designated airport, and any personal purchases before or during the program.

6. What does the vaccination requirement refer to?

There are currently no specific vaccination requirements for participation in the MIRAI Program. The reference in the guidelines relates to general health precautions. If participants choose to take any vaccination for personal reasons, the cost will need to be covered by the participant.

7. Do I need a visa to travel to Japan?

Visa requirements depend on the applicant's nationality. Selected participants from the WB6 will receive detailed instructions for visa arrangements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan after selection. Applicants are not required and will not be able to apply for a visa at the application stage.

8. When will the results be announced?

Only selected applicants will be notified of the results via email. The final list of all participants is expected to be announced by mid-November 2025 on RYCO's website.



9. Do I receive a confirmation after submitting my application?

No automatic confirmation email is sent. If you reached the final “submit” page of the form, your application has been successfully received.

10. Can I reapply if I participated in MIRAI before?

No. Previous participants of any MIRAI edition are not eligible to apply again.

11. When will the program take place?

The MIRAI 2025/2026 program is expected to take place from 13–19 February 2026.

12. Will travel and accommodation in Japan be covered?

Yes. Round-trip international airfare (economy class), insurance, accommodation, transportation, meals during the program, and entry fees for scheduled activities in Japan are fully covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

13. Who can I contact for questions?

For the MIRAI 2025/2026 cycle please contact:

Flutura Brakaj

✉ flutura.brakaj@rycowb.org

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence*