

2017-2018

STUDENT GUIDE TO JAPAN

English



Independent Administrative Institution
Japan Student Services
Organization



STUDY in JAPAN

Why Study in Japan?

High academic standards and attractive programs

Japanese scientists have been awarded Nobel Prizes in Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Chemistry, underlining the opportunities to study cutting-edge science and technology in Japan.

You can study not only law, economics, science, and engineering, but also the environment, information, disaster prevention, tourism, and pastry making, through to pop culture such as manga, anime, games, fashion, and many other fields.

The number of degree programs conducted in English is also increasing.



Well-developed financial support for international students

Tuition fees are comparatively low in Japan. Furthermore, a wide range of scholarships is available.



Enables you to seek employment in Japan

Recently, more and more international students work in Japanese companies after graduation. Likewise, Japanese companies are also actively hiring international students.



Enables you to learn in an international environment

International students from various countries and regions of the world are studying at, among others, universities and Japanese language schools in Japan.

Recently, student dormitories where international students and Japanese students live together are increasing.

They will have a broader view through exposure to Japan, as well as diverse cultures of the world.



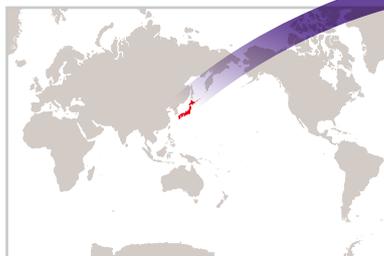
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Japan Facts and Figures

- **Land area: 377,971 km²**
As of October 1, 2015
Source: 2015 statistical reports on the land area by prefectures and municipalities in Japan, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan
- **Population: 126,985,000**
As of June 1, 2016
Source: Population Estimates, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
- **GDP of Japan: The third-largest in the world.**
(2015)
Source: Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
- **The number of Japanese Nobel laureates is 24, which ranks seventh in the world (or the highest in Asia).**
Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, 2016



Introduction
to Japan

- Web Japan
<http://web-japan.org/>
- Discover the Spirit of Japan
<http://www.visitjapan.jp/en/>
- Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/>

Essential Preparation for Studying in Japan

Standard schedule: If coming to Japan from your home country

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Planning and information gathering (up to 12 months before departure) | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Gather information and check language proficiency requirements | Pages 4–19 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Check the amount of money required to study in Japan | Pages 28–34 |



| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | Selecting schools (6–12 months before departure) | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Check school brochures and application guidebooks and be sure of eligibility requirements for admission | Page 7 (JASSO website) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Compare schools and develop a shortlist of potential schools | |



| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3 | Taking the standard tests for university admission (up to 9 months before departure) | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit the exams required for application | |
| | (Examples) • Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) • Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) • TOEFL®, IELTS, TOEIC® | Pages 20–22 |



| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 4 | Applying for admission (6–9 months before departure) | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare application documents | Pages 4–18 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange to send exam fee | |



| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | Taking the entrance examination of your target school (2–5 months before departure) | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | (Examples) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Take an academic achievement test | |



| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 6 | Implementing admission procedures (2 to 3 months before departure) | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Receive an admission acceptance letter | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for the remittance of admission fee | |



| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 7 | Preparing for travel (1 to 2 months before departure) | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for visa | Pages 24–27 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Look for a place to live | Page 35 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve airline ticket and buy insurance | Page 36 |



| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 8 | Enrollment | Pages to be referred to in this book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel to Japan | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit admission documents | |

You need to gather accurate, up-to-date information to determine your destination school. Collect data related to study in Japan from this book, JASSO website, university brochure, and so on.



Procedures to be followed from admission application through enrollment vary according to schools. Carefully read the application guidebooks of your target school to ensure you complete all the required procedures.

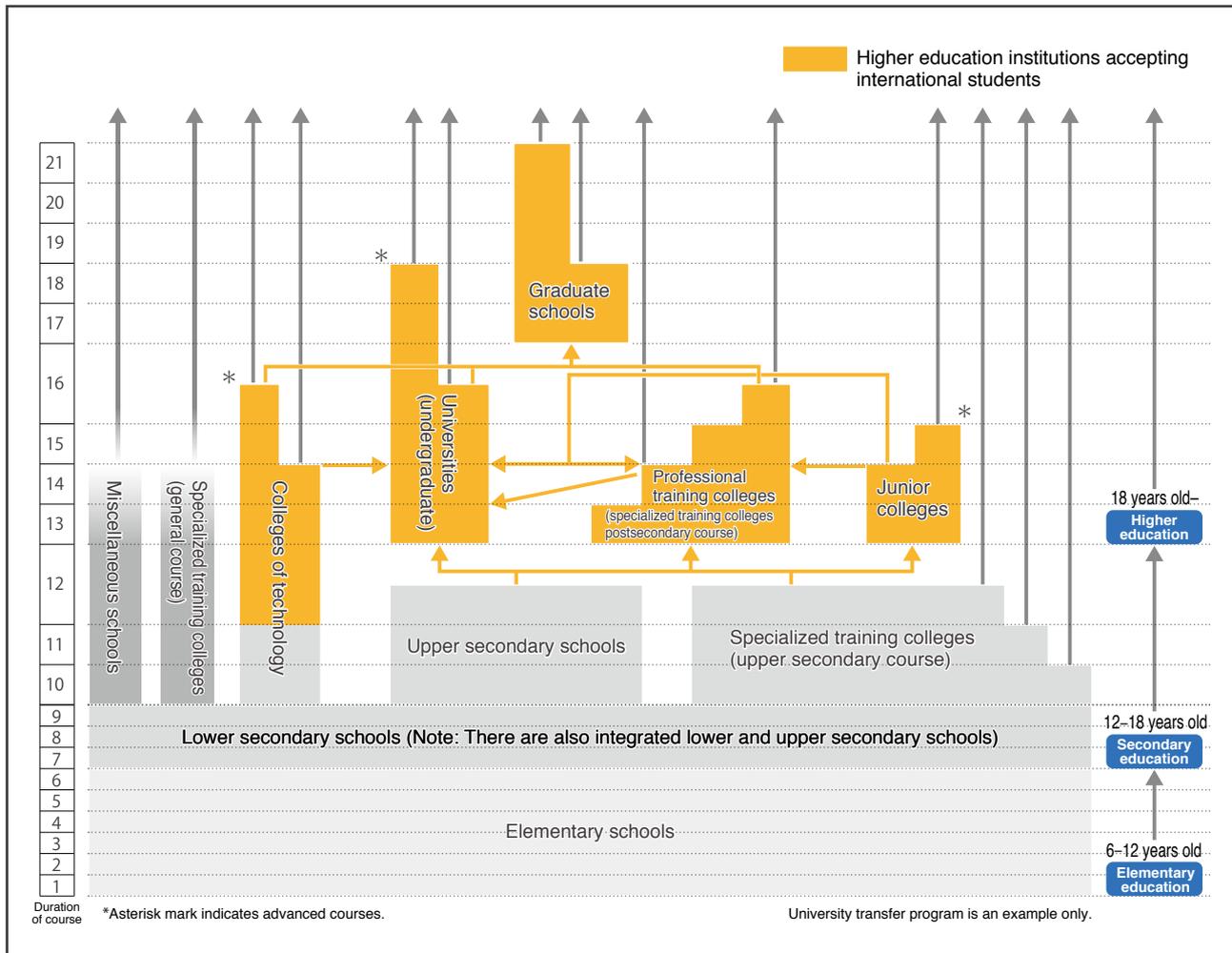


Japanese Educational System

In Japan, higher education starts upon the completion of twelve years of education: elementary education (six years of elementary school) and secondary education (three years of lower secondary school and three years of upper secondary school).

