

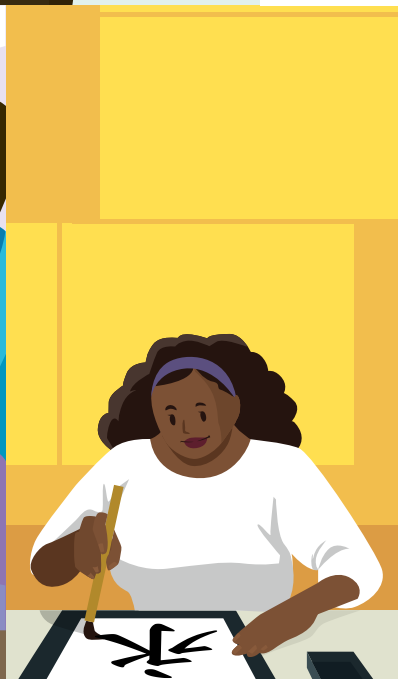
English



# 2018-2019 Student Guide to Japan

 Independent Administrative Institution  
Japan Student Services  
Organization

 **STUDY in JAPAN**



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# Japan Facts and Figures

- Longest life expectancy: 1st
- Industrial robots in operation in the world: 1st
- Total of financial contributions to the UN: 2nd
- Gross national income in the world: 3rd
- Total automobile production in the world: 3rd
- Global Peace Index in the world: 10th (and 1st in Asia)
- Population in the world: 11th
- Number of World Heritage Sites in the world: 12th (and 4th in Asia)
- Number of Nobel laureates (25) in the world: 7th (and 1st in Asia)

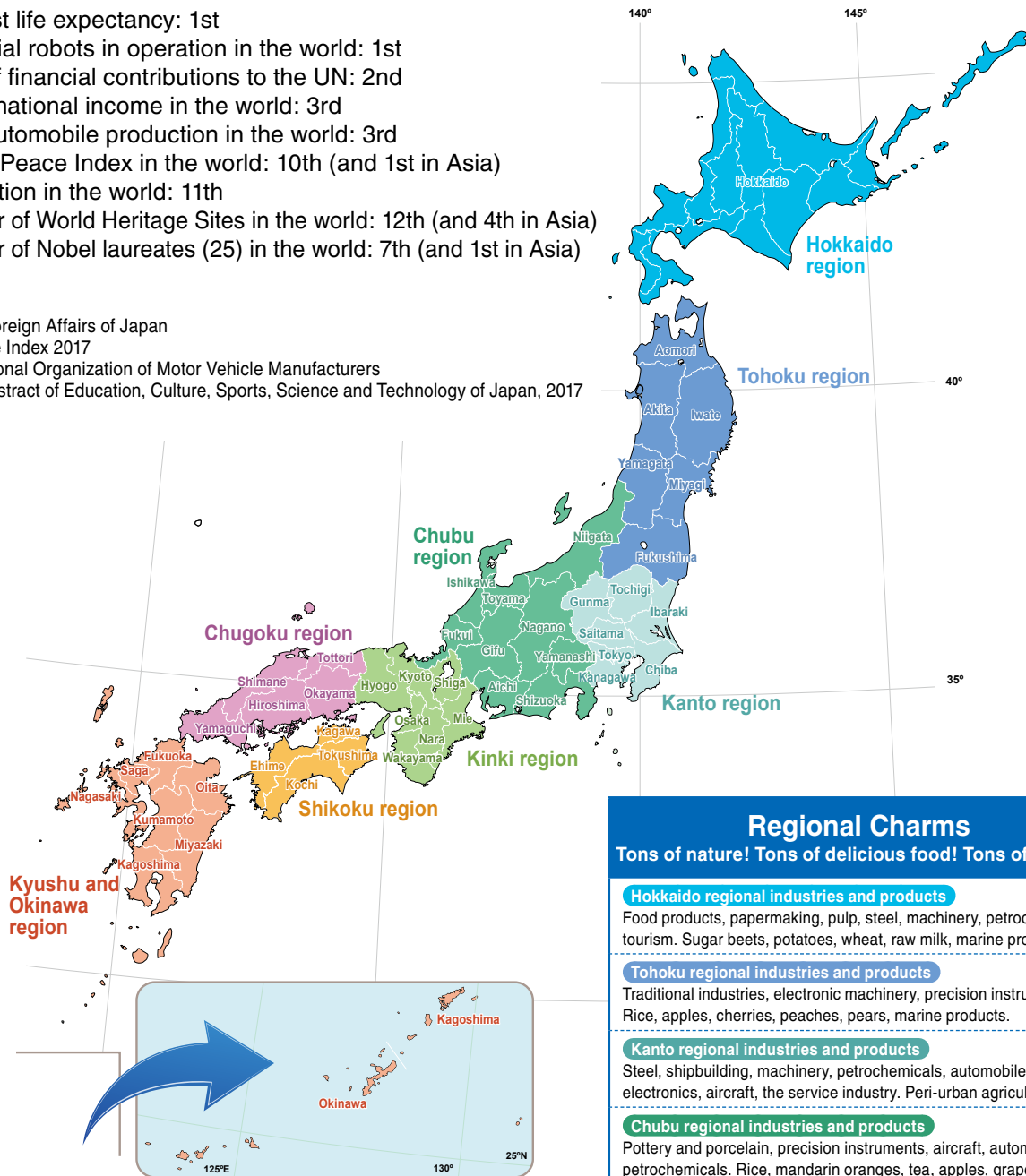
Sources:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Global Peace Index 2017

The International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers

Statistical Abstract of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, 2017



### Regional Charms

Tons of nature! Tons of delicious food! Tons of history!

- Hokkaido regional industries and products**  
Food products, papermaking, pulp, steel, machinery, petrochemicals, tourism. Sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, raw milk, marine products.
- Tohoku regional industries and products**  
Traditional industries, electronic machinery, precision instruments. Rice, apples, cherries, peaches, pears, marine products.
- Kanto regional industries and products**  
Steel, shipbuilding, machinery, petrochemicals, automobiles, home electronics, aircraft, the service industry. Peri-urban agriculture.
- Chubu regional industries and products**  
Pottery and porcelain, precision instruments, aircraft, automobiles, petrochemicals. Rice, mandarin oranges, tea, apples, grapes, peaches.
- Kinki regional industries and products**  
Heavy chemicals, textiles, electrical equipment, food products. Peri-urban agriculture, forestry, mandarin oranges, pearl culturing.
- Chugoku regional industries and products**  
Synthetic fibers, steel, shipbuilding, automobiles, petrochemicals, cement. Pears, Muscat grapes, peaches, oyster cultivation.
- Shikoku regional industries and products**  
Shipbuilding, metals, papermaking, pulp, towels, synthetic fibers. Mandarin oranges, lotus root, carrots.
- Kyushu and Okinawa regional industries and products**  
Steel, machinery, chemicals, shipbuilding, petrochemicals. Rice, mandarin oranges, sweet potatoes, leaf tobacco, livestock, marine products.

### Websites with information on Japan

- Web Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)  
<http://web-japan.org/>
- Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)  
<http://www.japan.travel/en/>
- Attractive Regions of Japan (Japan Tourism Agency)  
<http://www.mlit.go.jp/kankocho/cruise/introduction/index.html>

# Why Study in Japan?

## Feedback from international students currently studying in Japan.

### Q What is your reason for studying in Japan? (multiple answers possible)

- A**
- |       |   |        |
|-------|---|--------|
| No. 1 | Obtain a degree   | 53.2 % |
| No. 2 | Acquire the skills and knowledge needed to get a <b>job</b>                     | 47.3 % |
| No. 3 | Work in Japan or get a <b>job</b> at a Japanese company                         | 44.3 % |
| No. 4 | Gain <b>international</b> experience and build <b>international</b> connections | 31.8 % |
| No. 5 | Acquire an <b>international</b> point of view                                   | 31.0 % |
| No. 6 | Acquire cultivation and education   | 27.1 % |
| No. 7 | Improve Japanese language abilities   | 21.8 % |
| No. 8 | Come in contact with a <b>different culture</b>                                 | 17.3 % |
| No. 9 | Conduct research in an <b>excellent environment</b>                             | 9.6 %  |

I was able to make many friends from Japan and other countries, actively communicate, participate in lots of extracurricular activities, and enjoyed a full lifestyle.



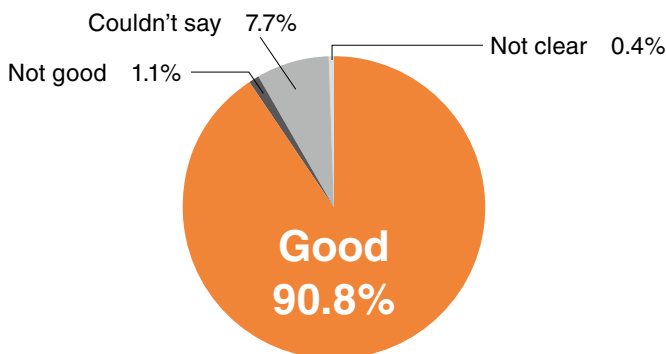
### Q Why did you choose to study in Japan? (multiple answers possible)

- A**
- |        |   |        |
|--------|---|--------|
| No. 1  | Interested in Japanese society, wanted to live in Japan   | 59.5 % |
| No. 2  | Wanted to study the Japanese language/Japanese culture  | 47.3 % |
| No. 3  | Found <b>education and research</b> at Japanese institutions, etc. <b>appealing</b>                     | 35.8 % |
| No. 4  | Wanted to work in an <b>occupation</b> connected to Japan   | 25.0 % |
| No. 5  | Wanted to come in contact with a <b>different culture</b>   | 23.1 % |
| No. 6  | Because <b>the specialty or major I was interested in</b> was offered in Japan                          | 22.1 % |
| No. 7  | Recommended by friends, acquaintances, families, etc.   | 19.6 % |
| No. 8  | Geographically close  | 19.6 % |
| No. 9  | Considered other countries, but conditions such as academic abilities and costs in Japan suited me best | 15.0 % |
| No. 10 | Inter-university exchange, etc. served as impetus   | 5.8 %  |

I was able to engage in fulfilling research activities surrounded by fantastic researchers and in an outstanding research environment. Set clear goals and immerse yourself in research!



### Q What was your impression of studying in Japan?



Job hunting in Japan is unique and it was difficult, but it was a valuable experience that enabled me to rediscover myself and truly grow.



Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2015 (JASSO)

# Planning Your Studies in Japan

Making a plan is the key to success!

Key points!

Why

Where

How long

What

**Why do you want to study in Japan?**

What qualifications and abilities are needed for the job you want to do?

**Where and at what kind of educational institution do you want to study?**

**How long will your studies require?**

**What do you want to study?**

What will be your specialty or major?

1 Academic degrees and titles	Bachelor's degree	University	4 years (6 years for some)	Economics, physics, medicine, architecture, agriculture, welfare, design, art, education, sociology, information science, environmental science, anime, games
	Master's degree	Graduate school	2 years–	
	Doctoral degree	Graduate school	3 years–	
	Associate degree	Junior college	2 years (3 years for some)	
	Diploma	Professional training college	2–3 years	
	Advanced diploma	Professional training college	4 years	
2 Short-term study experiences	Short-term study	Japanese language institute, short-term university program	Several months–1 year	Japanese language, Japanese culture, comparative culture
	Student exchange program	University	Up to 1 year	
3 Japanese language learning	Language acquisition	Japanese language institute	Up to 2 years	University entry course, Japanese conversation, business Japanese
	University entry	Japanese language institute	Up to 2 years	
		Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges	1–2 years	

When

**When will you go?**

When does the program you are interested in start?  
How much time do you need for preparation?

How much

**How much will things cost?**

Travel costs? Living expenses?  
Apartment rent? Food expenses?  
Do you have enough savings?  
Will your family be sending you money?  
Will you take a part-time job?  
Are there any scholarships?

Make your plan while viewing the schedule on pages 4–5.

Make your calculations while looking at pages 28–36.

# 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		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓		
↓	↓	Start	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
↓	↓	↓	
Study	↓	↓	
↓			
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓	↓	
	↓		
Japanese language institute completion	Japanese language institute completion		
Goal!!	Goal!!		
	University/professional training college		
		Goal!!	

