

Universities (Undergraduate) and Junior Colleges

Universities and junior colleges constitute the core of higher education institutions in Japan. In principle, the required period of study for universities is four years, while that for junior colleges is two years. Some universities and junior colleges offer audit and credit-earning programs, both intended for non-degree students. Also, in addition to long-term, credit-earning programs, non-degree, short-term programs are available.

1 Check your admission eligibility

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) Students who have completed 12 years of school education in countries other than Japan
- 2) Students who are 18 years of age or older and have successfully passed an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to the completion of 12 years of school education in countries other than Japan
- 3) Students who are 18 years of age or older and have completed studies at international schools in Japan that are officially recognized as equivalent to high schools in countries other than Japan
- 4) Students who have completed 11 years or more of education courses that are designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in countries other than Japan
- 5) Students who are 18 years of age or older and hold an International Baccalaureate qualification, German Abitur qualification, French Baccalaureate qualification or who meet the GCE A level course requirements specified by each university
- 6) Students who are 18 years of age or older and have completed 12 years of curriculum at education institutes that are accredited by any of the following international accreditation organizations: The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Council of International Schools (CIS) or Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- 7) Students who are 18 years of age or older and have successfully passed the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination in Japan
- 8) A student who satisfies any one of the admission qualifications specified in the School Education Act, other than those outlined above
- 9) Students who are 18 years of age or older and are recognized by the educational institutions to which they apply for admission, through their individual admission qualification examinations, as having an academic ability that is equivalent to a high-school diploma or above

Note: With regard to 1) through 3) above, if a student has completed less than 12 years of education and not completed certain programs designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, he/she may be needed to complete an authorized university preparatory course or an authorized course at a training facility, among other things.

2 Find a school

Universities and junior colleges Key points to consider

1) Content of classes and research	Do they offer classes that I am truly interested in? Do they provide an opportunity for me to conduct research? Do they have instructors I want to study with?
2) Suitable program	Are classes under this program attended by both Japanese and international students? Does this program allow international students to earn a degree by only taking classes conducted in English? Is this a short-term or longer-term study program?
3) Research facilities	Are they well equipped with research facilities?
4) Entrance examination	Do they offer a pre-arrival admission system? Does this school have a special admission procedure for international students?
5) Number of international students accepted to date, support systems for international students	Do they offer supplementary Japanese classes? Do they have staff who support international students and tutors who assist international students in their studies and everyday life? Do they provide career-related support to students?
6) Career paths of graduates	Is it possible to go on to graduate schools? What about graduates' employment record?
7) School and other necessary expenses	How much are school and other necessary expenses for the first year? What about the amount of expenses for the second year onwards? What about the total amount of expenses to be incurred before graduation?
8) Chances of getting a scholarship	Do they have their own scholarship program and tuition exemption or reduction program? What is the possibility of receiving a scholarship? Will I be told of any decision on the approval or disapproval of a scholarship before I come to Japan?
9) Student housing	Do they have a dormitory or attached residential quarters? Do they refer students to apartments?
10) School location	Is the location of this school suitable for studying and living? Is this school located in a big city or a local city? Is the weather suitable for me?

Information on universities and junior colleges (JASSO)

https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html

Japanese colleges and universities search (JASSO)

https://www.g-studyinjapan.jasso.go.jp/univ_search/

Search for universities and junior colleges (Japan Study Support)

<https://www.jpss.jp/en/>

●私費外国人留学生のための大学入学案内

(Guide to university entrance for privately financed international students) (In Japanese only)

A guidebook that contains valuable information, such as the content of the entrance examinations of each university and junior college and the number of international students who have successfully passed the entrance examinations.

Edited and published: The Asian Students Cultural Association (sold in Japan)

Note: Available for browsing at Study in Japan Resource Facilities (see page 41)



3 Check the application materials required

- 1) Application form (university-specific form)
- 2) Certificate of upper secondary school graduation (or anticipated graduation)
- 3) Upper secondary school transcript
- 4) Letter of recommendation from the principal or a teacher from the originating upper secondary school
- 5) Certificate of proficiency in Japanese or English
- 6) Others

Documents for submission vary by school, and some schools require translations in Japanese or English. The best thing to do is inquire directly to the relevant school for details.



4 Check the entrance exam

Many schools conduct entrance exams not only for Japanese students but also for international students. The exam consists of some of the following items (the detailed methods vary depending on the school, so it is best that you check the school application guidebook for details):

- 1) Document screening
- 2) Test of academic ability
- 3) Interview
- 4) Short essay
- 5) Other competence and aptitude tests
- 6) Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
- 7) Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
- 8) National Center Test (大学入試センター試験)



5 What are the qualifications for course completion and graduation?

A student will be awarded a degree upon graduation, provided that the following criteria have been satisfied.

Note: Some universities set their own requirements (number of credits, etc.) for graduation.

Category		Required study period	Total credits earned	Degrees to be awarded
1) University (undergraduate)	Regular undergraduate faculties and four-year courses of faculty of pharmacy	4 years	124 credits or more	Bachelor's degree
	Faculties of medicine, dentistry and veterinary sciences, and six-year courses of faculty of pharmacy	6 years	Medicine and dentistry: 188 credits or more Veterinary science: 182 credits or more Pharmacy: 186 credits or more	
2) Junior college	2-year program	-	62 credits or more	Associate degree
	3-year program	-	93 credits or more	