Edwin O. Reischauer Scholarship
The Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer Scholarship fosters Japanese-American understanding and cooperation. Successful candidates will be offered up to a full-tuition scholarship for four years at Oberlin College. Reischauer Scholars will be educated in the liberal arts and committed to international understanding.

Eligibility
Any Japanese national who has been accepted for admission to the Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences is eligible for this award.

Application
Students who wish to be considered for this award must submit the required Reischauer Scholarship Supplementary Application Essay in addition to a completed the Common Application, International Student Supplemental Form, and International Student Certification of Finances form.

Selection
The Oberlin College Office of Admissions will select Reischauer Scholars. Criteria for selection include a strong academic record and the potential to excel within an American liberal arts curriculum. This award does not require any supplementary materials.

About Edwin O. Reischauer (1910-1990), Oberlin Class of 1931
President John F. Kennedy in 1961 made an unusual appointment. Rather than nominate a career diplomat as the American ambassador to Japan, he nominated a scholar and teacher of Japanese and East Asian history: Edwin O. Reischauer. In addition to representing the interests of the United States, Reischauer saw the ambassadorship as an opportunity to mediate between what he called his “two homelands,” and to build “an equal partnership” between two industrial nations across the barriers of language, culture, race, and history. Today, the partnership he built is a crucial source of stability in world affairs.

Described by the Washington Post as “the most successful Ambassador to Japan,” Reischauer was born in Japan to missionary parents. His father was a professor at Meiji Gakuin University, and his mother founded the Japan School for the Deaf in Machida. Upon graduating from the American School in Japan, he enrolled at Oberlin College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history. He earned a Ph.D. at Harvard University, where he became a professor of Japanese studies and director of the Harvard Yenching Institute.

After the death of his first wife, Reischauer married Haru Matsukata. Like her husband, Matsukata was educated in both countries, and worked to develop “better understanding and peace between my two countries.” While many circumstances contributed to Ambassador Reischauer’s success, it is significant that he earned an American liberal arts degree. By enabling a Japanese student to follow this same path, the Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer Scholarship is a fitting memorial to a significant American friend of Japan.

For more information about the scholarship, contact the admissions office.