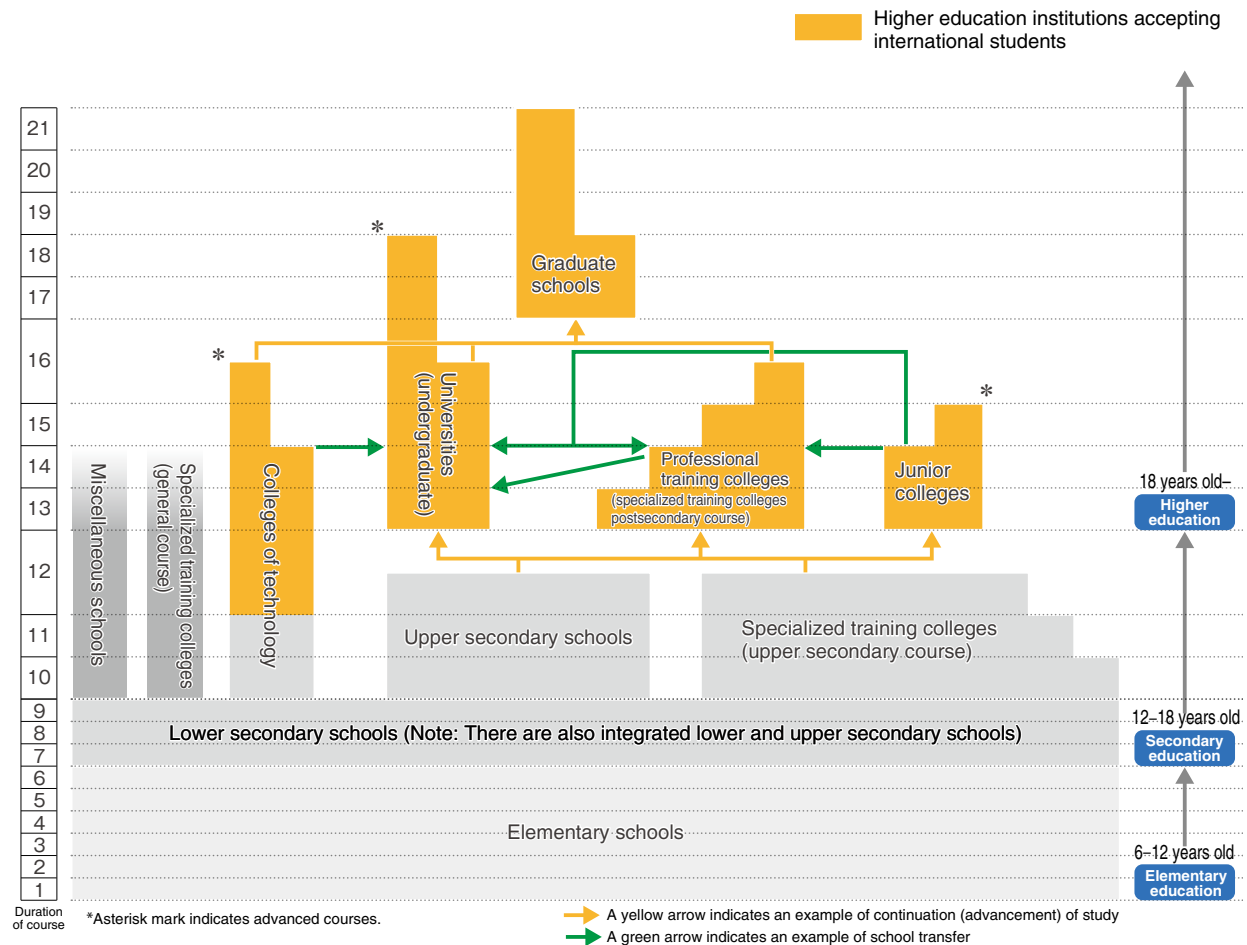
↓ = Taken care of in your own country

↓ = Taken care of in Japan

Step	Relevant pages	Time period		Action
<b>1</b> 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.
<b>2</b> 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.
<b>3</b> Choose a school	Pages 18–19	By September	By February	Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
<b>4</b> Apply	Pages 18–19	September–November	February–April	Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school you wish to attend.
<b>5</b> Admission acceptance letter		January–March	July–September	Receive admission acceptance letter. Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc.
<b>6</b> Immigration procedures	Pages 24–27			Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
<b>7</b> Prepare to study in Japan				Find a place to live.
<b>8</b> Make travel preparations and depart				Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
<b>9</b> Enrollment procedures				
<b>10</b> Enroll and start studying		Japanese language institute enrollment		
		April (One- or two-year course)	October (One- and-a-half-year course)	
<b>11</b> 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.
<b>12</b> Choose a school	Pages 8–17	By June		Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
<b>13</b> 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.
<b>14</b> Apply	Pages 8–17	August–October		Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school you wish to attend.
<b>15</b> 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.
<b>16</b> Admission acceptance letter		January–March		Receive admission acceptance letter.
<b>17</b> Immigration procedures	Pages 24–27			Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
<b>18</b> Prepare to study in Japan				Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc. Find a place to live.
<b>19</b> Apply to change status of residence				
<b>20</b> Make travel preparations and depart				Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
<b>21</b> Enrollment procedures				
<b>22</b> Japanese language institute completion				
<b>23</b> 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		
<b>24</b> Graduation		March		

# Japanese Educational System

In Japan, the higher education starts upon the completion of 12 years of education: elementary education (6 years of elementary school) and secondary education (3 years of lower secondary school and 3 years of upper secondary school). There are 5 types of higher education institutions where international students can be admitted to, which are 1) Colleges of technology, 2) Professional training colleges (postsecondary course of specialized training colleges), 3) Junior colleges, 4) Universities (undergraduate) and 5) Graduate schools. Depending on the founding bodies, these higher education institutions are categorized into three types: national, local public and private.



## 1 Check the academic year and school term system

The academic year of schools in Japan normally starts from April and ends in March of the following year. Many universities in Japan adopt a semester system (two terms), with a first semester from April to September and a second semester from October to March. Some of the universities adopt a trimester system (three terms) or a quarter system (four terms). In general, students in Japan begin school in April, but some universities—especially graduate schools—also have a September or October admission program.

### One academic year for a student enrolling in April in a two term school

April	May	June	July	August	September
First semester				Summer vacation	Second semester
October	November	December	January	February	March
Second semester			Winter vacation	Spring vacation	



## 2 Check your admission eligibility

In principle, you must have completed 12 years of education to apply for admission to a university (undergraduate), junior college, or professional training college in Japan. You must have completed 11 years of education to apply for admission to a college of technology, and 16 years of education for admission to a graduate school (master's program).

Students from countries such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia and Peru who have completed 10 or 11 years of elementary and secondary school education and wish to apply for admission to higher education institutions, such as universities, in Japan must meet either of the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) Have completed 12 years of formal school education by taking an additional one or two years of schooling at a university or other higher education institution or a university preparatory program in their home country.
- 2) Have completed university preparatory courses (*junbi kyouiku katei*) authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan\* (provided, however, that they have completed a level of education equivalent to a Japanese high school).

If you have completed elementary and secondary education courses in your home country that are 11 years long or more but less than 12 years, you are considered eligible for admission without completing the university preparatory courses if the said education courses are designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

Note: In addition to the following eligibility criteria, some schools also set their own requirements. If you are unsure whether your qualifications meet the admission requirements, please be sure to consult the school of your choice.

\* List of university preparatory courses authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html)

## 3 Check the degrees and titles you can obtain and the required study periods

	Program	Academic degrees and titles	Required study period
Graduate school	Doctorate program *1	Doctoral degree	5 years
	Master's program	Master's degree	2 years
	Professional degree program	Master's professional degree	2 years
		Juris doctor (professional degree)	3 years
		Master of education (professional degree)	2 years
University (undergraduate)	General faculties, faculty of pharmacy (four-year program)	Bachelor's degree	4 years
	Faculties of medicine, dentistry, veterinary and pharmacy (six-year program)		6 years
Junior college *2 *5	–	Associate degree	2 or 3 years
College of technology *3 *4 *5	–	Foundation degree	3 years (3 years and 6 months for mercantile marine studies)
Specialized training college *4	Postsecondary course (professional training college)	Diploma	2 years or more
		Advanced diploma	4 years or more

\*1 Graduate school doctorate programs are sometimes divided into the first phase (two years) and the second phase (three years). The required period of undergraduate study in medicine, dentistry and veterinary and certain pharmaceutical programs is six years, and the duration of their graduate (doctorate) programs is four years.

\*2 It is possible for junior college graduates to earn a bachelor's degree by completing one or two-year advanced courses after graduation.

\*3 The required period of study at a college of technology is normally five years, but international students are accepted from the third year. It is possible for college of technology graduates to earn a bachelor's degree by completing two-year advanced courses after graduation.

\*4 "Associate" at the college of technology and "diploma" and "advanced diploma" at the specialized training college listed above are academic titles, not degrees.

\*5 After completing an advanced course in a junior college or college of technology authorized by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), you can obtain a bachelor's degree if you pass the examination set by the NIAD-QE. Please check the details with the school you are applying to.

National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (academic degree awarding organization)

<http://www.niad.ac.jp/english/>

**Q** Is a degree earned in Japan valid in other countries?

**A** Normally, a degree earned in Japan is recognized as equivalent to those earned in other countries. In some countries, however, the ministry of education or a qualifications assessment institution (a nonprofit organization, private enterprise, etc.) appraises academic degrees obtained in foreign countries. Please check with the relevant authorities in your home country.

# 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) <b>Content of classes and research</b>	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) <b>Suitable program</b>	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) <b>Research facilities</b>	Are they well equipped with research facilities?
4) <b>Entrance examination</b>	Do they offer a pre-arrival admission system? Does this school have a special admission procedure for international students?
5) <b>Number of international students accepted to date, support systems for international students</b>	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) <b>Career paths of graduates</b>	Is it possible to go on to graduate schools? What about graduates' employment record?
7) <b>School and other necessary expenses</b>	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) <b>Chances of getting a scholarship</b>	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) <b>Student housing</b>	Do they have a dormitory or attached residential quarters? Do they refer students to apartments?
10) <b>School location</b>	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](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/](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)



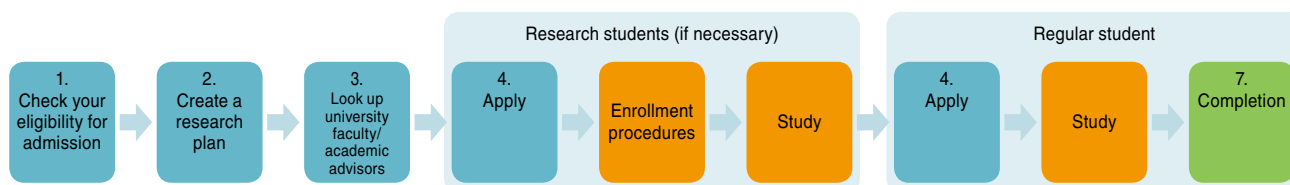
**5 What are the qualifications for course completion and graduation?**

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	

# Graduate Schools



## 1 Check your eligibility for admission

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria:

### 1 Master's program/Doctoral program (first phase)

- 1) Japanese university graduates
- 2) Students that have been conferred their bachelor's degree through the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)
- 3) Students who have completed 16 years of school education in countries other than Japan
- 4) Students who have completed a program with the standard study period of three years or more at universities or equivalent educational institutions in countries other than Japan and received a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree
- 5) Students who have completed 16 years of education at education institutions in Japan recognized as having overseas undergraduate programs
- 6) Students who have completed designated professional training college courses
- 7) Students recognized as having academic abilities equivalent to or better than university graduates in an individual entrance qualification examination conducted by a graduate school, and who have reached 22 years of age

### 2 Doctoral program (second phase)

- 1) Students with a Japanese master's degree or students with a Japanese professional degree
- 2) Students who have been awarded with an overseas degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree
- 3) Students who have completed graduate programs at education institutions in Japan recognized as having overseas graduate programs and who have obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree
- 4) Students who have graduated from universities and have been involved in research study at universities or research centers (including overseas universities and research centers) for two years or more, and recognized as having academic competency equivalent to persons with a master's degree by the graduate school
- 5) Students recognized as having academic abilities equivalent to or better than master's degree or professional degree holders in an individual entrance qualification examination conducted by the graduate school, and who have reached 24 years of age

### 3 Doctoral program (faculties of medicine, dentistry, veterinary sciences and certain pharmaceutical programs)

If you apply to a program in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or certain pharmaceutical sciences, please confirm directly with the school of your choice before applying since eligibility requirements for admission vary according to the applicant's academic background.

## 2 Create research plan

A research plan is a document that outlines the subject and approach of your research. Most graduate schools require the submission of a research plan. Your research plan should include the following items:

- 1) Purpose of your research
- 2) Background
- 3) Meaning
- 4) Method
- 5) References, etc.

The format and word count requirement vary with each graduate school. The word count for a research plan is usually about 2,000 Japanese characters. When developing a research plan, it is important to clarify and understand what has been accomplished and what work remains in your area of research by carefully reviewing the relevant theses and articles.

Key examination points are as follows:

- 1) Research ambition
- 2) Ability to find a topic
- 3) Ability to analyze things
- 4) Ability to think logically
- 4) Knowledge relating to major/specialty

### Online database of journal articles

#### • CiNii Articles

<http://ci.nii.ac.jp/en>

#### • Article Search Cross

<https://gross.atlas.jp/top>



#### ●実践 研究計画作成法

(How to write a research plan)  
(In Japanese only)

You can learn how to write a research plan and how to prepare for the oral test.

Author: JASSO

Published: Bonjinsha Co., Ltd.

(sold in Japan)

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

### 3-1 Find a school

#### Graduate school information (JASSO)

- [http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

#### Graduate school lookup (Japan Study Support)

- <http://www.jpss.jp/en/>

### 3-2 Look for your prospective academic advisor

An academic advisor is a professor/lecturer who gives you advice on studies and course planning. Basically, you have to look for an academic advisor on your own. Some graduate schools require the applicants to look for an academic advisor and obtain his/her informal consent prior to the submission of the application.

#### How to search for an academic advisor:

- Ask your academic advisor in your university to introduce a graduate school academic advisor.
- Obtain information from academic journals, recommendations from former international students or researchers in your country.
- Look for an academic advisor from the website.
- Ask the university you want to enroll to introduce a graduate school academic advisor.

#### Online database of researchers

- **researchmap**  
<http://researchmap.jp/search/?lang=english>
- **J-GLOBAL**  
<http://jglobal.jst.go.jp/en/>

#### When contacting a university or an academic advisor:

You should write specifics of your research results, your future research plan and the reasons why you chose that particular academic advisor. It will be better if you attach a letter of recommendation from your academic advisor in your home country. As the academic advisor can judge you only from your letter, it may be difficult for him or her to immediately accept your request. So, what you need to do is to communicate through several letters to show your deep interest in the subject matter. Instruction concerning how to write an e-mail message to an academic advisor is provided in the book “実践研究計画作成法 (How to write a research plan)” introduced above.

#### Advice from a student studying in Japan

An academic advisor is an extremely important part of your student life. Gather information about potential academic advisors as much as possible from current students and other sources and consider which one will be the best match for you.

### 4-1 Check application materials required

To enter a regular graduate school program, some graduate schools allow applicants to take an examination to enter the program directly, while others prefer that students enter the regular program after studying as a research student (*kenkyusei*).

- 1) Application form (graduate school-specific form)
- 2) Certificate of bachelor's degree (or anticipated degree)
- 3) Certificate of master's degree (or anticipated degree) (in case of a doctoral course)
- 4) Transcript of the last school attended
- 5) Letter of recommendation
- 6) Research thesis (graduation thesis) and summary
- 7) Research plan
- 8) Others

Documents for submission may vary according to graduate schools, and some schools require them to be translated into Japanese or English. It is best that you inquire directly with the relevant school for details.

### 4-2 Check the application period

In most cases the application period is from summer through October/November, or in January. In either case, admission is generally in April. There are some graduate schools that use a September or October admission system.

### 4-3 Check the entrance exam

Admission consists of the following parts. Admission process and requirements vary depending on the school. It is best that you visit the school website for details.

- 1) Document screening (application materials required)
- 2) Test on academic ability (written exam on major field or designated subjects)
- 3) Interview (in person or online)
- 4) Short essay
- 5) Oral examination on major field (in person, by phone, etc.)

## 5 What is a research student (*kenkyusei*)?

A research student is defined as a non-degree student, as explained below.

