

**FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
(for “Vulcanus in Japan” session 2015-16)

1	Q	<b>Do students need to find a Japanese host company by themselves?</b>
	A	No, companies apply to the Centre to participate in the programme and to host a student.
2	Q	<b>Which companies apply? Is a list available?</b>
	A	In the past the following companies have hosted Vulcanus students: <i>Toyota, Bosch Automotive Systems (Japan), Toppan Printing, Alps Electric, Honda, Hitachi, Dai Nippon Printing, NTT Data, Toshiba, Asahi Glass, Schlumberger (Japan), Asahi Kasei, Canon, Hitachi, Yasukawa Electric, NTT, Sanyo Electric, etc.</i>  From 9 January 2015 onwards, the applying companies <b>may post (not compulsory)</b> their placement offers at <a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/vulcanus-japan-0/">http://www.eu-japan.eu/vulcanus-japan-0/</a> (please download file named “TLOP”). Should no placements be posted, please avoid contacting the Vulcanus team.
3	Q	<b>Will a list of available traineeships be provided?</b>
	A	Yes, <b>after</b> short-listing has been completed, the Centre will give each short-listed student details of the most suitable offer together with the complete list of all traineeships being offered.
4	Q	<b>How many applications are submitted?</b>
	A	It depends on the year. Last year more than 900 students applied.
5	Q	<b>How many applications will be short-listed?</b>
	A	It depends on the year. Last year about 120 were short-listed.
6	Q	<b>How many students take part in the programme?</b>
	A	It depends on the year. Currently 45 students have placements.
7	Q	<b>When will I know if I have been short-listed?</b>
	A	By the end of February 2014.
8	Q	<b>Should I be short-listed, when will I know if I have been accepted by a host company?</b>
	A	The matching procedure should be completed by the beginning of June 2015 with the majority of the companies involved providing an answer by the end of May 2015.
9	Q	<b>When will I have to send the deposit?</b>
	A	You will have to send the deposit <b>ONLY</b> should you be accepted by a company, and <b>UPON REQUEST</b> of the Centre.
10	Q	<b>Can I contact a former participant by e-mail, to ask him/her some questions?</b>
	A	For reasons of privacy, we do not give out alumni e-mail addresses until short-listing has been completed.
11	Q	<b>Where will the Japanese language course take place? Where will the traineeship take place?</b>
	A	The Japanese language course will take place in Tokyo; the traineeship will take place where the Host Company is located (very variable).
12	Q	<b>If I e-mail you my CV beforehand, could you have a look at it and let me know if I am eligible?</b>
	A	Sorry, no. Please do not send your CV by e-mail; we will not read it. Please note that the decision on short-listing will be taken by an external selection board.
13	Q	<b>What should I do if I am short-listed?</b>
	A	You will have to check your e-mail regularly and promptly provide the documentation we will request.
14	Q	<b>Will there be a preparatory meeting in Brussels?</b>
	A	Yes. In July 2015 (one day), prior to your departure for Japan. This meeting is compulsory (the travel expenses will be endorsed by the student and accommodation will be covered by our Centre).

15	Q	<b>When will I receive the grant? Is it enough to live in Japan?</b>
	A	The JPY ¥ 1,900,000 VIJ grant will be paid in several instalments. The first payment will be made in September. Subsequent payments will be made until the end of the internship. Please refer to the contract for the payment terms. The grant will only cover basic living costs. If you wish to take any trips or extra activities, you will have to bring money from home. Please note, you cannot get a paid employment in Japan with the Visa allocated to you.
16	Q	<b>Who will purchase my ticket for Japan?</b>
	A	You will have to buy your own return air ticket. Under Japanese immigration rules all Vulcanus trainees must enter Japan on the same day. By e-mail, we will instruct you which day this will be.
17	Q	<b>Until when can I <u>withdraw</u> from the programme without damaging the Centre?</b>
	A	This is a <b>delicate issue</b> : in Japan there is no proper culture of traineeships, and once a file of a student has been sent to the Company, it is very difficult for the Company, culturally speaking, to understand the withdrawal of the student. Should a student withdraw after the beginning of March, it is very probable that the good relations between the Company and the Centre will be interrupted and that the Company will not apply again. This can cause substantial damage to the Centre's reputation and major problems in finding and retaining prestigious host companies. Any withdrawal after the <b>beginning of March 2015</b> (the start of match-making) would cause big problems for the Centre. Please consider this issue and be certain of your intentions, before applying.
18	Q	<b>* I will graduate in September 2015 (or similar); can I start the programme later? * I am looking for a traineeship of a shorter length (i.e. 5 months), could you provide one? * A traineeship has been offered to me by a Japanese company for 7 months, could I receive a Vulcanus grant?</b>
	A	These and other similar scenarios are not possible. All participants must start the programme together (they must arrive the same day in Japan and, one year later, leave the same day from Japan – <b>These dates have to be announced by the Centre</b> ). The Vulcanus scheme is not flexible; participants must attend all its parts. Grants are offered exclusively to official Vulcanus participants.
19	Q	<b>If I apply with some friends, will it be possible to obtain placements in the same city?</b>
	A	Match-makings are individual. Should you apply, you must be prepared to be the only short-listed applicant among your group of friends.
20	Q	<b>Will my accommodation include a private bathroom, kitchen, etc.? What furniture will there be in the room?</b>
	A	This depends upon the Host Company. This information will be provided to us by the Company before your departure for Japan.
21	Q	<b>May my partner or spouse spend some time/the whole year with me in Japan? Can you provide assistance for his/her visa, accommodation, etc?</b>
	A	If you decide to apply, please fully understand and accept the following: a/ Vulcanus <b>cannot</b> assist your partner/spouse in obtaining a visa for Japan. Should you wish to take your partner/spouse to Japan, please be fully aware of the difficulties to obtain a visa for him/her, and apply to the programme <b>ONLY</b> if you are prepared to take part even if he/she will not obtain a visa. b/ Through Vulcanus you are offered strictly personal accommodation in a company dormitory, where you are not allowed to host guests, whoever they be. Should you wish to take your partner/spouse to Japan, all accommodation costs will be covered by you. The grant provided by Vulcanus is not sufficient to cover this extra cost, so please apply to the programme <b>ONLY</b> if you can cover the additional charges by your own means.