

Essay Competition - Frequently Asked Questions

Below are the major inquiries we have received so far.

We will periodically update this FAQ as necessary.

Q1 Am I eligible to apply even though my country is not listed in the terms and conditions of the essay competition?

A The terms and conditions for this essay competition mainly lists the major countries which have sent participants to FALIA seminars*.

*FALIA conducts life insurance seminars for individuals from life insurance-related institutions (e.g. life insurance companies, life insurance associations, and insurance authorities).

FALIA aims to make an economic contribution to the developing countries around the world as a key pillar of our activities. We endeavor to further contribute to the sound growth of life insurance business, and strive to disseminate accurate knowledge on life insurance. Based on these goals, we may restrict the countries we accept for the competition.

We received the same inquiry from nationals of the following countries, which we can accept entries from:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Columbia, Czech, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea, Kosovo, Laos, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Republic of Benin, Republic of South Africa, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

If you are not sure about your case, please inquire us directly.

(FALIA Essay Competition Group : essay@falia.jp)

Q2 I do not know what theme to write about for the essay.

A On our website we have published the thesis titles for the past three years in the reports on the prize winners. Please feel free to refer to these.

Also, tips for essay-writing are available now. Please refer to these as well.

Q3 Should the essay have a particular structure with a specific template?

- A** No. There is no template/format FALIA specifies and so it's up to you. But in case you are not sure about a writing format, you can refer to "APA style" which consists of rules or guidelines for writing.

Also, prior to your submission, we would recommend you to have your essay proofread by a native of Japanese (for your essay in Japanese)/a native of English (for your essay in English) if possible. In that case, please state the proofreader's name in your application form.

Q4 What sort of format should my essay be written in?

- A** We recommend that essays in the following format be submitted for the FALIA Essay Competition.

English essays: Double spaced, 12-point font size

Japanese essays: 10.5-point font size, 36 lines of 40 characters each per page

Q5 Are title/index pages and references included in the word count?

If I use graphs and charts in my essay, are they counted as words?

- A** The title page, index page and references are not included in the word count. Graphs and charts are not counted as words. But please be sure that the main focus of your essay shall be the written texts, and the graphs and charts shall be used as supplemental items to support the point of the arguments in your essay.

<Word Limit>

Essay in Japanese

4,000 ~12,000 characters

Essay in English

4,000 ~5,000 words

※Significantly longer or shorter essays may be disqualified.

Q6 Do I have to indicate sources that I used for my essay?

- A** Yes, you need to cite and reference properly as Works Cited or Bibliography and referencing footnotes or endnotes. This applies not only to published essays and books, but also to internet sources. FALIA will scan all the entries with our

plagiarism checker. (In case your essay is found to be written in inappropriate manner such as plagiarism, it will result in the cancellation and required reimbursement of the prize.) If you are unsure about how to reference, you can check online with “APA style” which is one of the famous writing guidelines.

Q7 Is a co-authored essay allowed?

A Yes, it’s allowed. But please make sure that all the members in the group fulfil the applicant eligibilities #1 -3 and apply by the application deadline.

Q8 In the application form, why is there an entry field for the information if I had any adviser or professor who supervised my essay?

A This is because each prize winner can invite one school official from the Winner’s university to the awarding ceremony. In case we find a supervisor’s name filled in the field in the application form, we will invite the supervisor. In case there is no name written in the field, we will invite a professor of your seminar or an official at International Student Office and etc.

If the winner and supervisor attend the ceremony from a distant university, FALIA will cover the domestic travel expenses (e.g. Airline, Shinkansen) and arrange the 1 night accommodation at our expense if needed.

Q9 Is it mandatory that I attend the award ceremony if I win?

A Yes, all prize winners are required to attend the award ceremony (scheduled to be held on January, 2022).

If you cannot participate in the award ceremony, you will not be deemed eligible for this essay competition.

<Applicant Eligibility>

1. Must be an undergraduate or a graduate international student living in Japan whose status of residence is “Student (Ryu-gaku)”
2. As a general rule, must be a national of a country that sends participants to FALIA seminars.
3. Must still be a college student in Japan when we hold the award ceremony and must be able to attend it.

*** Due to the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the award ceremony for 2021 may be held as an online event, depending on circumstances.**

Q10 If I win, what procedures will be required?

A If you are selected as a nominee for one of the prizes after the selection process, you will be required to submit the following documents for the purpose of verification of your eligibility.

(FALIA will directly contact those nominees sometime in Nov. - Dec.)

Student Registration Certificate (original copy)

Copy of Residence Card (both sides)

Declaration Form on “Double Posting” etc.



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The Foundation for the Advancement of Life & Insurance Around the World
[Public Interest Incorporated Foundation]