There are five types of higher education institution to which international students can be admitted. These are 1) colleges of technology, 2) professional training colleges (post-secondary 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.



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).

Q I understand students are typically enrolled in April in Japan. Is there a September or October admission system in Japan?

A Yes, there is. In particular, many graduate schools use a September or October admission system.

Q When are school vacations?

A Typically, there are three long school vacations—summer (from late July to early September), winter (from late December to early January), and spring (from February to March).

Eligibility for admission

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 and Mongolia 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: If you are unsure whether your qualifications meet the admission requirements, please 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

Academic degrees, titles and required study period

| | Program | Academic degrees and titles | Required study period |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Graduate school | Doctorate program | 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 | — | Associate degree | 2 or 3 years |
| College of technology | — | Associate | 3 years (3 years and 6 months for mercantile marine studies) |
| Specialized training college | Postsecondary course (professional training college) | Diploma | 2 years or more |
| | | Advanced diploma | 4 years or more |

Notes:

- 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.
- It is possible for junior college graduates to earn a bachelor's degree by completing one or two-year advanced courses after graduation.
- 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.
- "Associate" at the college of technology and "diploma" and "advanced diploma" at the specialized training college listed above are academic titles, not degrees.

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 (NIAD-QE)

<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. It is recommended that you check with the authorities concerned in your home country.

Q & A about Study in Japan

Q When should I apply for admission to an undergraduate or graduate school?

A The timing for applying for admission varies, depending on the schools. For accurate information, be sure to check the application guidebooks. You can also check the application periods on the JASSO and Japan Study Support websites.

Q How can I find out more about the application procedure?

A Many schools make their application guidebooks and application forms available on their websites. You can search for keywords such as “外国人留学生募集要項” (application guidebook for international students), “入学案内” (school admission guide), or “受験案内” (entrance examination guide) on the website of a school you are interested in applying to. If they are not available on the website, you should ask the school if it can send you the information by post.

Q Can I use one single application form for applying to all universities in Japan?

A No, you can't. The application form varies according to the schools. So you should get the application guidebooks.

Q 1) I was enrolled in an elementary, junior high, or high school in Japan for several years.

2) I graduated from a high school in Japan.

3) I am a dual citizen (a citizen of two countries).

If any of the conditions above applies, am I entitled to apply to take the entrance examination for international students?

A How they treat your situation may vary from school to school. So you should contact the school **before applying** in order to have your eligibility reviewed by the school. 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 or during my schooling?

A Some international students with disabilities are studying in Japan with assistance from their schools. If you need any support to take the entrance examination or in your schooling due to illness, a disability or a specific condition, please contact the school **before applying**.

Q Should I go to Japan to take the entrance examination?

A It depends on the school. Some schools determine admissions by screening application documents alone, conducting interviews remotely or by holding an exam in the applicant's country.

Q What level of Japanese language proficiency is required to study at a university or a professional training college?

A You have to have Japanese language proficiency that is at least equivalent to 200 points in the EJU exam (Japanese as a Foreign Language) or the Level N1 or N2 of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) to keep up with classes. If you have not reached this proficiency level, you are encouraged to study Japanese in your own country or at a Japanese language institute in Japan.

Q Are there any programs that allow me to earn a degree by taking classes conducted in English only?

A Yes, there are. The number of such programs is increasing each year. However, please note that colleges of technology, junior colleges, and professional training colleges do not provide programs conducted in English only.



Q Are there any ranking systems for Japanese universities?

A No, Japan doesn't have an official ranking system for universities. It is recommended that you actively participate in a study-in-Japan fair held in your country or visit the websites of JASSO and various schools to gather information to find a school that best matches your interests.

Q For some universities, a guarantor is required along with the admission application. Why is that?

A The reasons why guarantors are required include, for example, financial assurance for the payment of academic fees, and to avoid problems when completing procedures for status of residence upon admission. Students are sometimes required to notify the school of a family member who can be contacted in an emergency.

The following information is available on the JASSO website

- Admission for international students
- Online applications
- Pre-arrival admissions
- Application period
- List of degree programs offered in English
- Japanese or English proficiency required for admission
- EJU score required for admission
- University transfer admission programs
- Short-term study programs

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/index.html



Japanese Language Institutes

What are Japanese language institutes?

Japanese language institutes are intended to teach the Japanese language to non-Japanese speakers. For international students aiming to be admitted to higher education institutions in Japan, many Japanese language institutes offer preparation courses for JLPT, EJU (including mathematics, science, and Japan and the World), and university admission exams.

Types of Japanese language institute

If you wish to study Japanese to prepare for university courses, you can do so either in a Japanese language institute or a preparatory language program offered by universities and junior colleges.

1 Japanese language institutes

Controlling entity: Educational foundations (specialized training colleges and other miscellaneous schools), public interest incorporated foundations, private companies, voluntary organizations, individuals, etc.

Objective: (1) Acquire Japanese language proficiency for academic purposes (2) Receive preparatory education for admission to universities (3) Study Japanese for non-academic purposes

Status of residence: Student

To be eligible for the status of residence of student, international students must be enrolled in Japanese language institutes designated through official notification by the Japanese Minister of Justice.

Japanese language institutes designated through official notification by the Minister of Justice (Ministry of Justice)

http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyukan_nyukanho_ho28-2.html

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

http://www.nisshinkyo.org/search/index_e.html

2 Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges

Controlling entity: Private universities and junior colleges

Objective: Acquire Japanese language proficiency for academic purposes

Status of residence: Student

Preparatory Japanese language programs (*ryugakusei bekka* or *nihongo bekka*) are set up in private universities and junior colleges. Japanese language, Japanese culture, Japanese affairs, and other basic subjects for entrance into universities are offered. Students planning on further study in universities may use the admission-on-recommendation system, if available, for admission into the university, or proceed to another university of their choice. The advantage here would be the ability to use the university's facilities and services.

List of preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges (JASSO)

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html

Eligibility

You must have completed 12 years of education (elementary school and secondary school, including high school) to apply for courses for admission to universities.

If the length of your country's elementary and secondary education is shorter than 12 years and if your last school attended (and graduated) is high school, you are not qualified for admission. In that case, if you complete a university preparatory course (*junbi kyouiku katei*) designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and if you are 18 years of age or older, you will be qualified for admission.

In such preparatory courses, subjects other than Japanese, such as English, mathematics, social science, science and other basic subjects for entrance into universities, are also offered.

List of university preparatory courses designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (JASSO website)

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html

Application, entrance, course duration

Many schools accept applications about four to six months before entrance and start courses in April or October. Generally, the course duration is one to two years.

