

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 list of the countries or regions which we have accepted in the past” under Applicant Eligibility#2 of the terms and conditions of the essay competition?

A If your country or region is not on the list, please inquire us directly. (FALIA Essay Competition Group : essay@falia.jp)

As a general rule, you are eligible if your countries or regions are deemed to be in need of FALIA’s guidance.

FALIA aims for enlightenment and dissemination of sound insurance philosophy through education, guidance, and support. It aims to widely contribute to sound development of insurance business around the world. Based on these goals, we limit the countries of applicants to accept for the competition.

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

A The FALIA Essay Competition aims to encourage international students to have an interest in life insurance and know that life insurance could solve social issues. We hope that you take on an intellectual challenge by applying for our essay competition with your favorite choice of theme which arouses your curiosity on social issues. We welcome essays on topics related to life insurance from students of a variety of cultural backgrounds and academic majors. The essays do not necessarily test your level of insurance awareness or essay writing skills.

On our website we have posted the essay titles for the past three years of 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 particular guidelines to follow?

A Yes. Each essay should follow the guidelines as below. A sample essay format is available for your reference.

-The first page must include the essay title, author’s name, name of university, and the total number of words/characters.

-The second page must be an abstract of the essay.

-The second and subsequent pages must not include the author's name and any other information which can be used to identify the author.

You can also refer to "APA style" which consists of rules or guidelines for writing.

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?

If my essay is a little over the limit, is it acceptable?

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.

The essay must not exceed 5000 words in English, or 12000 characters in Japanese.

※The first page of your essay must include the total number of words/characters.

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 awards 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.

FALIA will cover the domestic travel expenses (e.g. Airline, Shinkansen, Train) for the awards ceremony.

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

A Yes, all prize winners are required to attend the awards ceremony (scheduled to be held on January, 2023).

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

Q10 If I am awarded, 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.