- 1) Students enrolled in a course for short-term research and not to obtain a degree (mainly graduate-school level)
- 2) Short-term international students enrolled in a course under the inter-university exchange agreement (undergraduate courses and graduate schools)
- 3) Students enrolled to prepare for admission to regular graduate school programs (mainly for students who have completed undergraduate courses)

**Selection process:** In most cases, the admission process is based on screening of documents.

**Status of residence:** In order to obtain the “Student” status of residence as a research student who is to study by auditing courses exclusively, he or she will have to attend at least 10 hours of classes a week. Additionally, research students who don’t audit courses but conduct unpaid research will need a “Cultural Activities” visa.

## 6 What is a professional graduate school?

A professional graduate school aims to nurture professionals who have highly specialized expertise and who can play a leadership role in a variety of social and economic fields. Typical examples of professional graduate schools are a graduate school of law (law school) that educates professionals in law and a graduate school of education that develops educators. There are other professional graduate schools which are specialized in fields such as business, management of technology (MOT), accounting, and public policy. There are MBA programs where students can take classes in English.

## 7 What are the requirements for course completion?

Program	Academic degree	Required study period	Total credits earned	Others
Doctoral program	Doctorate	5 years	30 credits or more (including credits earned in the master’s program)	Appraisal on the doctorate graduate thesis and has passed the exam
Master’s program	Master’s	2 years	30 credits or more	Appraisal on the master’s graduate thesis and has passed the exam
Professional degree program	Master’s (professional)	2 years	30 credits or more (Total credits to be earned are different for graduate school of law and graduate school of education.)	
	Juris doctor (professional)	3 years		
	Master of education (professional)	2 years		

Notes:

1. Graduate school doctorate programs are sometimes divided into the first phase (two years) and the second phase (three years).
2. The required period of undergraduate study in medicine, dentistry and veterinary and certain pharmaceutical programs is six years, and the duration of their graduate (doctoral) programs is four years. There is no master’s course for medicine, dentistry, for certain pharmaceutical programs as well as for veterinary.



# Degree Programs in English

As Japanese universities become more globalized, there have emerged programs at universities and graduate schools in which students can obtain a degree by taking classes only in English, and Japanese language learning poses no obstacle. However, no such programs exist at colleges of technology and professional training colleges.

## 1 Find a school

### University Degree Courses Offered in English (JASSO)

**i** [http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

### Search for universities and junior colleges (Japan Study Support)

**i** <http://www.jpss.jp/en/>

## 2 Check application materials required

In addition to the usual materials (see pages 9 and 11), the following are often required to be submitted:

- 1) Certificate of proficiency in English (transcript of an accredited English proficiency test such as TOEFL® or IELTS)
- 2) Certificate of academic achievement (for an undergraduate course, an official transcript, such as that of the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) scores, Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores, or the scores of a high school graduation standardized examination in your home country)

## 3 Check screening methods

- 1) Screening of application documents; 2) interviews (interview in the country or region where you live, online interview); 3) other methods

Guideline for required English language proficiency

	TOEFL iBT	IELTS
Graduate schools	75–80	6
Universities (undergraduate)	71–80	5.5–6

### Top 3 universities with a high ratio of classes conducted only in English (excluding language classes) out of all university classes

Rank	University	%
1	Akita International University (Akita Prefecture)	98.0
2	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Oita Prefecture)	88.9
3	Miyazaki International College (Miyazaki Prefecture)	40.3

Source: Times Higher Education World University Rankings Japan edition

### Number of university degree courses offered in English

Major	Undergraduate	Graduate school
Humanities	12	15
Social science	11	81
Education	0	4
Science	8	85
Engineering	17	265
Agriculture/fisheries/veterinary	3	66
Medicine/health science	0	62
Home science	0	0
Arts	0	3
Interdisciplinary	16	65

Source: JASSO survey (as of May 2017)

A little advice

### For those also interested in learning Japanese

Some universities provide Japanese language education programs for international students. However, these classes may or may not award university credits. In addition, additional course fees may be required.

Advice from a student studying in Japan

Even if you enroll in a course in which you can earn a degree taking classes only in English, learning conversational Japanese, Hiragana and Katakana will make life in Japan much easier. It will also be an advantage when looking for a job.

# Short-term Study Programs and University Transfer Program

## 1 Short-term study programs

“Short-term study program” refers to a program of any period from a few weeks to a full school year, but which does not lead to a degree. Short-term students are generally considered nonregular students.

**Language used in the class:** Some programs consist of classes conducted in Japanese only while others offer classes in English only or in both Japanese and English.

**Program formats:** There are various formats, depending on the university, such as special classes exclusively for short-term international students or those accepting international students enrolled in general departmental courses.

Short-term study in Japan can be divided into five types based on characteristics:

	Overview	Credits	Tuition paid to	Inquiries
1) Student exchange program	A system for students to study at a university in Japan with which their home university has concluded a student exchange agreement.	In general, credits acquired at the university in Japan are accepted as credits at the student's home university within the scope of the exchange agreement.	Normally, the student's home university (exemption from the Japanese university's tuition)	Home university in student's own country
2) Programs other than student exchange programs	There are programs that allow students even from universities with which a student exchange agreement has not been concluded to participate <sup>1</sup> .	It may not be possible to receive credits depending on the program.	Normally, the university in Japan	The university in Japan
3) Research student <sup>2</sup>	A system in which a person who has graduated from a university may study a specialized field at a graduate school as a research student for six months or one year.	Not receivable	The university in Japan	The university in Japan
4) Audit student <sup>2</sup>	A system for the purpose of auditing classes.	Not receivable	The university in Japan	The university in Japan
5) Credit-earning student <sup>2</sup>	A system for the purpose of receiving credit for classes.	Receivable	The university in Japan	The university in Japan

1. Search for universities with short-term study programs (JASSO)  
[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)
2. To obtain the “Student” status of residence as a research student by studying exclusively by auditing classes, audit student or credit-earning student, he/she is required by law to attend at least ten hours of classes a week. A research student who will engage in unpaid research without auditing classes requires the “Cultural Activities” status of residence.

### Q Are there any scholarship programs available for short-term study abroad?

**A** The following scholarship programs are available.

#### 1) Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship (Japanese Studies Students)

Eligibility: Undergraduate students majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture

Monthly stipend: JPY 117,000

Inquiries: (1) To apply via an embassy recommendation, go to the nearest Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country. (2) To apply via a university recommendation, ask your current school in your home country.

#### 2) JASSO Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-term Study in Japan)

Eligibility: International students who are accepted under an inter-university exchange program agreement

Monthly stipend: JPY 80,000

Inquiries: Current school in home country.

## 2 University transfer program

There are many universities offering university transfer/inter-university transfer programs in different formats and requirements.

- It is not necessarily allowed every year.
- It is not necessarily applicable to all departments and faculties.
- The terms completed and the credits earned at another university are not always transferable.

To transfer/inter-university transfer to a university (an undergraduate course), usually one of the following requirements must be met.

- Graduates of junior colleges
- Graduates of colleges of technology
- Students having a diploma title (graduates of professional training colleges)
- Graduates of an advanced course of upper secondary schools
- Students who have completed a university's general education (year 1 and above) and fulfill the necessary credits required by the transfer institution.
- Graduates of an undergraduate program

Compared to regular admission, information on university transfer/inter-university transfer programs is very limited. Get early information from your school of choice on the options.

Search for universities with a university transfer program (JASSO)

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)



# Colleges of Technology

Colleges of technology are higher education institutions and are also called *kosen* (高専). They offer a comprehensive five-year program (a five-and-a-half year program for mercantile marine studies) for junior high school graduates. As a general rule, international students start from the third year of the college of technology's program, skipping the first and second years. There are national, local public, and private colleges of technology.

## 1 Features

- *Kosen* offer education programs to develop hands-on engineers with world-class expertise and the ability to handle the latest technology. There is a focus on lab work, practical work and hands-on exercises, as well as the acquisition of advanced theoretical knowledge.
- Though most departments in *kosen* are related to the engineering field, mercantile marine departments that aim to develop mariners are also available.
- Graduates of *kosen* are awarded the title of "associate degree."
- After a five-year curriculum, a two-year advanced course is offered to provide a higher level of education.
- A student who has successfully completed a two-year advanced course after his/her graduation from the college of technology will be awarded a bachelor's degree if he/she passes the examination set by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE).

## 2 Check your eligibility for transfer admission

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria (in the case of national *kosen*).

- 1) Students who have completed 11 years of schooling in countries other than Japan
- 2) Students who have successfully passed an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to the completion of 11 years of schooling in countries other than Japan
- 3) Students who 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 hold an International Baccalaureate diploma, German Abitur diploma or French Baccalaureate diploma
- 5) Students who have completed 11 years of curriculum at international schools in Japan 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)
- 6) Students who have successfully passed the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination in Japan
- 7) A student who satisfies any one of the admission qualifications specified in the School Education Act, other than those outlined above

## 3-1 Government-financed study in Japan

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship for college of technology students

Inquiries: Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country

## 3-2 Privately-financed study in Japan

### 1 Application materials required

The National Institute of Technology conducts the common selection exam for all the national colleges of technology nationwide. The application document has been standardized. It is best that you visit the institute's website for details.

### 2 Entrance exam

The National Institute of Technology determines the results by overall evaluation of the following items:

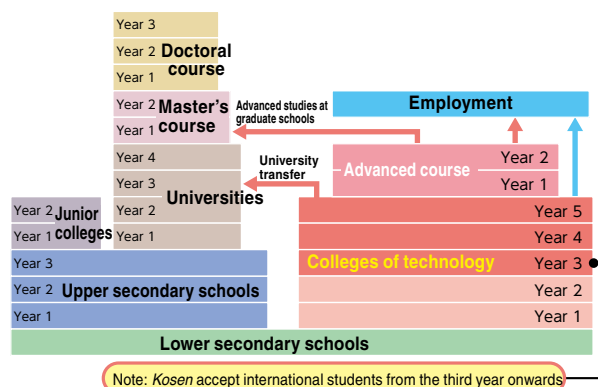
- 1) Application form
  - 2) Results of Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
  - 3) Transcript of TOEFL®, IELTS or TOEIC®
  - 4) Assessment of interview
- Interviews are conducted in Japan.

**For persons considering a college of technology:**  
(National Institute of Technology Center for International Student Exchange)

<http://ciex.kosen-k.go.jp/menuIndex.jsp?id=32333&menuid=7703&funcid=28>

## 4 Career or academic path after graduation

After graduating from *kosen*, students can choose to go on to higher education or to seek employment. Many international students transfer to national universities.



# Professional Training Colleges (specialized training colleges postsecondary course)

Specialized training colleges offering postsecondary courses are called professional training colleges and are one of the institution types classified as higher-education institutions. These colleges provide the know-how, technology and skills useful in one's future job and life as well as an improved education. In addition to diploma courses that require two or more years of study, there are advanced diploma courses that require four years or more.

## 1 What are the characteristics of education at a professional training college?

Professional training colleges can be broadly divided in eight fields: 1) medical care; 2) technology; 3) culture and general education; 4) business; 5) hygiene; 6) education and social welfare; 7) fashion and home economics; and 8) agriculture.

Examples of occupations that you can acquire the necessary education for at a professional training college include: interior designer, architect, system engineer, automobile mechanic, nurse, nutritionist, chef, pâtissier, beautician, certified public accountant, interpreter/translator, flight attendant, hotel staff, nursery school teacher, home helper, fashion designer, animator, movie director, producer, game creator, jewelry designer, etc.

## 2 Japanese proficiency requirements

Classes in professional training colleges are conducted in Japanese, so international students must be proficient in Japanese. Any one of the following qualifications must be met.

- 1) Students who have undergone Japanese language education for more than six months at institutions designated through official notification by the Minister of Justice
- 2) Students who have passed Level N1 or Level N2 of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) conducted by Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and the Japan Foundation
- 3) Students who have undergone Japanese elementary school, lower secondary school or upper secondary school education for one year or more
- 4) Students who have scored 200 points or more in the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) (Japanese as a Foreign Language subject [the total of reading comprehension, and listening and listening-reading comprehension])
- 5) Students who have scored 400 points or more in their BJT Business Japanese Proficiency Test conducted by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation

## 3 Admission eligibility

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria.

- 1) Students who have completed 12 years of schooling 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 schooling 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 longer of education courses 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 diploma, German Abitur diploma or French Baccalaureate diploma
- 6) Students who are 18 years of age or older and have completed 12 years of curriculum at international schools in Japan 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) 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
- 9) A student who satisfies any one of the admission qualifications specified in the School Education Act, other than those outlined above

Note: With regard to 1 through 3 above, if the period of schooling the student has completed is less than 12 years, he/she must also complete an authorized university preparatory courses or an authorized course at a training facility, among other things.

## 4 Find a school

### Professional training colleges

### Key points for choosing a school

1) Officially accredited institute	Are they authorized by the relevant prefectural governor? You will not be awarded the title of diploma if the professional training college is unauthorized.
2) Content of education and number of teachers	What about the curriculum? What about the ratio of the number of teachers to the number of students?
3) Facilities and equipment	Do they have adequate facilities and equipment that allow you to acquire the skills you are looking for? Be sure to check photos and school brochures.
4) Career guidance program and graduates' career paths	What is the school's career guidance policy? What about graduates' employment track record?
5) School expenses	How much are school expenses for the first year? What about the total amount of school expenses to be incurred before graduation? When is the payment due date?
6) School reputation	Take advantage of a network of graduates, international students, etc. to learn about the school's reputation.

### Search for professional training colleges

(National Association of Vocational Schools of Japan)

<http://www.zensenkaku.gr.jp/association/index.html>

(Metropolitan Tokyo Professional Institution Association)

<https://tsk.or.jp/?language=en>

### List of professional training colleges that accept international students

(Association for Technical and Career Education)

<http://www.sgec.or.jp/ryuugakuguide/en/index.html>

A little advice

### Check graduation requirements

Be sure to check with the school where the course grants diplomas.

## 5 Check application materials required

- 1) Application form (school-specific form)
- 2) Certificate of upper secondary school graduation
- 3) Transcript of the last school attended
- 4) Certificate of attendance at a Japanese language institute and the transcript (if applicant is residing in Japan)
- 5) Japanese language proficiency certificate (if applicant is residing outside Japan)
- 6) Others

Documents for submission may vary according to the school, and some schools require them to be translated into Japanese or English. It is best that you inquire directly with the relevant school for details.