Application requirements

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



Documents for submission may vary according to schools. It is best that you inquire directly with the relevant school for details.

Entrance exam

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

Japanese Language Institutes Key Points to Consider

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| ① | Is the Japanese language institute designated through official notification by the Minister of Justice? | |
| 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 National 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 | Does this Japanese language institute offer classes for examination preparation (such as EJU or JLPT) or general subjects (such as English, mathematics, science, history and geography)? |
| ⑧ | Does this Japanese language institute offer guidance on further study or lifestyle counselling? | |
| ⑨ | What are career paths for graduates? | |
| ⑩ | School Expenses | Do the number of class hours and teachers and school facilities, among other things, justify the cost? |
| ⑪ | Entrance Exam | Does this Japanese language institute require the screening of application documents only? Does it require interviews with a guarantor and a contact person in Japan? Does it conduct entrance exams outside Japan? |
| ⑫ | School Location | Is this Japanese language institute located in a big city or a local city? Is the weather suitable for me? |
| ⑬ | Student Housing | Does this Japanese language institute have a dormitory or attached residential quarters? Do they refer students to apartments? |

Q I am not going to enter a university. Can I just learn business Japanese at a Japanese language institute?

A There are various courses available, such as general Japanese, depending on your purpose, as well as courses for academic purposes or business.

It is best that you inquire directly with the relevant school for details.

Q Can I transfer between Japanese language institutes?

A 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.

Japanese Language School Association (JaLSA)

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

Universities (Undergraduate) and Junior Colleges

What are universities 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 part-time students. Also, in addition to long-term, degree-earning programs, non-degree, short-term programs are available.

Finding out more

Information on universities and junior colleges (JASSO)

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

Japanese colleges and universities search (JASSO)

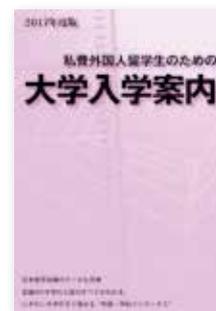
https://www.g-studyinJapan.jasso.go.jp/univ_search/

Search for universities and junior colleges (Japan Study Support)

<http://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)

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)



Eligibility for admission

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.

Application requirements

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

Documents for submission may vary according to universities. It is best that you inquire directly with the relevant school for details.



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):

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



Qualifications for graduation and completion

1 Universities (undergraduate)

A student will be awarded a bachelor's degree (学士) upon graduation, provided that the following criteria have been satisfied.

| | Required study period | Total credits earned |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Regular undergraduate faculties and four-year courses of faculty of pharmacy | 4 years | 124 credits or more |
| 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 colleges

A student will be awarded an associate degree (短期大学士) upon graduation, provided that the following criteria have been satisfied.

| | Total credits earned |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| For a two-year course | 62 credits or more |
| For a three-year course | 93 credits or more |

Universities and Junior Colleges Key Points to Consider

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

Transfer Admission and Short-term Study Programs

Transfer admission

There are many universities offering 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 to 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 programs is very limited. Get early information from your school of choice on the options.

Search for universities with a transfer admission program (JASSO)

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

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. Some programs consist of classes conducted in Japanese only while others offer classes in English only or in both Japanese and English. There are various formats, depending on the university, such as special classes exclusively for short-term international students or those accepting international students in classes on general departmental courses. Additionally, for those who have graduated from a university, there are six-month or one-year programs in which they can study a specialized field at a graduate school as a research student.

- There are also international student-exchange programs, in which students can study abroad at a university with which their university of enrollment has concluded a student-exchange agreement. Please check whether your school has a student-exchange agreement with a university in Japan.

Credits: The credits acquired at a university in Japan are generally recognized as credits at your school of enrollment within the range of the exchange student program agreement.

Academic fee: Usually, students pay school fees for study abroad to their current school of enrollment and are exempt from payment at the university of destination.

Inquiries: Current school in home country

- Programs Other Than International Student-Exchange Program

Programs that are not under international student-exchange agreements and which are open to other international students can be found via the JASSO website.

Credits: Some programs grant credits, while others do not.

Academic fee: Usually, students pay school fees to the destination school.

Inquiries: Host school in Japan

Search for universities and junior colleges which offer a short-term study program (JASSO)

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

Audit and credit-earning students

Both of these are part-time and non-degree students, unlike regular students. Audit students are not awarded any credits but credit-earning students are. Both students must attend at least 10 hours of classes a week, as stipulated in the relevant law, in order for them to be granted the “Student” status of residence.

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

A The following scholarship programs are available.

- **Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-term Study in Japan)**

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) provides scholarships for international exchange students who are accepted under an inter-university exchange program agreement.

Monthly stipend: JPY 80,000

Inquiries: Current school in home country.

- **Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship (Japanese Studies Students)**

This scholarship is for undergraduate students majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or Japanese culture.

Monthly stipend: JPY 117,000

Inquiries: The nearest embassy or consulate in your home country or current school in home country.

In addition to the aforementioned, some schools and various organizations may offer their own scholarships, so please inquire with your destination school.

Colleges of Technology

What are 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.

Finding out more

Center for International Exchange, National Institute of Technology

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

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 (準学士)."
- 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).

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.

Application requirements

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.

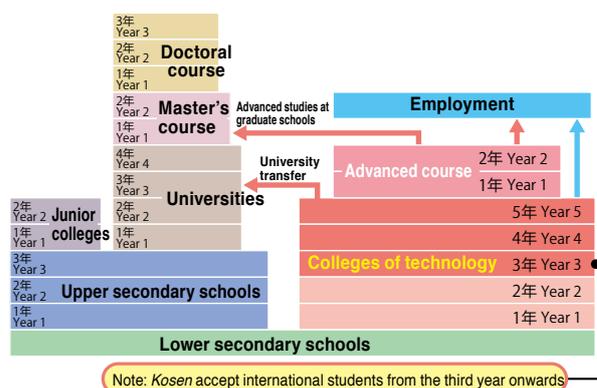
Entrance exam

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.

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 go on to national universities.



Professional Training Colleges

What are professional training colleges?

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.

Finding out more

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)

<http://tsk.or.jp>

List of professional training colleges that accept international students (Association for Technical and Career Education)

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

Features

It is generally recognized in Japan that professional training colleges produce key talents who can serve as a foundation for society. Professional training college graduates are expected to have acquired professional skills in their areas of expertise. Professional training colleges develop specialists who can support a variety of industries that have high growth potential in global markets, ranging from Japan's pop culture called "Cool Japan," such as manga (comics), animations, games, and fashion, to the environment and energy, information technology, and medical care and welfare. Another characteristic of professional training colleges is that, regardless of economic conditions, the employment rate of graduates remains high.

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 their Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) (Japanese as a Foreign Language [the total of reading comprehension, 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

Eligibility for admission

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.

Application requirements

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



Documents for submission may vary according to the school. It is best that you inquire directly with the relevant school for details.

Entrance exam

The exam includes some or all of the following tests: Document screening, subject test, interview, short essay, aptitude test, practical test, 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.

