

Schedule

Have you planned your studies in Japan yet?

Next, let's look at the following general timetable and see what sort of preparations you'll have to make.

From planning to enrollment — what to do

Plan 1

If you are only interested in studying the Japanese language

You will take care of items 1 – 8 on the chart in your own country, 9 in Japan, and start at a Japanese language institute in 10.

Plan 2

If you want to enter university or a professional training college after studying the Japanese language

You will take care of items 1 – 8 on the chart in your own country, 9 in Japan, and start at a Japanese language institute in 10. Take care of items 11 and 12 while studying at a Japanese language institute, and your study is completed at 22. Item 23 marks your entry into a university or professional training college.

Plan 3

If you want to enter a university or professional training college in Japan directly from your own country

If you already have sufficient Japanese language abilities or will be entering a course conducted in English, skip items 2 – 10 and start at 11, request materials from university or professional training college. After passing the entrance examination and making the proper arrangements, item 23 marks your entry into a university or professional training college.

Using an agent

Making your own preparations to study in Japan has many merits. In addition to being economical, it helps you gain the ability to make decisions by yourself and improves your language skills. If you are a busy person or are unsure of your Japanese abilities, however, using an agent to arrange study in Japan is an option.

Key points for choosing an agent

1) Cost

Is the price reasonable in comparison with other agents? Isn't the agent misleading you to take a part-time job in Japan to pay for all of your school fees and living expenses? Are fee details and service content stated clearly in the contract?

2) Support

Is the agent providing you with information about schools that match your goals for studying in Japan? Isn't the agent recommending that you enter the country with false documents? Does the agent properly answer questions and provide proper answers if asked about procedures? Isn't the agent rushing you to make an application? Is the agent telling you both about the good points of studying in Japan as well as things you might find difficulties?

3) Track record

Does the agent have a proven track record of sending people to Japan?

Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3	
Start	Start		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓	Plan 3	
		Start	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
↓	↓	↓	
Study	↓	↓	
↓			
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
Japanese language institute completion	Japanese language institute completion		
Goal!!	Goal!!	↓	
	University/professional training college		
	Goal!!		

↓ = Taken care of in your own country

↓ = Taken care of in Japan

Step	Relevant pages	Time period		Action
1 Planning and information gathering	Page 3, pages 28–31			Clarify and concretize your goal for studying in Japan. Confirm the language abilities required and costs for studies in Japan.
2 Request materials from Japanese language institutes	Pages 18–19	April–June	October–December	Request school information and application materials from several schools you are interested in. Confirm requirements for application.
3 Choose a school	Pages 18–19	By September	By February	Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
4 Apply	Pages 18–19	September–November	February–April	Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school you wish to attend.
5 Admission acceptance letter		January–March	July–September	Receive admission acceptance letter. Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc.
6 Immigration procedures	Pages 24–27			Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
7 Prepare to study in Japan				Find a place to live.
8 Make travel preparations and depart				Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
9 Enrollment procedures				
10 Enroll and start studying		Japanese language institute enrollment		
		April (One- or two-year course)	October (One- and-a-half-year course)	
11 Request materials from university or professional training college	Pages 8–17	April–May		Request school information and application materials from several schools you are interested in. Confirm application requirements.
12 Choose a school	Pages 8–17	By June		Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
13 Apply for Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU); take Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), TOEFL®, IELTS, TOEIC® (as necessary)	Pages 20–21	By July		Apply for the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) and take any necessary examinations.
14 Apply	Pages 8–17	August–October		Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school you wish to attend.
15 Take entrance examination		November–February		Get your documents screened, take the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU), take the entrance examination of the school you wish to attend, etc.
16 Admission acceptance letter		January–March		Receive admission acceptance letter.
17 Immigration procedures	Pages 24–27			Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
18 Prepare to study in Japan				Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc. Find a place to live.
19 Apply to change status of residence				
20 Make travel preparations and depart				Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
21 Enrollment procedures				
22 Japanese language institute completion				
23 Enroll		University/professional training college enrollment		Notes: 1. Some schools allow enrollment in the fall (September or October). 2. The procedure from application to enrollment will vary depending on school. Thoroughly review a school's application guidebook and take care not to make any procedural mistakes.
		April		
24 Graduation		March		