## 6 Check the entrance exam

The exam includes some or all of the following tests: 1) Document screening, 2) subject test, 3) interview, 4) short essay, 5) aptitude test, 6) practical test, 7) Japanese language proficiency test, etc.

The entrance exam mainly examines whether students are focused on their objective in the field they have chosen, whether they have the Japanese language proficiency and academic skills required to cope with the classes after their admission, and whether the students have the desire to study.

## 7 What are the qualifications for course completion and graduation?

Title	Diploma	Advanced diploma
1) Course term	2 years or more	4 years or more
2) Total class hours	1,700 hours or more	3,400 hours or more
3) Qualification for completion	Exam results and other factors are evaluated for the qualification of course completion	
4) Course structure	-	The curriculum is systematically structured
5) After completing program	If you obtain a diploma, you can transfer to a university	If you obtain an advanced diploma, you are qualified to enter a graduate school

# Japanese Language Institutes

These institutes teach non-Japanese speakers the Japanese language. In most courses of study at higher education institutions in Japan, the classes are conducted in Japanese. To follow along with school classes, Japanese language abilities of around Japanese Language Proficiency Test levels N1 or N2 are required. This is equal to around 600 to 900 or more hours of study. It depends on the environment and individual effort, but even with concentrated study in Japan it requires around one to two years to reach this level.

A little advice

**Are there any courses you can take in English?**

There are more and more degree programs conducted in English (see page 13, Degree Programs in English).

**University Degree Courses Offered in English (JASSO):**

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

## 1 Types and number of schools

The types of institutions where you can study the Japanese language are presented below. They are categorized by their controlling entity, purpose, admission qualifications, and other factors, as well as the status of residence granted, number of schools, and number of students for each type.

	Japanese language institutes		Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges <sup>4</sup>
Controlling entity	Educational foundation (specialized training college or other miscellaneous school), public interest incorporated foundation, private company, voluntary organization, individual, etc.		Private university, junior college
Purpose	1) Japanese language acquisition <sup>1</sup> 2) Japanese language acquisition for admission to a Japanese university	2) Japanese language acquisition for admission to a Japanese university	1) Japanese language acquisition 2) Japanese language acquisition for admission to a Japanese higher education institution
Admission qualifications	Person who has completed 12 years of secondary education	Person who has completed less than 12 years of secondary education <sup>2</sup>	Person who has completed 12 years of secondary education
No. of schools	487	25	59
Course length	One to two years (normally)		One to two years
Status of residence	Student <sup>3</sup>		Student
No. of enrolled students	81,878		Approx. 5,400

1 There are also courses in which you can learn business Japanese and Japanese for daily life.

2 If your home country's normal school education system (elementary school, junior high school and high school) requires less than twelve years, and if the last school you attended (and graduated from) is high school and you have not completed a designated curriculum, you will not be qualified for admission to a Japanese university, etc. However, if you are eighteen years old or older and complete a university preparatory course (*junbi kyouiku katei*) approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, you will acquire qualification for admission.

In such preparatory courses you will study English, mathematics, social science, science and other basic subjects for entrance into universities in addition to the Japanese language.

**University preparatory courses approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (JASSO):**

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html)

3 In the category of Japanese language institutes, only those officially approved via public notice by the Ministry of Justice are eligible to apply for the "Student" status of residence.

**Japanese language institutes officially approved via public notice by the Ministry of Justice:**

[http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyukan\\_nyukanho\\_ho28-2.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyukan_nyukanho_ho28-2.html)

4 Special courses established by private universities and junior colleges to teach the Japanese language to international students are called preparatory Japanese language programs (*ryugakusei bekka* or *nihongo bekka*). Students in these programs may study the Japanese language, Japanese culture, the current state of Japan and basic subjects necessary for entering a Japanese university. Students who wish to enter a Japanese university may use the admission-on-recommendation system to enter universities that offer preparatory Japanese language programs, if such are available, or enter another university of their choice. The advantage of such programs is access to a university's facilities and services.

## 2 Required application materials and enrollment periods

April to September/October to February.....Request application form, prepare materials, mail them  
 September to November/February to April.....Application period  
 January to March/July to September.....Immigration and enrollment procedures  
 April/October.....Start of one- or two-year course/Start of year-and-a-half course

Please give yourself sufficient time for preparations, generally at least six to nine months or more.  
 Although few in number, some schools offer programs starting in July and/or January.

## 3 Check application materials required

- 1) Application form
- 2) Curriculum vitae
- 3) Transcript from an upper secondary school or a university
- 4) Certificate of graduation (or anticipated graduation) from an upper secondary school or university
- 5) Proofs of financial means
- 6) Others

A little advice

### Can I transfer?

In general, transfer between Japanese language institutes is not permitted. Choose your school carefully by gathering as much information as possible on that school, browsing the school's website, studying the school prospectus or talking to current students or graduates of the school.

## 4 Find a school

Most Japanese language institutes determine the admission of applicants by screening their application documents, but there are some institutes that conduct interviews with them and their guardians or conduct a written exam.

### Japanese Language Institutes Key Points to consider

1) Student visa	Are they designated through official notification by the Minister of Justice? (If not, you will not be able to receive a student visa.)
2) Objective	General Japanese? Academic purpose? Japanese for business?
3) Class composition	Are classes distinguished by the level of student proficiency in Japanese? What is the number of students in a class?
4) Number of students and teachers	How big is the school? What is the ratio of teachers to students?
5) Ratio of students by nation of origin	Are there many international students from countries that use Chinese characters? Do they pay special consideration to international students from countries that do not use Chinese characters?
6) Number of class hours	What are the number of total class hours and the number of class hours by subject?
7) Preparing for exams	Do they offer classes for examination preparation (such as EJU and JLPT) or general subjects (such as English, mathematics, science, history and geography)?
8) Guidance on further study and lifestyle counseling	Do they offer guidance on further study or lifestyle counseling?
9) Post-completion trajectory	Where have previous students gone after completing the course? Can you go to the school you want to?
10) School expenses	Do the number of class hours and teachers and school facilities, among other things, justify the cost?
11) Entrance exam	Do they require the screening of application documents only? Do they require interviews with a guarantor and a contact person in Japan? Do they conduct entrance exams outside Japan?
12) School location	Are they located in a big city or a local city? Is the weather suitable for me?
13) Student housing	Do they have a dormitory or attached residential quarters? Do they refer students to apartments?

Search for Japanese language school (Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education)

[http://www.nisshinkyo.org/search/index\\_e.html](http://www.nisshinkyo.org/search/index_e.html)

Japanese Language School Association (JaLSA)

<http://www.jalsa.jp/>

List of Preparatory Japanese Language Programs Offered at Private University and Junior College (JASSO)

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html)

# Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)

The Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) is used to evaluate whether international students who wish to study at the undergraduate level at universities or other such higher educational institutions in Japan possess the Japanese language skills and the basic academic abilities needed to study at those institutions.

## Number of schools using the EJU

Universities	438
Junior colleges	88
Graduate schools	59
Colleges of technology	51
Professional training colleges	134
<b>Total</b>	<b>770</b>

(As of December 2017)



A majority of universities (almost all national universities) and other educational institutions in Japan consider the EJU scores in their admission process.

Whether you may use the EJU as an entrance exam varies even within the same university depending on undergraduate department; check the website below to find out whether EJU is necessary for the undergraduate department you wish to enter.

**List of schools using the EJU for screening**

<http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/use/index.html>

## 1 When does the exam take place?

June (first session) and November (second session)

## 2 Where does the exam take place?

Japan: 16 cities

Outside Japan: 17 cities in 14 countries and regions

Examination sites (outside Japan)

India (New Delhi), Indonesia (Jakarta, Surabaya), South Korea (Seoul, Busan), Sri Lanka (Colombo), Singapore, Thailand (Bangkok), Taiwan (Taipei), the Philippines (Manila), Vietnam (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City), Hong Kong, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Myanmar (Yangon), Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar), Russia (Vladivostok)

## 3 What subjects are on the test?

Students choose the subjects and languages specified by their universities of choice. Note that the Science and “Japan and the World” subjects cannot be taken at the same time.

Subjects	Purpose	Time	Score range	Selection of subjects	Examination language options
Japanese as a Foreign Language	Measurement of the Japanese language skills (academic Japanese) required for studying at Japanese universities.	125 minutes	Reading comprehension, listening comprehension, and listening-reading comprehension: 0–400 points Writing: 0–50 points		Japanese only
Basic academic abilities	Science	80 minutes	0–200 points	Select two of the following subjects: physics, chemistry or biology	Selective, either Japanese or English
	Japan and the World	80 minutes	0–200 points		
	Mathematics	80 minutes	0–200 points	Course 1, which is for those who will study liberal arts or sciences that require relatively minor proficiency in mathematics, or Course 2, which is for those who will study areas that require a high level of proficiency in mathematics	

Example: Application requirements for “A University” (designated EJU subjects)

Undergraduate department	Japanese as a Foreign Language	Japan and the World	Mathematics	Science				Examination language options (basic academic abilities)	Effective scores
				Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Selection of subjects		
Faculty of Law	○	○	Course 1					Japanese	Implemented in June or November 2018
Faculty of Engineering			Course 2	○			Free choice of one more science subject	English	Implemented in June 2018

## 4 Check the schedule

		1 <sup>st</sup> session	2 <sup>nd</sup> session	
1)	Application period	February–March	July	Obtain the bulletin of EJU, pay the exam fee and send out your application form. Note: Never fail to check the application period because it changes annually
2)	Examination voucher to examinee	May	October	The exam voucher will be sent out.
3)	Examination date	June	November	Sit for EJU
4)	Score report to examinee	July	December	The results will be notified to the examinees by JASSO. Then, JASSO submits the results of the examinees to the universities to which they have applied upon inquiry from those universities.

Note: Applications may be submitted via post or online depending on city. Please see the following website for details:

<http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/procedure/application.html>

## 5 EJU merits

### 1) A reservation program for a scholarship

Privately financed international students who have achieved an excellent score on EJU and will enroll as regular students in universities (undergraduate program), junior colleges, colleges of technology (in the third year or above) or specialized training colleges (postsecondary course) are eligible to use a reservation program for Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students.

Monthly stipend (FY2018): JPY 48,000

Application method: Apply using the designated method at the time you apply for the EJU.

Screening method: The recipients of the scholarship reservation program will be selected from those who have achieved excellent scores on EJU.

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/scholarships/scholarship/shoureihi/yoyakuseido/index.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/scholarship/shoureihi/yoyakuseido/index.html)

### 2) There is no limit to the number of times EJU can be taken, nor age. EJU scores remain valid for two years.

No matter how many times or how old you are, you can take EJU. EJU scores remain valid for two years so you can have up to four valid EJU scores, but you can only submit the test score of one session to each school. It is impossible to submit the scores of different sessions per subject. As many schools specify the EJU session that their applicants are required to take, please check the application guidebook of your school of choice to find out about their EJU requirements.

### 3) Schools Offering Pre-arrival Admission System

List of schools offering pre-arrival admission using EJU (approximately 160 schools)

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/prearrival/uni\\_national.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/prearrival/uni_national.html)

## 6 Past EJU questions and answers

### Sample questions and answers

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/pastpaper\\_sample.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/pastpaper_sample.html)



### EJU Questions Booklet (with a CD containing listening and listening-reading comprehension questions)

Past year questions of EJU

Authored and edited: JASSO

Published: Bonjinsha Co., Ltd.

(sold in Japan and Republic of Korea)

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

## Contact

### Taking EJU outside Japan

<http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/contact/index.html>

(EJU Overseas Representatives)

### Taking EJU in Japan

EJU Uketsuke-Center (Information Desk)

Tel: 0570-55-0585 Email: [eju@sdcj.co.jp](mailto:eju@sdcj.co.jp) Note: From overseas, please call +81-42-649-9571.

Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) (JASSO) 

<http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/index.html>

# Other Exams Used for Studying in Japan

Check the application guidebooks for the school you are interested in and take the designated examinations.

## 1 Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is designed to evaluate and certify Japanese language proficiency for non-native Japanese speakers. The test is held twice a year (July and December) in Japan and overseas test site cities.

### 1) Administered in Japan

**Japanese Language Learning Promotion Division, Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES)**

(Application Center: Open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Tel: +81-3-6686-2974

<http://info.jees-jlpt.jp/>

### 2) Administered overseas

**Center for Japanese-Language Testing, the Japan Foundation**

Tel: +81-3-5367-1025

<http://www.jlpt.jp/e/index.html>

## 2 The National Center Test (大学入試センター試験)

The National Center Test is a test that Japanese students are required to take for admission to undergraduate programs in national and public universities as well as some private universities in Japan. International students are not required to take this test for admission to most universities, but are required to take it for admission to some undergraduate programs (mainly faculties of medicine and dentistry).

**National Center for University Entrance Examinations**

<http://www.dnc.ac.jp/>

## 3 Other examinations used for studying in Japan

### - Examination that provides proof of English language proficiency:

TOEFL<sup>®</sup>, IELTS, TOEIC<sup>®</sup>, the Eiken Test in Practical English Proficiency

### - Examination that provides proof of academic abilities that are equivalent to those of upper secondary school graduates:

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), American College Test (ACT), International Baccalaureate Exams, test scores of a unified university entrance examination in an international student's home country, etc.





# Why I Chose to Study in Japan

## Listen to what they have to say!



### Nguyen Thi Tuong Van

Aoyama School of Japanese



Vietnam

I started studying Japanese because I loved Nintendo games. Even though I had studied for a long time, though, I still couldn't speak it at all. Because of this, even when I found a good job, things didn't go well and I lost confidence. I was so frustrated! I wanted to be able to express what I was thinking freely and expand my world, so I decided to study in Japan.

When I first arrived in Japan, I couldn't understand what Japanese people were saying at all. Nothing made me happier than when I gradually got used to the language and began to understand what they were saying. Then, before I knew it, my confidence swelled and I came to feel like I could do anything. I also had fun and made a lot of friends. Now I'm studying the Japanese language at a Japanese language institute while learning about Japanese culture and ways of thinking. It's extremely interesting and I think it will be useful. I am truly glad I came to Japan.