Qualifications for graduation and completion

| | Diploma (専門士) | Advanced diploma (高度専門士) |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Course term | 2 years or more | 4 years or more |
| Total class hours | 1,700 hours or more | 3,400 hours or more |
| Qualification for completion | Exam results and other factors are evaluated for the qualification of course completion | |
| Course structure | The curriculum is systematically structured | |

Upon fulfillment of above conditions, students are awarded the title of “diploma” or “advanced diploma” when they complete courses recognized by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Students with a “diploma” title may be eligible for transfer admission to universities, while students with an “advanced diploma” title may be eligible for admission to graduate schools. You should check with your school of choice if you will be deemed to have application eligibility.

Intensive Japanese language programs at professional training colleges are in many cases categorized as “Japanese language institutes.” It is recommended that you confirm in advance with your school of choice if they award a “diploma” title or not.

Professional Training Colleges Key Points to Consider

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① Officially Accredited Institute | Is this professional training college 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 | Does this professional training college 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 Career Paths of Graduates | 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. |



Graduate Schools

Finding out more

Information on graduate schools (JASSO)

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

Search for graduate schools (Japan Study Support)

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

Eligibility for admission

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria.

1 Master's program / Doctorate 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 Doctorate 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 Doctorate 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.

Application requirements

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application form (graduate school-specific form) | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of bachelor's degree (or anticipated degree) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research thesis (graduation thesis) and summary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of master's degree (or anticipated degree) (in case of a doctoral course) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transcript of the last school attended | <input type="checkbox"/> Others |

Documents for submission may vary according to graduate schools. It is best that you inquire directly with the relevant school for details.

Application period

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

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.

- Document screening
- Test on academic ability
- Interview
- Short essay
- Oral examination on major field

Academic advisor

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 who is appropriate to your major from the website.

Online database of researchers

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

When contacting 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.

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. Research plans should include the theme, purpose, background, meaning and method of the research, references and 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.

Online database of journal articles

- **CiNii Articles**  <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/en>
- **Article Search Cross**  <https://cross.atlas.jp/top>



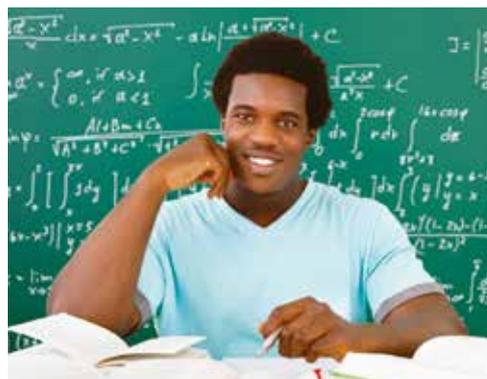
● 実践 研究計画作成法 (How to write a research plan)

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)



Research student (*kenkyusei*)

A research student is defined as part-time students below.

- ① **Students enrolled in a course for short-term research and not to obtain a degree.**
- ② **Short-term international students enrolled in a course under the inter-university exchange agreement.**
- ③ **Students enrolled to prepare for admission to regular graduate school programs.**

Most of the time, the admission process is based on screening of documents.

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.

When planning to enter a regular graduate school’s program, be aware that some graduate schools allow admission upon the passing of an entrance exam, but there are some that prefer students to go through the “research student” phase.

Professional graduate school

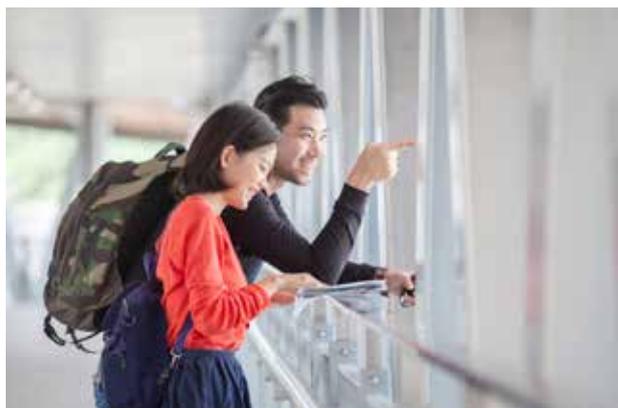
A professional graduate school aims to nurture professionals who have highly specialized expertise and who can play a leadership role in a variety of social and economic fields. Typical examples of professional graduate schools are a graduate school of law (law school) that educates professionals in 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.

Qualifications for graduation and completion

| Program | Academic degree | Required study period | Total credits earned | Others |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| Doctorate 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:

- Graduate school doctorate programs are sometimes divided into the first phase (two years) and the second phase (three years). The duration of a doctorate program in medicine, dentistry, veterinary sciences and pharmacy (six-year program), whose required periods of undergraduate study are 6 years, is 4 years.
- The duration of a doctorate program in medicine, dentistry and veterinary sciences and certain pharmaceutical programs, whose required period of undergraduate study is six years, is four years.



Degree Programs in English

Finding out more

Programs where a degree can be earned by taking classes conducted in English
Programs where Japanese proficiency is not required at the time of entrance (JASSO)

i http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/index.html

Search for universities and junior colleges (Japan Study Support)

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

The following are examples of programs in which Japanese language proficiency is not required at the time of admission.

- Programs in which international students can earn a degree by taking courses in English
- Programs in which international students do not require Japanese language proficiency at the time of entrance and can start their study taking classes in English, but are required to take classes that require Japanese proficiency too as they move through the academic years.

In universities and graduate schools, there are programs in which students can acquire an academic degree by taking courses in English only. On the other hand, colleges of technology and professional training colleges do not have programs conducted in English only in which students can acquire the academic title of “associate” or “diploma.” In general, programs that are conducted in English have names such as “Degree Program in English,” “Degree Program for International Students,” or “English-based Degree Program.”

Q What is the screening method?

A Many universities make admission decisions based on the results of screening of application documents and interviews. They conduct interviews with international applicants in countries or regions where they reside, and some universities conduct online interviews using a video chat system, etc.

Q Do I have to take any exams to apply for admission?

A Many universities require the submission of a certificate of proficiency in English (transcript of an accredited English proficiency test such as TOEFL® and IELTS) and a certificate of academic achievement (that is, 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 an official examination results for academic ability in your home country)

Q What level of English language proficiency is required?

A Although it varies depending on the school, as a guideline, most schools require the following English language proficiency at the time of application.

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

Q After admission, can I take Japanese language classes?

A Some universities offer a Japanese language education program, but whether or not you can earn credits depends on the type of program. Also, you may be charged separate tuition and fees, depending on the type of program.

Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)

The Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) is an exam designed for international students wishing to enroll and study at Japanese universities on their Japanese language proficiency and basic academic abilities (science, mathematics, and “Japan and the World”).

