

**FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
(for “Vulcanus in Japan” session 2009-2010)

1	<p><b>Q Do students need to find a Japanese host company by themselves?</b></p> <p>A No, companies apply to the Centre to participate in the programme and to host a student.</p>
2	<p><b>Q Which companies apply? Is a list available?</b></p> <p>A We still do not know which companies will apply, since they can apply up to the end of January. Nonetheless, to give you an idea: we have had trainees at 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.</p>
3	<p><b>Q Will a list of available traineeships be provided?</b></p> <p>A Yes, <u>after</u> 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.</p>
4	<p><b>Q How many applications are submitted?</b></p> <p>A It depends on the year. Last year about 800 students applied.</p>
5	<p><b>Q How many applications will be short-listed?</b></p> <p>A It depends on the year. Last year about 140 were short-listed.</p>
6	<p><b>Q How many students take part in the programme?</b></p> <p>A It depends on the year. Currently 35 students have placements. For the 2009/10 session we expect to match around 40 students and placement offers.</p>
7	<p><b>Q When will I know if I have been short-listed?</b></p> <p>A By the end of February.</p>
8	<p><b>Q Should I be short-listed, when will I know if I have been accepted by a host company?</b></p> <p>A The matching procedure should be completed by the beginning of June with the majority of the companies involved providing an answer by the end of May.</p>
9	<p><b>Q When will I have to send the deposit?</b></p> <p>A You will have to send the deposit ONLY should you be accepted by a company, and UPON REQUEST by the Centre.</p>
10	<p><b>Q Can I contact a former participant by e-mail, to ask him/her some questions?</b></p> <p>A For reasons of privacy, we do not give out alumni e-mail addresses until short-listing has been completed.</p>
11	<p><b>Q Where will the Japanese language course take place? Where will the traineeship take place?</b></p> <p>A The Japanese language course will take place in Tokyo; the traineeship will take place where the Host Company is located (very variable).</p>
12	<p><b>Q If I e-mail you my CV beforehand, could you have a look at it and let me know if I am eligible?</b></p> <p>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.</p>
13	<p><b>Q What should I do if I am short-listed?</b></p> <p>A You will have to check your e-mail regularly and promptly provide the documentation we will request.</p>
14	<p><b>Q Will there be a preparatory meeting in Brussels?</b></p> <p>A Yes. In July (1 day), prior to your departure for Japan. This meeting is compulsory (note that the travel expenses and accommodation will be covered by yourself).</p>

15	Q	<b>When will I receive the grant? Is it enough to live in Japan?</b>
	A	The grant (2.000.000 yen) is split in 3 parts. You will receive the first part at the start of the programme, the second in December 2009, the third in April 2010. Previous Vulcanus students have found the grant sufficient to live on (enjoying a student lifestyle). Should you wish to undertake expensive activities (trips etc.), you will need to pay for them yourself.
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 and accept 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. This is why we ask you to be aware of this issue, when you apply. Any withdrawal after the <b>beginning of March 2009</b> (the start of match-making) would cause big problems for the Centre. Please consider this issue and be certain of your intentions and very strong motivation, before applying (also see clause [6] on this point in the application form).
18	Q	<b>* I will graduate in September (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.