### Julia Saranya Meyner

Ochanomizu University



Sweden

When I read about the programs at Ochanomizu University, I knew it was the place for me. I plan on advancing into the Global Studies for International Cooperation course, but the fact that I get to study so many fields—especially with a focus on women, leadership and gender—is a huge plus for me. At first I was a little nervous about being at an all-women's university since we don't have institutions like these in Sweden, but after studying here for half a year I can say with confidence that I have never been in a more nurturing and supportive environment. All my classmates and professors are wonderful, and seeing our cute campus cats and turtles every day always brightens my mood.



### Alvin Sanjaya

Master's Program in Science and Technology, Sophia University



Indonesia

When I was a high school student, I learned that Japan was among the first nations in Asia to industrialize. Given that fact—and compounded by the notion that Japan remains a developed, safe and peaceful society—I believed studying in Japan would give me a way to actualize myself, either personally or professionally. Indeed, the Japanese capacity to be relatively unperturbed by change (even though they might be staunchly conservative in some aspects) could not be overemphasized. Aside from providing generous scholarships schemes, Japan's reasonably good sense of tolerance has given it an advantage in the competition to attract the world's brightest minds. Additionally, Japan now seems to be the first in Asia to experience a population decrease. Those population dynamics—quite different from what I encounter in my home country—sparked my interest in learning from the Land of the Rising Sun, because I do have concerns about overpopulation in developing countries, and what sort of culture is necessary to decelerate that population growth.



### Radoslav Tsvetanov Tsvetkov

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University



Bulgaria

Ever since I visited Japan for the first time five years ago, I have had a strong affection for this country and its people. At that time I was sixteen years old, and I came to Osaka as a participant in a short-term intercultural exchange program. I was living with a Japanese host family that was extremely kind and took care of me as though I was their real son. In only a month we developed a connection closer and stronger than any other relationship I had with people I had known for years. At that point, I realized there is something special in Japanese society that makes me want to stay longer in this country: the kindness and consideration that Japanese people have always had toward everyone around them. I believe this is a rare social characteristic that can be found only in Japan. This is how the warm-heartedness of Japanese people captured my mind and my heart, and made living in Japan my biggest dream. It also became the decisive factor for choosing to continue my higher education as an undergraduate student at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University.

# Immigration Procedures

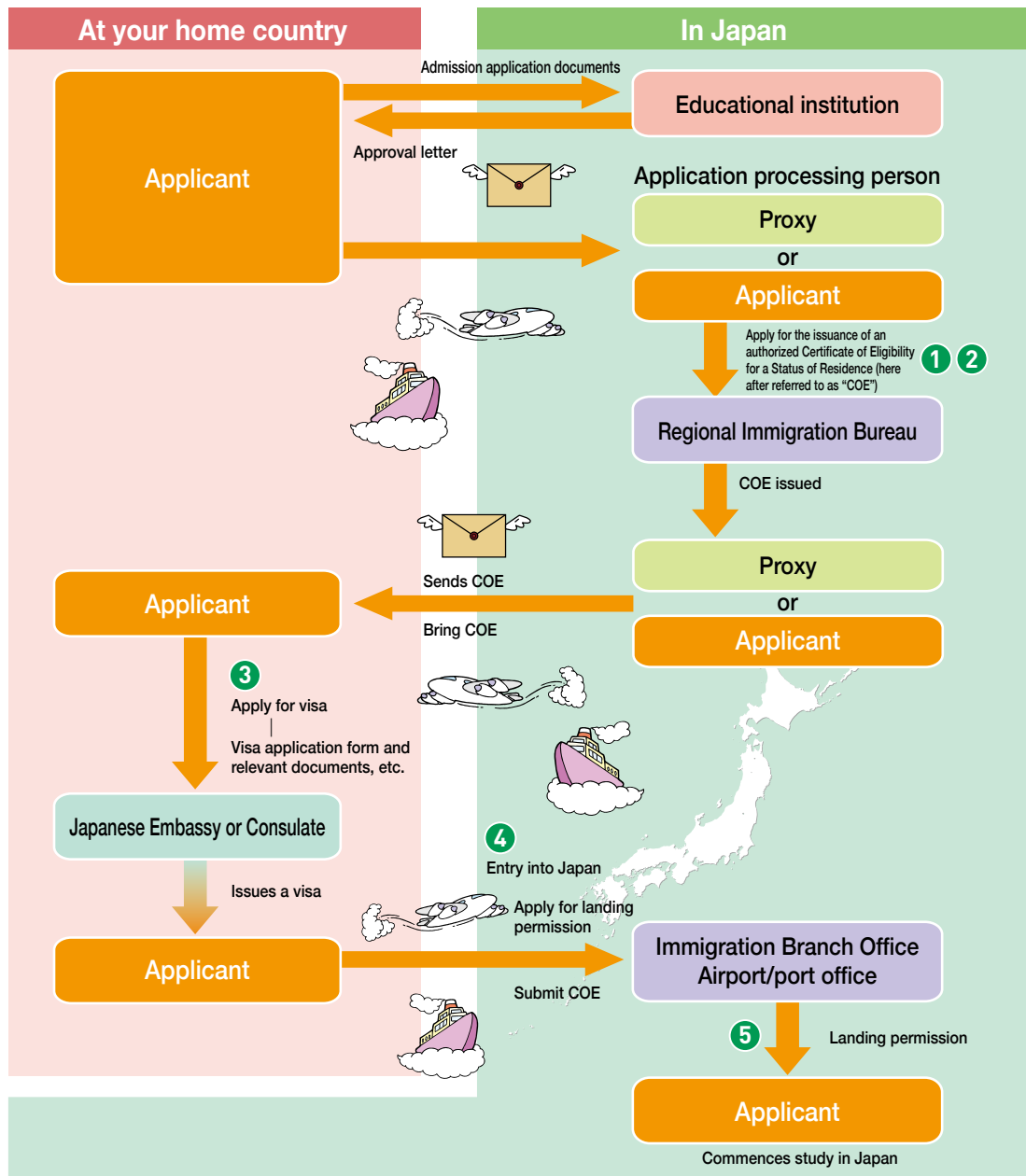
Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/index.html>

## Visa and status of residence

People wishing to study in Japan must apply for a visa first. There are several types of visa, and the person's status of residence is determined according to his/her reason for coming to Japan, status and position. The one applicable to international students for study at a university, a junior college, a college of technology, a professional training college, or a Japanese language institute etc., in Japan is "Student." Periods of stay are as follows: 4 years and 3 months, 4 years, 3 years and 3 months, 3 years, 2 years and 3 months, 2 years, 1 year and 3 months, 1 year, 6 months or 3 months. There are two ways to apply for a visa: Either by showing a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or without showing it. Showing a COE is the quicker of the two.

**!** Most applications for scholarships or accommodation for international students are available only to those holding the "Student" status of residence.

### Immigration procedures based on the issue of Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence (COE)



## 1 Application for Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence (COE)

An international student wishing to study in Japan or his/her proxy (e.g., a family member of the student or an employee of the school accepting the student) will first apply for an authorized COE at a regional immigration bureau in Japan. Although an applicant may personally apply for the COE, most of the time it is delegated to their proxy (institution, etc.). Please check with your school on documentation requirements when applying, as each school may have its own requirements.

## 2 Evidence showing the applicant's ability to pay all expenses during his/her stay in Japan

When applying for a COE or visa, you may be asked for proof that you are able to cover your expenses while studying in Japan.

A savings balance certificate, income certificate covering the past several years or taxation certificate of the person wishing to study in Japan (or his/her guarantor) is usually required as proof of the applicant's ability to cover expenses. If an applicant cannot cover the expenses related to entering, staying and studying in Japan, his/her parents or guardian may qualify to serve as a guarantor who provides the financial means to cover those expenses.

## 3 Visa application documents

Once the COE is issued, the visa application form can be submitted to the Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country.

Required documents:

- 1) **Passport**
- 2) **Visa application form**
- 3) **Photographs**
- 4) **COE**
- 5) **Documents other than the above may also be required.**

## 4 Entry to Japan

When entering Japan, the following documents are required.

Required documents:

- 1) **Passport**
- 2) **Visa from Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country**
- 3) **COE (If already issued)**

## 5 Residence card

A residence card (*zairyu card*) will be issued for a foreign national residing in Japan for more than three months. It is important that this residence card is carried at all times.

**Issue of residence card:**

**When entering Japan via New Chitose, Narita, Haneda, Chubu Centrair, Kansai, Hiroshima or Fukuoka Airport**

During the immigration process, a Landing Permission stamp will be affixed in your passport and a residence card will be issued. After you determine where you will live in Japan, please bring your residence card to the municipal office administering your address within 14 days to register as a resident.

**When entering Japan via airports other than those mentioned above:**

During the immigration process, a Landing Permission stamp will be affixed in your passport, with a seal indicating the later issuance of a residence card. After you determine where you will live in Japan, please go to the municipal office administering your address within 14 days to register as a resident. Be sure to bring your passport bearing the seal mentioned above. Your residence card will be mailed to your registered address at a later date.



Residence card

## 6 Social security and tax number (“My Number”)

In Japan, an individual 12-digit social security and tax number (also called “My Number” or “individual number”) is given to all residents, including nationals of other countries. Some time after completion of resident registration at the municipal office of your address, you will be sent card notifying you of your individual number. Please keep this notification card or individual number card (issued upon application) in a safe place, as your individual number is required in some situations, such as when completing important procedures at the municipal office. Please also note that this number is different from the 12-digit number written on your residence card.



Notification card

The following are examples of when your individual number is required:

- When completing procedures at the municipal office
- When starting part-time work

## 7 Immigration procedures for entrance exam purposes

If a foreign national travels to Japan to take an examination, he/she must obtain a “Temporary Visitor” visa at the Japanese embassy or consulate in his/her country by presenting the examination voucher of his/her school of choice. With a “Temporary Visitor” visa, you may be able to stay in Japan for 15, 30, or 90 days. If a foreign national is a national of a country under the Visa Exemption Arrangements, he/she will not need to apply for a visa.

## 8 Permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted

The “Student” status of residence is granted for the sole purpose of studying in Japan and as such does not permit work. However, if you file an application at a regional immigration bureau or other such official organization and are granted permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted, you can work part-time. Persons with the “Student” status of residence who are entering Japan for the first time and will be living in the country for over three months may apply for permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted at an airport, etc. when landing permission was issued (see page 34, “Part-time Work”). If applying after arrival, please do so at a regional immigration bureau. However, please be aware that some schools may not grant students permission to engage in a part-time job so that they focus on their studies. Check whether the school you are interested in allows part-time jobs.

## 9 Procedures for temporary exit from Japan

An international student studying in Japan who will be returning to his/her home country temporarily or visiting another country for a short period must apply for a re-entry permit at a regional immigration bureau (regional immigration bureaus are also located at major airports).

If he/she fails to do so, he/she will be required to apply for a visa afresh at the Japanese embassy or consulate in his/her home country. Foreign nationals residing legally in Japan for mid- to long term in possession of a valid passport and residence card who will be re-entering Japan within one year of their departure (or before expiration of the period of stay if the period of stay expires within one year after the departure) will, in principle, not be required to apply for a re-entry permit if they indicate their intention to re-enter the country (by ticking the column on an ED Card for the Special Re-entry Permit) to the immigration officer when departing Japan.



When you leave Japan, be sure to present your residence card and tick the column on an ED Card for Special Re-entry Permit.



ED Card for Special Re-entry Permit

## 10 Extension of period of stay

If a foreign national wishes to stay in Japan beyond the period of authorized stay granted to him/her at the time of entry into Japan, he/she must file for an extension of stay with a regional immigration bureau, etc. in Japan before his/her original period of authorized stay expires. (Usually, a foreign national can file for an extension of stay three months before the expiration of his/her original period of authorized stay in Japan.) Staying past the period of authorized stay in Japan without doing so can incur serious penalties or deportation.

**!** Forgetting to extend your period of stay and residing illegally in Japan can result in your expulsion from the country and the loss of any scholarships you receive.

## 11 Changing of the status of residence

Status of residence must be changed to a different type when the activity (student) initially applied for is discontinued to engage in other activities (employment, etc.). The application must be filed at a regional immigration bureau.

**!** Engaging in income-generating businesses or activities without proper approval will result in punishment and deportation.

## 12 Revocation of the status of residence

Status of residence can be revoked in cases where a foreign national has reported falsely on his/her activities, personal history or submitted false documents.

**!** Status of residence will be revoked if activities specified in the status of residence have not been performed for three months or more (e.g., a person with the “Student” status of residence working every day without going to college) unless with valid reasons.

## 13 Bringing dependents to Japan

Dependent spouses and children of international students who study under the status of residence of “Student” in universities can reside in Japan under the status of residence of “Dependent” based on the period of stay of the international student supporting them.

It is recommended that international students bring their dependents once they are familiar with life in Japan and are economically stable.

**!** Take note that it will be difficult for dependents to obtain the “Dependent” status of residence in Japan if the initial entry was as a “Temporary Visitor” (commonly referred to as the tourist visa).

## 14 Notification to the immigration bureau and the municipal office

Any change in the name, date of birth, sex, nationality/region or the organization the foreign national belongs to (such as a change of school) is required to be notified to a regional immigration bureau within 14 days after the change is made. If your place of residence in Japan changes, you have to file notifications of moving in and out at the municipal office.



# Calculating the Costs of Studying in Japan

Calculating the expenses you'll have to pay both before and while studying in Japan and creating a solid funding plan (including self-financing) will help you enjoy a more stable life. Doing this calculation before you come to Japan will confirm whether your plan to study in Japan is feasible.

		Guideline amount (four-year national university)		Calculate the amount you will need
Costs required prior to applying	Examination fees EJU, JLPT, TOEFL®, etc.	¥28,080	Assuming that you will take the EJU (two or more subjects) twice in Japan	¥
	Entrance examination fee for desired school	¥17,000	Assuming that you will take the examination once for a national university	¥
	Physical examination fee (varies by school)	¥6,000	Varies depending on country	¥
	Application mailing costs (varies by school)	¥2,000	Varies depending on country	¥
Costs required to take entrance examinations	Airfare and lodging expenses	¥100,000	Varies depending on country and stay schedule	¥
	Passport application fee	¥12,000	Varies depending on country	¥
	Visa fee	¥5,000	Varies depending on country	¥
Costs required after being accepted into a school	Travel costs	¥70,000	Varies depending on country	¥
	Lodging expenses (hotel cost until finding a place to live)	¥30,000	Varies depending on stay schedule	¥
	Admission fee	¥282,000	National university	¥
	First-year tuition fees, etc.	¥535,800	National university	¥
	Commuting expenses	¥48,000	Amounts for one year, calculated based on the JASSO 2015 Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students	¥
	Food expenses	¥300,000		¥
	Housing costs	¥372,000		¥
	Utilities (electricity, gas, water)	¥84,000		¥
	Insurance/medical expenses	¥24,000		¥
	Hobbies/entertainment expenses	¥72,000		¥
Miscellaneous expenses	¥84,000	¥		
Total		¥2,071,880		¥

Once you've calculated your total, check whether you will be able to cover this amount via savings, scholarships, a part-time job, etc.