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

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



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

Number of schools using the EJU

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Universities | 431 |
| Junior colleges | 84 |
| Graduate schools | 54 |
| Colleges of technology | 51 |
| Professional training colleges | 122 |
| Total | 742 |

(As of January, 2017)

List of schools using the EJU for screening

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

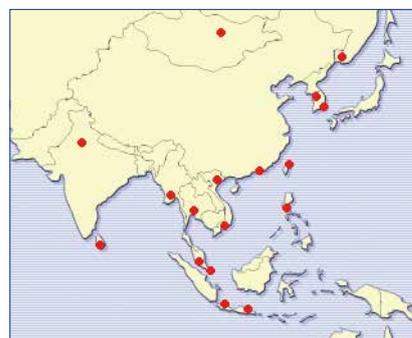
Date of exam

June (first session) and November (second session)

Venues

Japan: 16 cities

Outside Japan: 17 cities in 14 countries and regions



Examination Sites (outside Japan)

Bangkok, Busan, Colombo, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, New Delhi, Seoul, Singapore, Surabaya, Taipei, Ulaanbaatar, Vladivostok, Yangon

Subjects

Students choose the subjects 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 | / | Japanese only |
| | | | Writing: 0–50 points | | |
| 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 | | |

Schedule

| | 1st session | 2nd 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. JASSO submits the results of the examinees to the universities to which they have applied upon inquiry from those universities. |

Characteristics of EJU

① A reservation program for a scholarship is available!

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 (FY2017): JPY 48,000

Application method: Mark a circle in the reservation program column of an EJU application form that is to be submitted at the time of application for EJU.

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

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. 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.

(Example of EJU requirements indicated by “A” university)

| Undergraduate department, etc. | 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 2017 |
| Faculty of Engineering | | | Course 2 | ○ | | | Optional one subject | English | Implemented in June 2017 |

③ Obtain a pre-arrival admission by using the EJU! With a pre-arrival admission program, you can receive in your own country an acceptance of admission of your school of choice without traveling to Japan.

List of schools offering pre-arrival admission using EJU (approximately 140 schools)

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/prearrival/uni_national.html

Past EJU questions and answers

Sample questions and answers

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)



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
 Note: From overseas, please call +81-42-649-9571.

Other Exams Required for Studying in Japan

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)

Tel: +81-3-6686-2974

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

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

② Administered overseas

Center for Japanese-Language Testing, the Japan Foundation

Tel: +81-3-5367-1021

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

BJT Business Japanese Proficiency Test

The Business Japanese Proficiency Test (BJT) is designed to measure proficiency in Japanese communication skills necessary in business settings.

The Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation

Tel: 0120-509-315 (Japan only)

Email: bjt@kanken.or.jp

i <http://www.kanken.or.jp/bjt/english/>

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

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

Examinations required for studying in Japan also include the following:

Examination that provides proof of English language proficiency:

TOEFL[®], IELTS, TOEIC[®], 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.

Please check the application guidebook of your school of choice and take the required examinations.

Interview with International Students in Japan

Tips for Students Wishing to Study in Japan

I have found that it is not only the Japanese language but also the Japanese culture that are very different from my own country. Japanese people are very strict with time and I think it is necessary to do things or act five minutes before they are due in Japan.

100 Yen shops in Japan offer an astonishingly wide variety of goods. You should go visit them!

Tipping is expected in some countries. In Japan, you do not need to tip at all.

Trains always arrive on time. Train delays are a common occurrence in my country, but public transportation in Japan arrives and departs with amazing time accuracy.

It is common practice to pay in cash in Japan, and there are many stores that accept only cash. I think it is difficult in Japan to do daily shopping using only a credit card.

I lost my wallet and smartphone but I got them back! I was very impressed with the honesty of the Japanese people as, if they find property that someone has obviously lost, they always take it to the nearest police box.



It was no easy matter to buy all necessary home appliances from scratch, so I bought some at recycle shops.

As a fun way to learn Japanese, I recommend to learn through animation and cartoons. That said, it is also necessary to learn Japanese grammar using newspapers, magazines and the like to cope with composition, short essay, interviews, etc. at an entrance examination.

It is taboo in Japan to talk loudly in public places, jump queues, etc. You are expected to strictly follow etiquette in public places in Japan.

Immigration Procedures

Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/index.html>

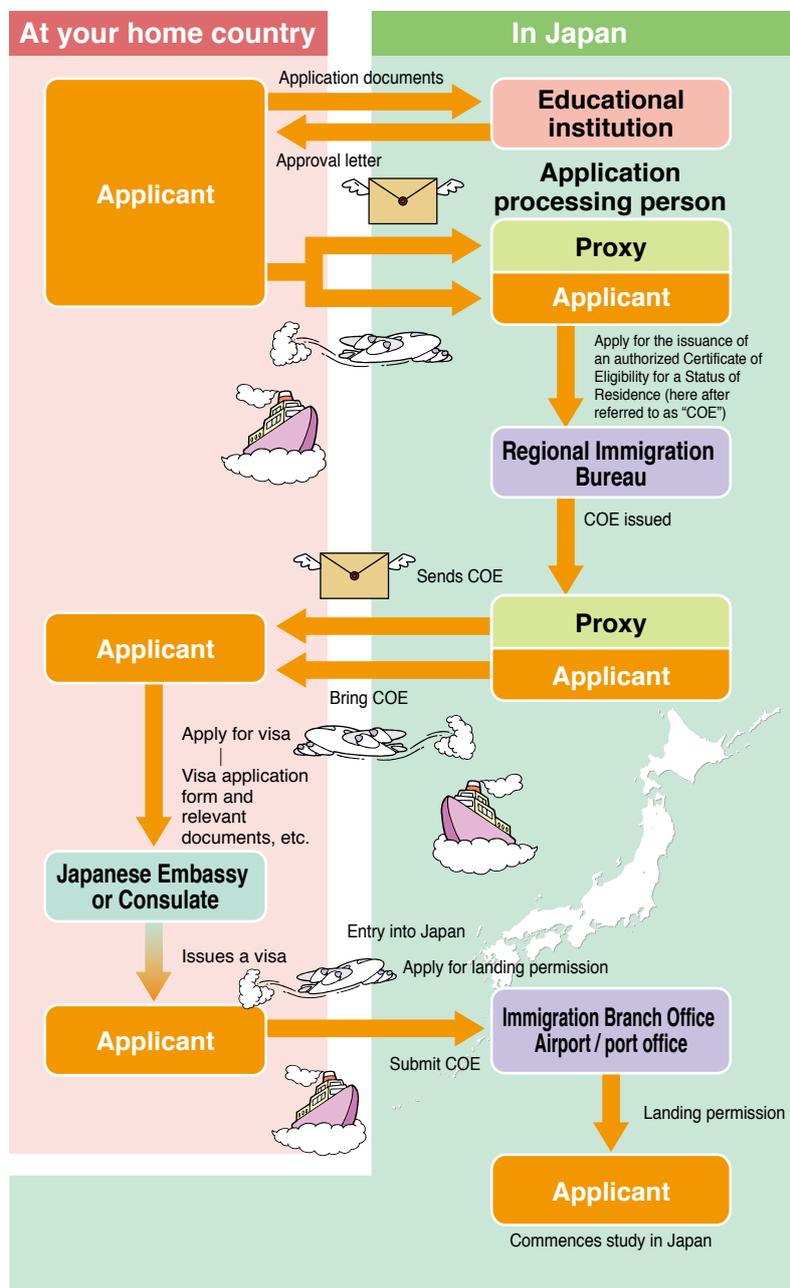
Applicable status of residence

Status of residence is categorized according to the types of activity, status and position that foreign residents of Japan are allowed to undertake. 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.

