

TOKAI-HSE Online Winter School 2026

“Cultural Codes: Unique Architecture of Societies”

1. Program Outline

Despite the familiarity and frequency of use of the word in everyday life, the phenomenon of culture is complex, multifaceted and ambiguous in content. Over the past twenty years, a whole new field has emerged in the global social sciences, united by the idea that “culture matters”. Research on the impact of culture on the economy, politics and social development is increasingly influencing perceptions in various spheres.

Each country has its own cultural code, influenced by religion, history, language, climate, agricultural techniques and other factors. A ‘code’ in this context is a set of signs or symbols used for storing, transmitting, processing information. In practice, a ‘code’ can be expressed as a set of rules, laws, principles that ensure the functionality of a system. Culture in this sense is not an exception, and the content and purpose of its codes require interdisciplinary interpretation.

Russia and Japan are two countries whose cultures are multifaceted, unique and different. However, are these two countries so different from each other? Or is there more in common between Russia and Japan than we might realise? Sometimes, in order to find the answer, it is necessary to move away from patterns and start thinking outside the box.

In this winter school we will focus on interdisciplinary analyses of the historical perspectives, cultural and social aspects of Russia and Japan. Through specialised lectures and students' project work, we will try to identify the coordinate system in which these countries have developed and focus on the formulation of ‘cultural codes’ that allow us to reveal the unique features of the countries, points of correlation and directions of interaction.

We look forward that every participant from Japan and Russia will enjoy sharing the time studying together and could take a chance to get new knowledge and skills.

2. Language: English (Russian and Japanese might be used in case of necessity)

3. Schedule

February 12 (Thu)

9:00-9:30 (MST) – Guidance

9:40-12:50 - Lectures of Japanese and Russian specialists

February 13 (Fri) - February 14 (Sat)

9:00-12:30 (MST) Lectures of Japanese and Russian specialists

February 16 (Mon)

9:00-10:30 (MST) - Lecture

10:40-12:30 (MST) - Group work on a project

February 17 (Tue)

9:00-12:30 (MST) - Group work on a project

February 18 (Wed)

9:00-18:30 (MST) - Project presentation and discussion

Important: If you have been chosen as a participant of the program you must participate in all activities included in the program. The time indicated in the schedule is Moscow time.

4. Eligibility criteria

- Undergraduate or master's student National Research University Higher School of Economics
- High motivation to the program willingness to work in a team
- Good English proficiency.

5. Application

Please, fill in the application form and send the following

E-mail: ygladysheva@hse.ru

Email title must be “**Online Winter School 2026 Application**”

File name must be “**Application form (full name of applicant)**”

Emails with different email titles will not be accepted.

6. Application deadline

February 2, 23:59 MST