# Living Cost and Price













## 1 Check currency and price of goods

The Japanese currency is the yen. Although many stores in Japan accept credit cards, paying in cash is common for small shopping. Checks are not used to pay everyday expenses.



### ◆ Prices of major products in Japan

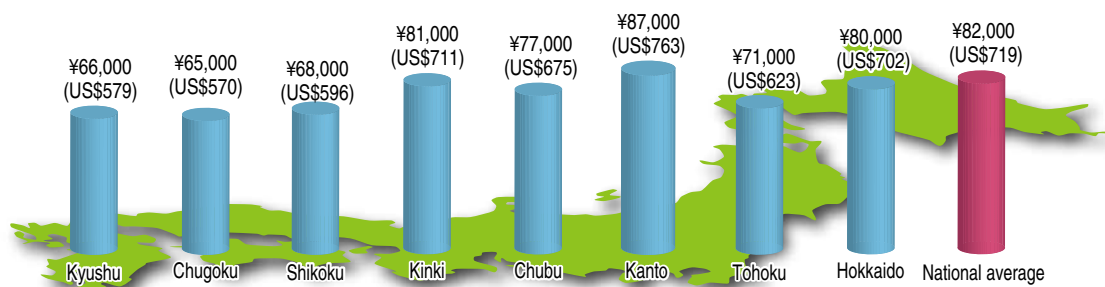
Calculated at US\$1 = ¥114

 Rice (5 kg)	JPY 2,137 (US\$19)	 Soft drink (500 ml plastic bottle)	JPY 97 (US\$1)
 Bread (1 kg)	JPY 435 (US\$4)	 Hamburger	JPY 174 (US\$2)
 Milk (1,000 ml)	JPY 223 (US\$2)	 Gasoline (1 liter)	JPY 132 (US\$1)
 Eggs (10 eggs)	JPY 248 (US\$2)	 Toilet paper (12 rolls)	JPY 279 (US\$2)
 Apples (1 kg)	JPY 497 (US\$4)	 Movie ticket	JPY 1,800 (US\$16)
 Cabbage (1 kg)	JPY 244 (US\$2)	 Taxi (4 km)	JPY 1,450 (US\$13)

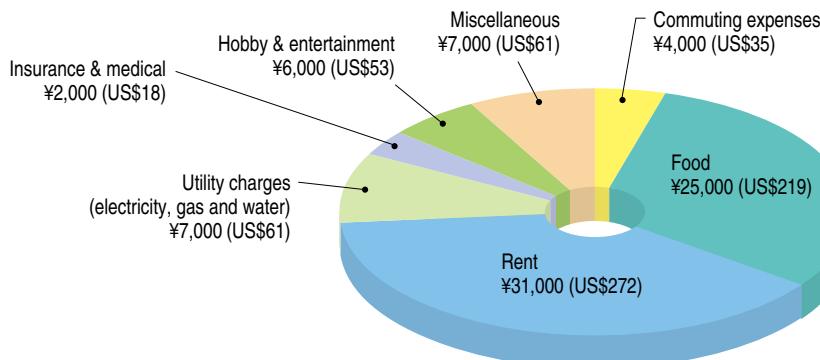
Source: Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan

## 2 Check the cost of living

The average monthly expenses (excluding academic fees) of an international student are shown below. The cost of living in metropolitan areas is higher than in rural areas.



### Breakdown of itemized monthly spending (excluding academic fees) (national average)



Note: Calculated at US\$1 = ¥114

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2015 (JASSO)

# Academic Fees

Academic fees in Japan are not as high as those in the United States and the United Kingdom. The admission and tuition fees, etc. for the first year in an undergraduate program in Japan total around ¥820,000 (US\$7,200) at a national university, ¥930,000 (US\$8,200) at a local public university, and ¥1,100,000 (US\$9,700) to ¥1,650,000 (US\$14,500) at a private university (excluding medical, dental and pharmaceutical schools).

In addition, Japan's scholarship programs and tuition exemption/reduction programs are more extensive than those in other countries.

The first academic year's school expenses include the admission fee, tuition fee, facility/equipment usage fee, among other things. Please note that admission fee is payable for the first year only.

## Average academic fees for the first academic year Unit: JPY and USD (calculated at the rate of US\$1 = ¥114)

### ● Graduate schools

Graduate schools	First-year total				Total up to graduation*		
	Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	Total		Total		
	JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD	
National (Master's program)	282,000	535,800	817,800	7,174	1,353,600	11,874	
Local public (Master's program)	363,666	537,937	901,603	7,909	1,439,540	12,628	
Private (Master's program)	Arts	218,171	1,200,295	1,418,466	12,443	2,618,761	22,972
	Engineering	223,766	955,317	1,179,083	10,343	2,134,400	18,723
	Health care	248,905	879,148	1,128,053	9,895	2,007,201	17,607
	Science	213,222	856,464	1,069,686	9,383	1,926,150	16,896
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	220,046	796,582	1,016,628	8,918	1,813,210	15,905
	Pharmacy	229,211	797,000	1,026,211	9,002	1,823,211	15,993
	Home economics	238,783	725,304	964,087	8,457	1,689,391	14,819
	Liberal arts	207,671	731,496	939,167	8,238	1,670,663	14,655
	Social science	221,118	698,280	919,398	8,065	1,617,678	14,190
	Medicine	195,769	671,914	867,683	7,611	1,539,597	13,505
Humanities	209,638	642,888	852,526	7,478	1,495,414	13,118	
National (doctoral program)	282,000	535,800	817,800	7,174	1,889,400	16,574	
Local public (doctoral program)	363,666	537,937	901,603	7,909	1,977,477	17,346	
Private (Doctorate program)	Arts	229,500	1,074,679	1,304,179	11,440	3,453,537	30,294
	Health care	258,033	788,637	1,046,670	9,181	2,623,944	23,017
	Science	215,051	775,617	990,668	8,690	2,541,902	22,297
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	220,853	796,354	1,017,207	8,923	2,609,915	22,894
	Engineering	214,354	788,154	1,002,508	8,794	2,578,816	22,621
	Home economics	240,309	720,909	961,218	8,432	2,403,036	21,079
	Pharmacy	189,246	707,962	897,208	7,870	2,313,132	20,291
	Liberal arts	214,912	686,639	901,551	7,908	2,274,829	19,955
	Dentistry	232,075	662,477	894,552	7,847	2,219,506	19,469
	Social science	213,134	608,014	821,148	7,203	2,037,176	17,870
	Humanities	216,449	583,339	799,788	7,016	1,966,466	17,250
	Medicine	178,124	521,501	699,625	6,137	1,742,627	15,286

\* Calculations for master's programs include the admission fee plus two years of tuition fees, etc.; for doctoral programs, the total includes the admission fee plus three years of tuition fees, etc.

### ● University undergraduate programs

University undergraduate programs	First-year total				Total up to graduation*		
	Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	Total		Total		
	JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD	
National	282,000	535,800	817,800	7,174	2,425,200	21,274	
Local public	394,225	538,294	932,519	8,180	2,547,401	22,346	
Private	Medicine	1,286,995	3,809,310	5,096,305	44,704	24,142,855	211,779
	Dentistry	563,403	3,725,836	4,289,239	37,625	22,918,419	201,039
	Pharmacy	341,880	1,740,140	2,082,020	18,263	10,782,720	94,585
	Arts	258,455	1,392,805	1,651,260	14,485	5,829,675	51,138
	Health care	278,002	1,229,008	1,507,010	13,219	5,194,034	45,562
	Science & Engineering	246,519	1,185,875	1,432,394	12,565	4,990,019	43,772
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	250,909	1,109,137	1,360,046	11,930	4,687,457	41,118
	Physical education	259,550	1,017,009	1,276,559	11,198	4,327,586	37,961
	Home economics	260,784	989,361	1,250,145	10,966	4,218,228	37,002
	Literature & Education	241,007	932,436	1,173,443	10,293	3,970,751	34,831
	Social welfare	218,800	930,200	1,149,000	10,079	3,939,600	34,558
	Law, Commerce & Economics	237,256	884,943	1,122,199	9,844	3,777,028	33,132
	Theology & Buddhism	229,978	869,257	1,099,235	9,642	3,707,006	32,518

\* Calculations for private medical, dental and pharmacology programs include the admission fee plus six years of tuition fees; other programs are calculated as the admission fee plus four years of tuition fees.



## Junior colleges

Junior colleges		First-year total				Total up to graduation*	
		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	Total		Total	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
Private	Arts	256,250	1,092,751	1,349,001	11,833	2,441,752	21,419
	Engineering	212,359	1,032,333	1,244,692	10,918	2,277,025	19,974
	Science & Agriculture	218,148	913,367	1,131,515	9,926	2,044,882	17,938
	Humanities	247,530	846,906	1,094,436	9,600	1,941,342	17,029
	Education & Childcare	250,697	850,396	1,101,093	9,659	1,951,489	17,118
	Home economics	245,205	853,519	1,098,724	9,638	1,952,243	17,125
	Law, Commerce, Economics & Social science	237,631	843,356	1,080,987	9,482	1,924,343	16,880
	Physical education	238,571	804,858	1,043,429	9,153	1,848,287	16,213

\* Calculated as the admission fee plus two years of tuition fees.

## Colleges of technology

College of technology		First-year total				Total up to graduation*	
		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	Total		Total	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
National		84,600	234,600	319,200	2,800	788,400	6,916

\* Calculated as the admission fee plus three years of tuition fees.

## Professional training colleges

Professional training colleges		First-year total				Total up to graduation*	
		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	Total		Total	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
Private	Hygiene	161,250	1,326,000	1,487,250	13,046	2,813,250	24,678
	Medical care	249,857	1,122,286	1,372,143	12,036	2,494,429	21,881
	Technology	190,000	1,072,667	1,262,667	11,076	2,335,333	20,485
	Agriculture	180,000	1,041,000	1,221,000	10,711	2,262,000	19,842
	Education & Social welfare	151,250	1,008,250	1,159,500	10,171	2,167,750	19,015
	Business	147,222	995,750	1,142,972	10,026	2,138,722	18,761
	Culture & General education	126,000	1,016,667	1,142,667	10,023	2,159,333	18,942
	Fashion & Home economics	185,000	857,000	1,042,000	9,140	1,899,000	16,658

\* Calculated as the admission fee plus two years of tuition fees.

## Japanese language institutes

Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges	Tuition fees, etc.	
	JPY	USD
1-year course	400,000 to 850,000	3,509 to 7,456
18-month course	642,000 to 1,075,000	5,632 to 9,430
2-year course	932,000 to 1,280,000	8,175 to 11,228

Source: Japan Student Services Organization research

Japanese language institutes	Tuition fees, etc.	
	JPY	USD
1-year course	415,000 to 997,400	3,640 to 8,749
18-month course	772,000 to 1,530,000	6,772 to 13,421
2-year course	1,006,000 to 2,000,000	8,825 to 17,544

Source: Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education research

## Reference: Tuition fees and other university expenses in the US and UK

		One year		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	USD	JPY	USD
US	Local public four-year university	2,842,020	24,930	11,368,080	99,720
	Private four-year university	3,816,720	33,480	15,266,880	133,920

\* Calculated as tuition fees and other university expenses for four years.

Source: Guidebook for the students studying in the U.S. 2018 (*Amerika Ryugaku Guide 2018*)

		One year		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	GBP	JPY	GBP
UK	Liberal arts program	1,500,000 to 2,550,000	10,000 to 17,000	4,500,000 to 7,650,000	30,000 to 51,000
	Science program	1,800,000 to 3,900,000	12,000 to 26,000	5,400,000 to 11,700,000	36,000 to 78,000
	Medical course	3,750,000 to 6,000,000	25,000 to 40,000	11,250,000 to 18,000,000	75,000 to 120,000

\* Calculated as tuition fees and other university expenses for three years.

Source: Guidebook for the students studying in the U.K. 2016/2017 (*Eikoku Ryugaku Guidebook 2016/17*)

(Calculated at 1 GBP = 150 JPY)

# Scholarships

In Japan, only a few scholarships cover all the costs of study; most aim to cover just a portion of the student's living expenses and tuition fees. Make sure your plan to study in Japan does not rely solely on scholarships.

## Types of financial assistance available

- 1) Scholarships
- 2) Tuition reduction/exemption systems (30% , 50% or 100% exemption, etc.)

## How to apply

- 1) Before coming to Japan: Financial aid you can apply for prior to coming to Japan (very few options)
- 2) After coming to Japan: Financial aid you can apply for in Japan after coming to the country and enrolling in a school (many options)

## Eligibility and the number of organizations offering relevant financial aid

There are many scholarships for regular undergraduate and graduate school programs.

	Eligibility	Apply before coming to Japan		Apply after coming to Japan
		Local government/ private	Japanese government	Local government/ private
1	College of technology students	2	○	22
2	Specialized training college postsecondary course students	5	○	20
3	University/junior college preparatory Japanese language program students	1	○	6
4	Students at Japanese language institutes other than those in 3 above	3		8
5	Junior college students	2		40
6	University undergraduate audit students	0		4
7	University undergraduate students	7	○ (Japanese studies students)	115
8	Graduate school-level research students	4	○ (Teacher training students)	29
9	Master's program	15	○ (Young Leaders' Program (YLP) students)	143
10	Doctoral program	14	○	137

Source: *Scholarships for International Students in Japan*, JASSO

## Application requirements

Application requirements include 1) age, 2) country or region, 3) school enrolled in in Japan, 4) major or specialty field, etc.

## Screening examinations

Screening for most financial aid is conducted using only the documents submitted, but some organizations require an interview or a written examination testing your general education, knowledge in your field and/or language abilities.