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)



● Procedures for applying for visas

An international student wishing to study in Japan must apply for a visa in advance. 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.

● 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.

● 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.

Usually, evidence such as a savings balance certificate, income certificates for the past several years or taxation certificates are required. If an international student wishing to study in Japan cannot cover the expenses required for entering and staying in Japan, usually, his/her parents or guardian may qualify to be a guarantor who provides financial means to help him/her cover such required expenses.

● Visa application

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 demanded.

● 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)

● 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. Persons who have been issued a residence card must give notification of their address at the municipal office within 14 days.

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 your place of residence in Japan, you must go to the municipal office within 14 days to register your address, bringing your passport with the seal. Your residence card will be mailed to your registered address at a later date.



Residence card

● 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 a 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.

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

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



Notification card

● Immigration procedures for 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, depending on the purpose of stay in Japan. 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.

● 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 for an activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted, you can work part-time. A foreign national who has graduated from a graduate school, university, junior college, college of technology or professional training college and who is holding a “Designated Activities” visa for the purpose of employment-seeking activities, is also allowed to work part-time if he/she obtains such permission.

● Procedures for temporary exit from Japan

If a foreign national in Japan plans to temporarily return to his/her home country or visit other countries for a short period of time during his/her period of authorized stay in Japan, he/she must apply for a re-entry permit at a regional immigration bureau, etc. before leaving Japan. 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 of re-entry 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



● 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.

● Changing status of residence

Status of residence must be changed to a different type when the activity initially applied for is discontinued to engage in other activities. 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.

● 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 may also 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.

● Bringing dependents to Japan

Dependent spouses and children of international students who study under the status of residence of “Student” in universities, junior colleges, colleges of technology, professional training colleges or university preparatory courses, among others, can reside in Japan under the status of residence of “Dependent.”

The period of authorized stay in Japan of the dependents will be determined based on the period of stay of those 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).

● 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 notify the municipal office in your area.



Academic Fees

Academic fees in Japan are not as high as those in the United States and the United Kingdom. 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 | | Tuition fees | | Admission fee | | Total | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|
| | | JPY | USD | JPY | USD | JPY | USD | |
| National | | 535,800 | 4,700 | 282,000 | 2,474 | 817,800 | 7,174 | |
| Local public | | 537,856 | 4,718 | 362,392 | 3,179 | 900,248 | 7,897 | |
| Private | Master's program | Arts | 1,217,437 | 10,679 | 225,089 | 1,974 | 1,442,526 | 12,654 |
| | | Engineering | 953,229 | 8,362 | 224,301 | 1,968 | 1,177,530 | 10,329 |
| | | Health care | 889,263 | 7,801 | 250,675 | 2,199 | 1,139,938 | 9,999 |
| | | Science | 833,017 | 7,307 | 213,951 | 1,877 | 1,046,968 | 9,184 |
| | | Agriculture & Veterinary science | 781,229 | 6,853 | 222,787 | 1,954 | 1,004,016 | 8,807 |
| | | Pharmacy | 754,132 | 6,615 | 229,639 | 2,014 | 983,771 | 8,630 |
| | | Home economics | 724,972 | 6,359 | 239,643 | 2,102 | 964,615 | 8,462 |
| | | Liberal arts | 741,105 | 6,501 | 207,014 | 1,816 | 948,119 | 8,317 |
| | | Social science | 684,735 | 6,006 | 222,294 | 1,950 | 907,029 | 7,956 |
| | | Medicine | 663,835 | 5,823 | 208,899 | 1,832 | 872,734 | 7,656 |
| | Humanities | 645,782 | 5,665 | 211,883 | 1,859 | 857,665 | 7,523 | |
| | Doctorate program | Arts | 1,100,481 | 9,653 | 227,752 | 1,998 | 1,328,233 | 11,651 |
| | | Health care | 782,866 | 6,867 | 253,665 | 2,225 | 1,036,531 | 9,092 |
| | | Science | 793,512 | 6,961 | 223,650 | 1,962 | 1,017,162 | 8,922 |
| | | Agriculture & Veterinary science | 783,913 | 6,876 | 220,853 | 1,937 | 1,004,766 | 8,814 |
| | | Engineering | 786,853 | 6,902 | 214,182 | 1,879 | 1,001,035 | 8,781 |
| | | Home economics | 720,909 | 6,324 | 240,309 | 2,108 | 961,218 | 8,432 |
| | | Pharmacy | 709,250 | 6,221 | 195,977 | 1,719 | 905,227 | 7,941 |
| | | Liberal arts | 681,025 | 5,974 | 214,912 | 1,885 | 895,937 | 7,859 |
| | | Dentistry | 648,326 | 5,687 | 232,075 | 2,036 | 880,401 | 7,723 |
| Social science | | 612,383 | 5,372 | 214,148 | 1,878 | 826,531 | 7,250 | |
| Humanities | 584,596 | 5,128 | 219,107 | 1,922 | 803,703 | 7,050 | | |
| Medicine | 521,091 | 4,571 | 182,991 | 1,605 | 704,082 | 6,176 | | |

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Note: The entrance fee for local public universities is for students who enter from outside the designated areas.

● University undergraduate programs

| University undergraduate programs | | Tuition fees | | Admission fee | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | | JPY | USD | JPY | USD | JPY | USD |
| National | | 535,800 | 4,700 | 282,000 | 2,474 | 817,800 | 7,174 |
| Local public | | 537,809 | 4,718 | 393,426 | 3,451 | 931,235 | 8,169 |
| Private | Medicine | 3,561,941 | 31,245 | 1,299,019 | 11,395 | 4,860,960 | 42,640 |
| | Dentistry | 3,579,981 | 31,403 | 608,764 | 5,340 | 4,188,745 | 36,743 |
| | Pharmacy | 1,714,920 | 15,043 | 349,116 | 3,062 | 2,064,036 | 18,106 |
| | Arts | 1,390,960 | 12,201 | 260,300 | 2,283 | 1,651,260 | 14,485 |
| | Health care | 1,224,660 | 10,743 | 280,696 | 2,462 | 1,505,356 | 13,205 |
| | Science & Engineering | 1,176,913 | 10,324 | 249,251 | 2,186 | 1,426,164 | 12,510 |
| | Agriculture & Veterinary science | 1,105,817 | 9,700 | 253,383 | 2,223 | 1,359,200 | 11,923 |
| | Physical education | 1,013,103 | 8,887 | 260,632 | 2,286 | 1,273,735 | 11,173 |
| | Home economics | 989,371 | 8,679 | 265,289 | 2,327 | 1,254,660 | 11,006 |
| | Literature & Education | 930,145 | 8,159 | 246,294 | 2,160 | 1,176,439 | 10,320 |
| | Social welfare | 930,120 | 8,159 | 224,296 | 1,968 | 1,154,416 | 10,126 |
| | Law, Commerce & Economics | 884,841 | 7,762 | 241,519 | 2,119 | 1,126,360 | 9,880 |
| | Theology & Buddhism | 873,190 | 7,660 | 234,574 | 2,058 | 1,107,764 | 9,717 |

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Note: The entrance fee for local public universities is for students who enter from outside the designated areas.

● Junior colleges

| Junior colleges | | Tuition fees | | Admission fee | | Total | |
|-----------------|---|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|-----------|--------|
| | | JPY | USD | JPY | USD | JPY | USD |
| Private | Arts | 1,121,518 | 9,838 | 254,767 | 2,235 | 1,376,285 | 12,073 |
| | Engineering | 1,031,697 | 9,050 | 211,253 | 1,853 | 1,242,950 | 10,903 |
| | Science & Agriculture | 921,331 | 8,082 | 227,246 | 1,993 | 1,148,577 | 10,075 |
| | Humanities | 854,027 | 7,491 | 245,739 | 2,156 | 1,099,766 | 9,647 |
| | Education & Childcare | 848,820 | 7,446 | 250,624 | 2,198 | 1,099,444 | 9,644 |
| | Home economics | 852,357 | 7,477 | 246,367 | 2,161 | 1,098,724 | 9,638 |
| | Law, Commerce, Economics & Social science | 849,698 | 7,453 | 235,300 | 2,064 | 1,084,998 | 9,518 |
| | Physical education | 804,858 | 7,060 | 238,571 | 2,093 | 1,043,429 | 9,153 |

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

● Colleges of technology

| College of technology | | Tuition fees | | Admission fee | | Total | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|-------|---------------|-----|---------|-------|
| | | JPY | USD | JPY | USD | JPY | USD |
| National | | 234,600 | 2,058 | 84,600 | 742 | 319,200 | 2,800 |

Source: National Institute of Technology

● Professional training colleges

| Professional training colleges | | Tuition fees | | Admission fee | | Total | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|-------|-----------|--------|
| | | JPY | USD | JPY | USD | JPY | USD |
| Private | Hygiene | 1,326,000 | 11,632 | 161,250 | 1,414 | 1,487,250 | 13,046 |
| | Medical care | 1,122,286 | 9,845 | 249,857 | 2,192 | 1,372,143 | 12,036 |
| | Technology | 1,072,667 | 9,409 | 190,000 | 1,667 | 1,262,667 | 11,076 |
| | Agriculture | 1,041,000 | 9,132 | 180,000 | 1,579 | 1,221,000 | 10,711 |
| | Education & Social welfare | 1,008,250 | 8,844 | 151,250 | 1,327 | 1,159,500 | 10,171 |
| | Business | 995,750 | 8,735 | 147,222 | 1,291 | 1,142,972 | 10,026 |
| | Culture & General education | 1,016,667 | 8,918 | 126,000 | 1,105 | 1,142,667 | 10,023 |
| | Fashion & Home economics | 857,000 | 7,518 | 185,000 | 1,623 | 1,042,000 | 9,140 |

Source: Metropolitan Tokyo Professional Institution Association

Note: Data given on private professional training colleges are the average fee for day-courses

● Japanese language institutes

Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges

| | Tuition fees | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | JPY | USD |
| 1-year course | 400,000–850,000 | 3,509–7,456 |
| 18-month course | 642,000–1,075,000 | 5,632–9,430 |
| 2-year course | 932,000–1,280,000 | 8,175–11,228 |

Source: JASSO

Japanese language institutes

| | Tuition fees | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | JPY | USD |
| 1-year course | 415,000–997,400 | 3,640–8,749 |
| 18-month course | 772,000–1,530,000 | 6,772–13,421 |
| 2-year course | 1,006,000–2,000,000 | 8,825–17,544 |

Source: Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education

Scholarships

In Japan, there are many financial assistance programs for international students, such as tuition fee exemption or reduction system and scholarship programs. However, you have to be aware of the following things.

- For many scholarship programs, you can send an application only after admission to your school.
- There are few scholarships that cover the entire cost of studying in Japan.
- It's generally not possible to pay for both school expenses and living expenses with just a part-time job.
- Please prepare your financial plan carefully before coming to Japan.



For many scholarships for international students, the requirements include their status of residence being “Student.” Please be careful, as in most cases, those with Japanese nationality or the “Dependent (family stays)” status of residence are not eligible to apply.

In addition, depending on the scholarship, there are various designated conditions, such as age restriction, nationality/region, school of enrollment in Japan, and specialized academic field.

Where to find scholarship programs

Scholarships for Study in Japan (JASSO)

 http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/index.html

1 How to find scholarship programs at the school of your choice

Many schools have programs through which the entrance fee or tuition are reduced or exempted according to the student's academic grades and/or income. It is wise to check in advance if the school of your choice has a tuition exemption/reduction system or their own scholarship programs.

For independent scholarship programs offered by universities, you can search for details on the JASSO website as well. For example, you can find out if the scholarship is granted or if notification of approval is provided before you travel to Japan.

2 How to find scholarships of the Japanese Government and private organizations

In addition to independent programs of schools, there are many other scholarships in Japan. Detailed information on the following scholarship programs is described in the brochure, *Scholarship for International Students in Japan*.

- Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships
- Scholarships by JASSO
- Scholarships by local governments and local international associations
- Scholarships by private organizations
- Scholarships to study in Japan for applicants residing outside Japan



Brochure *Scholarship for International Students in Japan* (Japanese version and English version)

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

Published: JASSO

 http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/brochure.html

The scholarship information described in this brochure can also be found on the following website.

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

3 Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships

Announcements about MEXT scholarships are posted on the website of the Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country.

Information can be found in the brochure, *Scholarships for International Students in Japan*. Also, you can find details and past tests in “Study in Japan Comprehensive Guide” website.

Study in Japan Comprehensive Guide  <http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/index.html>

4 In addition to the aforementioned scholarships, it is a good idea to find out about scholarships offered by the government of your own country or international institutions, such as the World Bank.

Scholarships applied overseas

1 Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship

Inquiries: The nearest embassy or consulate in home country
Current school in home country

Note: In some countries, a governmental agency of your country serves as a point of contact.

| Target students | Monthly stipend (FY2016) | | Reference |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Young Leaders' Program (YLP) Students | JPY 242,000 | | Approx. US\$ 2,123 |
| Research students | Non-degree students | JPY 143,000 | Approx. US\$ 1,254 |
| | Master's course | JPY 144,000 | Approx. US\$ 1,263 |
| | Doctoral course | JPY 145,000 | Approx. US\$ 1,272 |
| Teacher training students | JPY 143,000 | | Approx. US\$ 1,254 |
| Undergraduate students / college of technology students / specialized training college students / Japanese studies students | JPY 117,000 | | Approx. US\$ 1,206 |

Note: Students who study/research in a designated region will be provided an additional monthly stipend.

2 Reservation Program for Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students

This scholarship is for 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 college (postsecondary course).

Inquiries: JASSO

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/scholarship/shoureihi/yoyakuseido/index.html

Monthly stipend (FY2017): JPY 48,000 (Approx. US\$ 421)

3 Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-term Study in Japan)

This scholarship is for international students under the inter-university exchange program agreement, etc. on a short-term basis from eight days to one year.

Inquiries: Current school in home country

Monthly stipend (FY2017): JPY 80,000 (Approx. US\$ 702)

4 On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or reduction system

Announcements are made by the school you are going to attend. Follow their instructions regarding application procedures.