## How to apply

The vast majority of financial aid requires you to apply through the school you are enrolled in. (Please confirm the relevant details at your school's International Student Office.)



## Scholarships you can apply for before you arrive in Japan

Type	Eligible students/Number of organizations offering scholarships	Monthly stipend	Reference	Inquiries
Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship <sup>1</sup>	Young Leaders' Program (YLP) Students	JPY 242,000	US\$ 2,123	The Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country Current school in home country <sup>2</sup>
	Research students (Non-degree students)	JPY 143,000	US\$ 1,254	
	Research students (Master's course)	JPY 144,000	US\$ 1,263	
	Research students (Doctoral course)	JPY 145,000	US\$ 1,272	
	Teacher training students	JPY 143,000	US\$ 1,254	
	Undergraduate students/college of technology students/specialized training college students/Japanese studies students	JPY 117,000	US\$ 1,206	
Reservation Program for Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students	Privately-financed international students who have achieved an excellent score on the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) and who will enroll as regular students in universities (undergraduate program), junior colleges, colleges of technology (third year or upper), or specialized training colleges (postsecondary course)	JPY 48,000	US\$ 421	JASSO <sup>3</sup>
Local governments and private organization scholarships	17 organizations	JPY 60,000 to JPY 200,000	US\$ 526 to US\$ 1,754	Local governments, private organizations, etc.
Scholarships, tuition fee exemption or reduction offered by each school	-	-	-	School you will be enrolled in

- Students who study or do research in a designated region will receive an additional monthly stipend.
- In some countries, a governmental agency serves as a point of contact.
- [https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/scholarships/scholarship/shoureih/yoyakuseido/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/scholarship/shoureih/yoyakuseido/index.html)

## Scholarships you can apply for before you arrive in Japan (scholarships for exchange students under inter-university exchange agreements, etc.)

Type	Eligible students	Monthly stipend	Reference	Inquiries
Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-term Study in Japan)	International students under the inter-university exchange program agreement, etc. on a short-term basis from eight days to one year	JPY 80,000	US\$ 702	Current school in home country

## Scholarships you can apply for after you arrive

Type	Eligible students/Number of organizations offering scholarships	Monthly stipend	Reference	Inquiries
Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship <sup>*</sup>	Research students (master's course)	JPY 144,000	US\$ 1,263	Current school (in Japan)
	Research students (doctoral course)	JPY 145,000	US\$ 1,272	
Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students	Graduate school students (doctoral course, master's course) / research students (graduate school level) / undergraduate students / junior college students / college of technology students (3rd year or upper) / specialized training college (postsecondary course) students / students of preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges / students of advanced courses of university, junior college and college of technology / university preparatory course students	JPY 48,000	US\$ 421	Current school (in Japan)
	Japanese language institute students	JPY 30,000	US\$ 263	
Local governments and private organization scholarships	135 organizations	JPY 20,000 to JPY 310,000	US\$ 526 to US\$ 1,754	Each scholarship organization or current school (in Japan)
On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or reduction system	-	-	-	Current school (in Japan)

\* Students who study or do research in a designated region will receive an additional monthly stipend. Please note that some applications may not be accepted (i.e., scholarships may not be offered) depending on budget, etc.

## Find a scholarship/tuition reduction/exemption system

*Scholarships for International Students in Japan* (Japanese and English versions); published by JASSO

Note: Not all scholarships available in Japan are included in this brochure.

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/scholarships/brochure.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/brochure.html)

You can also look up scholarship information on the following websites:

**Scholarship information lookup (Japan Study Support)**

<http://www.jpss.jp/en/scholarship/>

**Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship information (Study in Japan Comprehensive Guide)**

<http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/index.html>

**Search for on-campus scholarships and tuition fee reduction/exemption system (JASSO)**

[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

# Part-time Work

Approximately 75% of privately financed international students in Japan are working part-time. They earn about JPY 50,000 (US\$439) per month on average.

By solely depending on part-time work, it is impossible to cover all school expenses and cost of living. Be sure to make an appropriate financial plan so that you do not have to depend too much on income from part-time work.

When engaging in part-time work in Japan, you must abide by the conditions stated below. Failure to do so may result in punishment and even deportation.

1. Apply for permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted at the nearest immigration bureau. Persons entering Japan for the first time who have the “Student” status of residence and will be residing in the country for more than three months may apply to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted at an airport, etc. when landing permission is issued.
2. The part-time work does not affect your studies.
3. The earned income is meant to supplement your academic cost and necessary expenses and not for saving or for remittance overseas.
4. The part-time work engaged in is not in adult entertainment businesses. Note: Prohibited by law
5. **Within 28 hours a week (up to eight hours a day during the long school holidays).**
6. The part-time work is done while you retain student status in an educational institution.

## Key points to consider when deciding on part-time work:

Do not get distracted from your purpose—studying in Japan—or work so hard that you damage your health.

### ◎ Will this job hinder to your studies?

Will you be affected the following day by working long hours or late at night?

### ◎ Wages and payment method

Are your taxes being paid? Are your wages paid daily, weekly or monthly?

Are your wages paid in cash or via bank transfer?

### ◎ Is the work safe?

Is your working environment safe? Is there insurance against on-the-job accidents?

Ask the school you are enrolled in to provide you with information on good potential part-time jobs for you.

### A little advice

Every year, we see international students who are forced to leave Japan as they cannot extend their period of authorized stay in the country due to their low school-attendance rates because they work part-time and neglect their studies. You have to be very careful not to let this situation happen.

## Types of part-time job in which international students are employed (multiple answers possible)

	Category	Ratio
1	Food and beverage	45.7%
2	Sales and marketing	24.7%
3	Teaching / Research assistant	6.9%
4	Translation / Interpretation	6.8%
5	Language instructor	6.5%
6	Cleaning	5.1%
7	Hotel receptionist / Service staff	5.0%
8	Home tutor	4.6%

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2015 (JASSO)

## Hourly rate for part-time job

Hourly rate	Ratio
Less than JPY 800	9.3%
JPY 800 to less than JPY 1,000	50.1%
JPY 1,000 to less than JPY 1,200	30.7%
JPY 1,200 to less than JPY 1,400	4.4%
JPY 1,400 or more	4.5%
Unknown	1.0%



## Beware of frauds and scams promising high-paying jobs while studying in Japan

Be wary of “Study in Japan” agents who give you false or misleading information such as:

✗ “You can earn JPY 3,000 (about US\$ 26) per hour working part-time.”

→ The average hourly wage is about JPY 900 (about US\$ 8).

✗ “You’ll be able to earn JPY 200,000 to 300,000 a month working at a part-time job while studying in Japan; you’ll be able to cover your school and living expenses and send money home.”

→ This is not possible. (The average is around JPY 50,000 [US\$439].)

Calculated at US\$1 = ¥114



# Accommodation

Although student dormitories operated by local governments and universities are available, approximately 75% of international students are living in private houses or apartments. Once you receive your letter of acceptance, you should start gathering information about housing immediately. Some ways to get this information include 1) your school's international student office, 2) the Internet and informational magazines, and 3) real estate agents in areas you are interested in living in.

## Student dormitory

### Advantages

- Lower expenses
- Less necessity to purchase electric appliances, etc.

### Disadvantages

- Due to limited numbers of rooms available, not all students can stay in dormitories.
- Rules such as curfew and wake-up time
- Shared kitchen, toilet and bathroom

### A little advice

## Guidelines for monthly housing expenses

Student dormitory: JPY 28,000  
(For the JASSO Tokyo Japanese Language Education Center)

Apartment: Varies significantly depending on the popularity of the nearest train station, the distance to the nearest train station, the age of the building, etc. In more rural areas, you may find an apartment for around JPY 30,000 to 40,000 a month, but within Tokyo JPY 60,000 would be a reasonable target.

### A little advice

## Taking out the garbage

Japan has strict rules regarding garbage disposal, and failure to follow them can be a source of conflict with neighbors. Be sure to separate your garbage properly and dispose of it in the specified location(s) at the specified times.



## Apartment

### Advantages

- Your own life rhythm
- Development of sense of the value of money

### Disadvantages

- When renting an apartment or private house, you will have to pay up front *shiki-kin* (security deposit equal to a few months' rent), *rei-kin* (gratuity money) and real estate agent's commissions, among other things.
- Complicated rental agreements
- Need to purchase all furniture and electrical appliances

### Joint guarantor

A joint guarantor is required when renting an apartment in Japan. If you do not pay the rent on time or cause damage without paying for repairs, the landlord can demand that the joint guarantor pay for the overdue rent or repairs. There is a system in which school-related persons (student office or teaching staff) can serve as joint guarantors for international students with limited Japanese connections. A joint guarantor may not be needed if you conclude a contract that requires the payment of a guarantee charge.

### Comprehensive Renters' Insurance for Foreign Students Studying in Japan

This insurance program, which is managed by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES), is designed to cover unexpected emergencies, such as fire, and to help an international student avoid unnecessarily inconveniencing his/her joint guarantor. To find out if you are eligible for this insurance program, please contact the school in which you are currently enrolled or will be enrolled.

## Points of accommodation search

- 1) Rent and initial costs?
- 2) Distance from school and time required to reach the school?
- 3) Size and equipment of the room?
- 4) Convenience of surrounding environment (distance to public transport and convenience for shopping)?



# Medical Insurance and Accident/Property Insurance

## Medical insurance (National Health Insurance)

In Japan, a national medical insurance system is available to reduce medical costs.

Foreign residents who will be staying in Japan for three months or more have to subscribe to the National Health Insurance program (NHI; also known as “Kokuho”).

Note: Students who will be studying in Japan for less than three months should contact the school where they will be studying.

### ■ Procedures for enrollment

Register for the National Health Insurance at the municipal office after completing resident registration in your local municipal office.

### ■ Health insurance premium

The annual premium is about JPY 20,000 in most cases. The premium varies according to the municipality and your income. A premium reduction plan or support system may be available to students, so you should contact the municipal office.

### ■ Coverage

When receiving treatment for injuries or illnesses, you have to present your insurance card to be eligible for the discounted payment. Since 70% of the total medical cost is covered by the National Health Insurance, you will need to pay 30% of the total medical bill. Take note that the medical cost for treatments not covered by the insurance scheme has to be paid in full at your own expense.

The National Health Insurance program has a system for refunding medical expenses that exceed your individual limit if your medical costs in a single month are high. In addition, if you need to be hospitalized, etc., you can apply for and receive an eligibility certificate that entitles you to receive the ceiling amount in advance. This will allow you to keep the amount you pay at the hospital to your individual limit.

## Accident/property insurance

To cover expenses incurred by an unexpected accident, etc. that is not covered by National Health Insurance, there are casualty insurance plans and personal liability insurance plans into which international students can also enroll.

For example, the following cases would be covered:

- If the oil you are using to deep-fry foods catches fire and burns your kitchen, requiring the walls to be redone.
- If you ride a bicycle and injure someone else, and must pay for their medical expenses.
- If your room is burglarized while you are not there, and items, such as your personal computer or camera, are stolen.

Information on various types of insurance will be provided by your school. It is a good idea to take them into consideration.

### Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (“Gakkensai”)

This insurance is offered by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES), and 96% of universities in Japan are associated. JEES also offers an additional insurance coverage plan called “Inbound Futai-Gakuso.”

<http://www.jees.or.jp/gakkensai/>

### University CO-OP’s Kyosai

A university co-op insurance system you can enroll in while attending university.

<http://kyosai.univcoop.or.jp/english/index.html>



# Internship

## Internship

Internship is a system that allows students who are yet to graduate to gain experience in positions related to their future career or major by working in companies. Some universities recognize internships as part of education and give credit for it. Please inquire directly with the school about the availability of internship programs during your study in the school and the possibility of gaining credits. If the internship comes with an income, you need to obtain permission to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted. If you wish to do an internship that will require you to work more than 28 hours per week, please apply for permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted. This requires you to submit materials that make clear the nature of the internship to a regional immigration bureau.

### ■ Differences between a part-time job and an internship

**Part-time job:** Work in which you are paid money for your labor.

**Internship:** Work experience in which you are given a work opportunity that will be useful for your career plans, etc. Internships are often unpaid.

### ■ How to find an internship

- 1) Job search websites: These sites post many internships in various industries and occupations.
- 2) University career advising office: Be sure to check the office's bulletin board regularly.
- 3) Dedicated internship agents: These agents are highly knowledgeable about the companies seeking applicants for their internships, so mismatches between students and companies are much less likely.

### ■ Status of residence for students of foreign universities entering Japan for working on an internship

When a student from a foreign university comes to Japan for work experience based on a contract or agreement with a Japanese corporation or other such entity, as a part of the university's credit-earning curriculum, the status of residence will be one of the following, depending on whether or not there is remuneration, and depending on the length of stay:

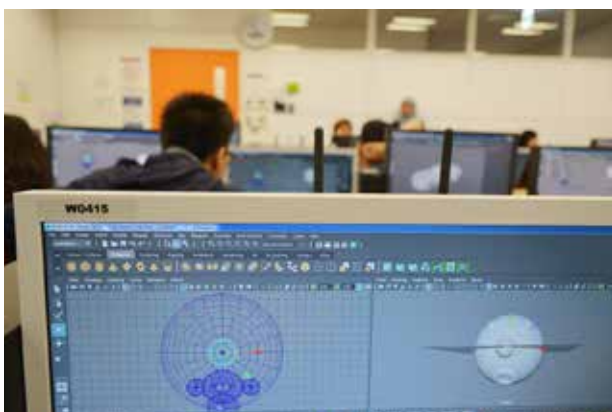
"Designated Activities," "Cultural Activities," or "Temporary Visitor."

#### METI Japan Internship Program

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) conducts a project to promote internship programs at Japanese companies, targeting young people from outside Japan.

**Inquiries:** Technical Cooperation Division, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, METI

Tel: +81-3-3501-1937



# Employment in Japan

“We would like to hire talented personnel regardless of nationality,” “We need personnel who can speak foreign languages and understand foreign situations,” “We would like to actively hire personnel with diverse backgrounds.” In Japan, there are a growing number of companies that operate in line with these statements, and the hiring of international students is increasing. However, it is still not easy for an international student to be hired in Japan. The JASSO website listed below contains the experiences of job seekers like yourself as well as job search event information; be sure to look through these materials and start your job hunt early.

**Job Hunting Guide for International Students (JASSO)**

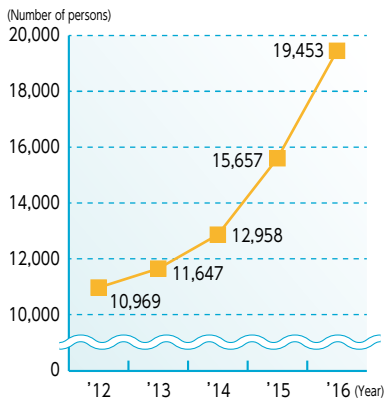
[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/job/guide.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/job/guide.html)

**Japan Alumni eNews (JASSO)**

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/enews/index.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/enews/index.html)

## The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies

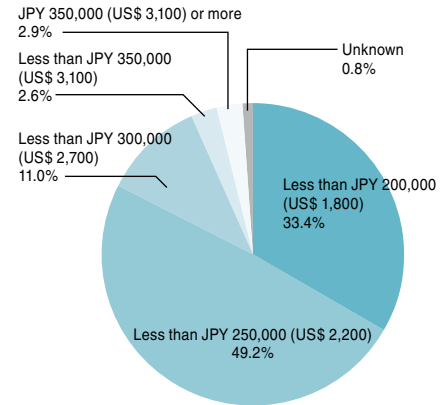
**Number of approvals given to international students for the change of status of residence from “Student” to a working visa**



**Composition ratio by type of business (Top 10)**

No. 1	Commerce and trading	20.6%
No. 2	IT	9.4%
No. 3	Food service	5.3%
No. 4	Hotels and inns	3.0%
No. 5	Construction	2.6%
No. 6	Education	2.5%
No. 7	Foods	2.4%
No. 8	Electrical appliances	2.3%
No. 9	Tourism	2.3%
No. 10	Machinery	2.1%

**Starting salary (monthly)**



Source: The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies in 2016 by Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

Note: Calculated at US\$ 1 = ¥114

### Change of status of residence

International students have to have their status of residence changed from “Student” to “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services,” etc. in order to work in Japan.

Please note the following points:

<b>1) Academic background</b>	Graduates of universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology. Graduates of professional training colleges in Japan who have obtained the academic title of “diploma.”
<b>2) Types of job to be engaged in</b>	Emphasis is placed on whether the jobs are related to their majors. For instance, a person who is a fashion design graduate but opts to work as a computer programmer will have difficulty changing his/her status of residence.
<b>3) Salary</b>	International students must receive a salary equivalent to or more than a Japanese employee.
<b>4) The actual situation of the employer</b>	The companies international students plan to work for are required to have a stable management foundation and business performance.

### What to do if you cannot find a job

Even if you are unable to find a job before graduation from the Japanese university<sup>1</sup> or professional training college<sup>2</sup>, you can still continue to engage in job-seeking activities in Japan for one more year after graduation by changing your status of residence from “Student” to “Designated Activities.” The period of stay of “Designated Activities” is six months, and as a rule, only one additional six-month extension is allowed. If you fulfill certain requirements, however, you may continue looking for a job into your second year after graduation.

For more information on procedures, please inquire at a regional immigration bureau.

1. Includes junior colleges and graduate schools. However, this does not include preparatory Japanese language program students, audit students, credit-earning students and research students.

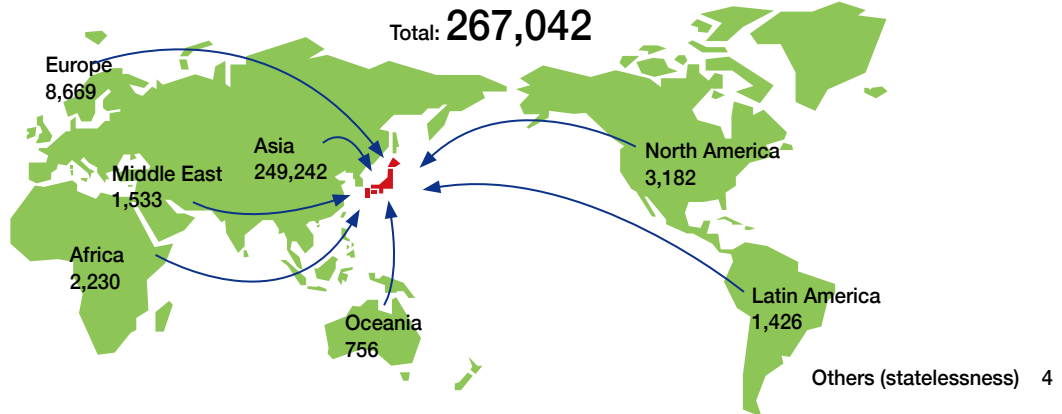
2. Limited to those who have acquired a diploma.



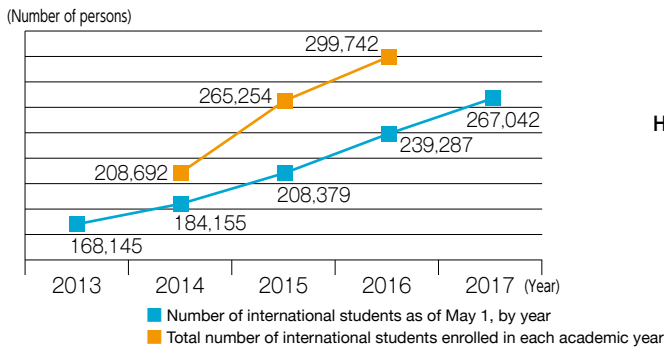
# Statistics

## Number of international students in Japan

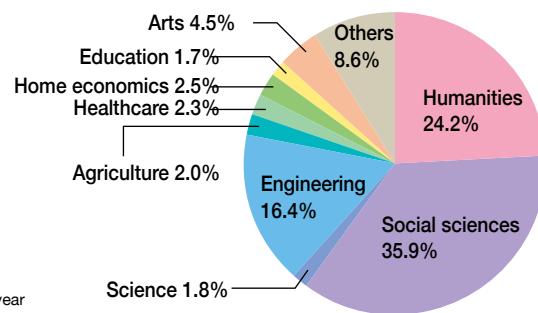
As of May 1, 2017



## International student trends



## Number of international students at higher education institutions by major field of study



## Number of international students by academic level

(Number of persons)

		National	Local public	Private	Total
Academic Level	Graduate school	29,174	1,909	15,290	46,373
	University (undergraduate)	11,770	1,836	63,940	77,546
	Junior college	0	16	1,899	1,915
	College of technology	510	0	49	559
	Professional training college	0	18	58,753	58,771
	University preparatory course			3,220	3,220
	Japanese language institute		54	78,604	78,658
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41,454</b>	<b>3,833</b>	<b>221,755</b>	<b>267,042</b>

## Number of international students by country (region) of origin

	Country (region)	No. of students
No. 1	China	107,260
No. 2	Vietnam	61,671
No. 3	Nepal	21,500
No. 4	South Korea	15,740
No. 5	Taiwan	8,947

Source: Results of an Annual Survey of International Students in Japan 2017 (JASSO)  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/about/statistics/intl\\_student\\_e/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/about/statistics/intl_student_e/index.html)

## Number of higher education institutions

	National	Local public	Private	Total in schools
Graduate schools	86	80	463	629
Universities (undergraduate)	82	88	584	754
Junior colleges	0	17	320	337
College of technology	51	3	3	57
Professional training colleges	9	185	2,628	2,822

Note: The Open University of Japan is included as a private university.  
 Source: FY2017, School Basic Survey, MEXT  
 Note: As of May 1, 2017

# Q&A about Study in Japan

**Q** If I fall into one of the following categories, can I apply to take the entrance examination for international students?

- 1) I was enrolled in a Japanese elementary, junior high or high school for several years
- 2) I graduated from a Japanese high school
- 3) I am a dual citizen (citizen of two countries) of Japan and another country

**A** How your situation is handled may vary from school to school. Contact the school you want to attend **before applying** to have the school review your eligibility. Some schools may ask you to follow the same entrance examination system that applies to Japanese students.

**Q** I have a disability. Can I receive assistance and support from the school to take the exam and/or during my schooling?

**A** There are international students with disabilities studying in Japan who receive assistance from their schools. If you need any support to take the entrance examination and/or during your schooling due to illness, a disability or other specific condition, please ask the school **before you apply**.

**Q** Do I have to go to Japan to take the entrance examination?

**A** Although many schools conduct their entrance examinations in Japan, some schools determine admissions solely by screening application materials, conducting interviews over the Internet, or even holding examinations in the examinee's country. (See page 26, "7 Immigration procedures for exam purposes.")

**Q** Are there any rankings for Japanese universities?





**A** The Japanese government does not have an official university ranking system, but various organizations establish rankings based on their own standards and viewpoints. Just because a university is ranked higher than another in a given ranking system does not mean it is the best school for you; talk with professors and international students who have gone to the school you're interested in, check JASSO's website and school websites, and gather other information so that you can choose the school that matches your interests and passions.

**List of alumni associations (Study in Japan Comprehensive Guide)**

**i** <http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/ath/ath0201e.html>

## Study in Japan Global Network Project

A Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology project provides information on studying in Japan and promotes the recruitment of promising students. The universities selected have dispatched coordinators overseas. Consult these coordinators to gather information and ask questions about studying in Japan.

City/country	University	Website	
Yangon, Myanmar	Okayama University	<a href="http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/myanmar/index.html">http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/myanmar/index.html</a>	
Lusaka, Zambia	Hokkaido University	<a href="https://www.hokkaido-university-lusakaoffice-zm.com/">https://www.hokkaido-university-lusakaoffice-zm.com/</a>	
New Delhi, India	University of Tokyo	<a href="http://www.indiaoffice.dir.u-tokyo.ac.jp/whyjapan/index.html">http://www.indiaoffice.dir.u-tokyo.ac.jp/whyjapan/index.html</a>	
São Paulo, Brazil	University of Tsukuba	<a href="http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/overseas/s%C3%A3o-paulo?language=en">http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/overseas/s%C3%A3o-paulo?language=en</a>	

# Useful Information

## Basic information



### JASSO website

[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/index.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/index.html)

#### Basic information on study in Japan

- Search for schools • Scholarships
- Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
- Study in Japan Fairs and other events organized by JASSO  
[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/event/index.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/event/index.html)
- Study in Japan Resource Facilities  
Brochures of educational institutions in Japan and books on study in Japan are available for browsing.  
[http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/openbase/index.html](http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/openbase/index.html)

Study in Japan information



In Japanese



In English



### Study in Japan portal site: Gateway to Study in Japan

<http://www.g-studyinJapan.jasso.go.jp/>

#### Provides comprehensive information on studying in Japan

- Study in Japan information
- Information on staff in charge of studying in Japan



### Study in Japan Comprehensive Guide

<http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/index.html>

#### Useful information for prospective students, current international students in Japan and former international students

- Japanese Government scholarships
- List of alumni associations
- Event information
- Messages from alumni



### Japanese embassies and consulates (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb\\_cons/mofaserv.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/mofaserv.html)

#### Various kind of information for international students

- Information on study in Japan
- Japanese Government scholarships

Note: Some embassies and consulates also provide consultations on study in Japan.

The following website also offers useful information:

**Japan Study Support** <http://www.jpss.jp/en/>

- Search for schools
- Search for scholarships
- Information on entrance exams
- Living information in Japan

# We at the Japan Student Services Organization sincerely hope that your studies in Japan prove fruitful.

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) is an organization under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

As a core and leading organization in the provision of student services, JASSO comprehensively administers scholarship loan programs, support programs for international students, and student life support programs. JASSO aims to foster creative individuals who can become the leaders of the next generation of society, while promoting international understanding and exchange.

## 1 Scholarship Programs for Japanese Students

JASSO provides scholarship grants and loans to highly motivated students who have difficulty in pursuing their studies for financial reasons. JASSO seeks to offer better services by implementing a more efficient scholarship loan system which meets various student needs, improving application procedures, enhancing the provision of information about scholarships, and collecting loans in an appropriate manner.

## 2 Support Programs for International Students

JASSO provides scholarships to overseas students and to Japanese students studying abroad, implements international exchange programs, improves admission procedures by administering the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students, etc., and collects and disseminates information on studying abroad. JASSO strives to enhance programs for the strategic acceptance of overseas students and the development of young Japanese who will play active roles in the world.

## 3 Student Support Programs

JASSO collects, analyzes, and provides information concerning many aspects of student support services to contribute to various activities for student support at universities. JASSO also helps universities provide better student support services through workshops, seminars, etc. JASSO strives to improve career support and support for students with disabilities, based on government policies and the needs of universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology.



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**Japan Student Services  
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[infoja@jasso.go.jp](mailto:infoja@jasso.go.jp)

## Overseas Representative Offices (JASSO Japan Educational Information Centers)

 **Indonesia** Tel: +62-21-252-1912

### JASSO Japan Educational Information Center

Jakarta Summitas Tower I, 2nd Floor, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman KAV  
61-62 Jakarta 12190 INDONESIA  
[info@jasso.or.id](mailto:info@jasso.or.id)  
<http://www.jasso.or.id/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/jasso.indonesia>

 **Korea** Tel: +82-2-765-0141


### JASSO Japan Educational Information Center

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[jasso@jasso.or.kr](mailto:jasso@jasso.or.kr)  
<http://www.jasso.or.kr/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Korea>

 **Thailand** Tel: +66-2-661-7057


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[info@jeic-bangkok.org](mailto:info@jeic-bangkok.org)  
<http://www.jeic-bangkok.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Thailand>

 **Malaysia** Tel: +60-3-2287-0812

### JASSO Japan Educational Information Center

Kuala Lumpur A-7-5, Northpoint Offices, Mid Valley City, No.1, Medan Syed Putra Utara, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA  
[enquiry@studyinjapan.org.my](mailto:enquiry@studyinjapan.org.my)  
<http://www.studyinjapan.org.my/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Malaysia>

 **Vietnam** Tel: +84-24-7305-1818

### JASSO Vietnam Office

4th Floor of CornerStone Building, 16 Phan Chu Trinh, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi, VIETNAM  
[info@jasso.org.vn](mailto:info@jasso.org.vn)  
<http://www.jasso.org.vn/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Vietnam>

Overseas representative offices handle the following matters:

- Provide information and counseling by e-mail, telephone, mail or in person
- Provide access to school brochures, school prospectuses and reference books on study in Japan
- Provide information at local education fairs

<http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/toiawase/index.html>