5 Local governments and private organization scholarships

In most cases, you need to send applications directly to the scholarship organizations. In some cases, an application can be sent through the school you are going to attend after your admission becomes definite.

Scholarships to be applied after arrival in Japan

1 Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship

Inquiries: Current school (in Japan)

| Target students | Monthly stipend (FY2016) | | Reference |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Research students | Master's course | JPY 144,000 | Approx. US\$ 1,263 |
| | Doctoral course | JPY 145,000 | Approx. US\$ 1,272 |

Notes:

- Students who study/research in a designated region will be provided an additional monthly stipend.
- The scholarship may not be available (doesn't accept applications) depending on budget, etc.

2 Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students

Inquiries: Current school (in Japan)

| Target students | Monthly stipend (FY2017) | Reference |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|
| 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 | Approx. US\$ 421 |
| Japanese language institute students | JPY 30,000 | Approx. US\$ 263 |

3 On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or waiver system

Inquiries: Current school (in Japan)

4 Local government scholarships and private organization scholarships

Inquiries: Each scholarship organization or current school (in Japan)

There are more scholarships for international students applied after coming to Japan rather than before coming to Japan. In many cases, the application is sent through the school of enrollment.

Living Cost and Price

Currency and price of goods

The Japanese currency is the Yen (¥). Cash payment is common in Japan although many stores accept credit cards. Checks are not normally used in Japan for the payment of everyday expenses.



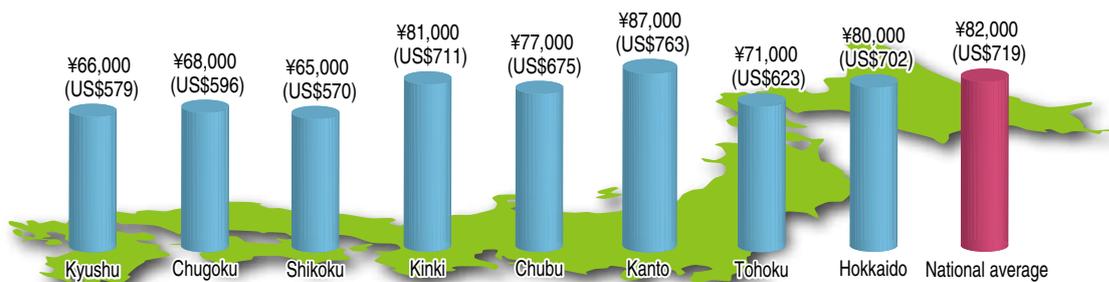
◆ Prices of major products in Japan

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rice (5 kg) | JPY 2,086 (US\$18) | Soft drink (500 ml plastic bottle) | JPY 96 (US\$1) |
| Bread (1 kg) | JPY 436 (US\$4) | Hamburger | JPY 175 (US\$2) |
| Milk (1,000 ml) | JPY 225 (US\$2) | Gasoline (1 liter) | JPY 124 (US\$1) |
| Eggs (10 eggs) | JPY 246 (US\$2) | Toilet paper (12 rolls) | JPY 281 (US\$3) |
| Apples (1 kg) | JPY 561 (US\$5) | Movie ticket | JPY 1,800 (US\$16) |
| Cabbage (1 kg) | JPY 363 (US\$3) | Taxi (4 km) | JPY 1,450 (US\$13) |

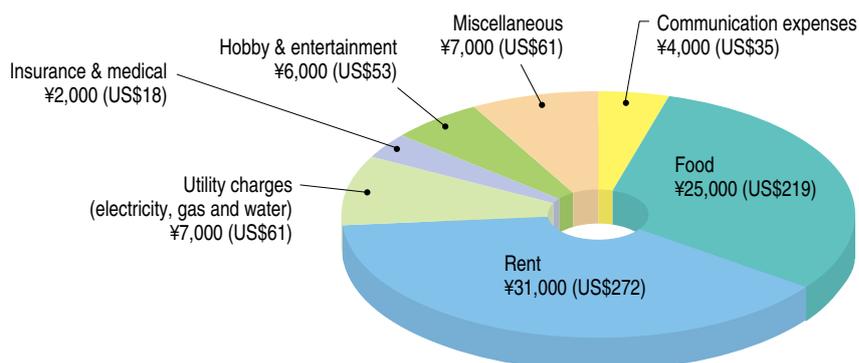
Source: Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan

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)

Funds to Prepare before Studying Abroad

What kinds of expense will be incurred before studying abroad?

Expenses required before admission is determined

Fees to be prepared before filing admission applications

- Fees for various tests, such as EJU, JLPT, and TOEFL®.
- Fee for entrance examination of school(s) of your choice
- Health checkup fee: Depending on the school, you must submit health examination evaluations, either when applying for the school or before entrance.
- Postage fees for sending application forms: Depending on the school, procedures such as asking for an application form and sending your application form, may be handled only by post, so fees, such as for EMS (Express Mail Service), are required.

Cost of entrance examinations

- Expenses for airfare and accommodation: If your school of choice doesn't conduct a pre-arrival entrance examination, you must come to Japan to take the entrance exam. In that case, in addition to the airfare and accommodation cost, you will also need funds to cover transportation fees between the airport and your place of accommodation and between your place of accommodation and the examination site.

Expenses required after admission is determined

School expenses

- Admission fee
- Tuition for the first school year

Expenses for coming to Japan

- Travel expenses
- Accommodation expenses: Hotel fees until you find a place to live

Expenses required after coming to Japan

Expenses for starting a new life in Japan

- Housing expenses: If you plan to live in an apartment, you will be required to pay for up to a half-year's worth of rent when finalizing a rental contract (deposit, agent fee, rent for the first month, etc.).
- Communication expenses: For a cell phone, etc.

Expenses required after classes begin

- Study material fees: It is wise to check with the school if the tuition includes textbook fees or if textbooks must be purchased separately.
- Transportation fee for commuting to school
- Expenses necessary for living: Such as for food

Other expenses

- Overseas remittance handling fee: If money is sent to Japan from overseas, such as for tuition, a handling fee is charged.
- Passport application fee: You must have a passport to travel overseas.
- Visa handling fee

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. Please do not forget that you are here in Japan to study. Income from part-time jobs cannot cover all expenses such as school fees and living costs in Japan. 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 you work part-time, be sure of the following:

1. **The part-time work does not affect your studies.**
2. **The earned income is meant to supplement your academic cost and necessary expenses and not for saving or for remittance overseas.**
3. **The part-time work engaged in is not in adult entertainment businesses. Note: Prohibited by law**
4. **Within 28 hours a week (up to eight hours a day during the long school holidays).**
5. **The part-time work is done while you retain student status in an educational institution.**

Notes:

- Persons entering Japan for the first time who are granted the "Student" status of residence with the permitted period of more than three months may apply for the "Permission to Engage in Activity other than that Permitted under the Status of Residence Previously Granted" at the port of entry during the issuance of permission of landing.
- International students may be subject to punishment or deportation if they work without appropriate authorization, work more hours than permitted, or work outside the permitted scope of their status of residence.



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% |

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% |

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

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 in order to trick you and demand money. They might use websites with false information such as:

- False!** "You can earn JPY 300,000 (about US\$ 2,600) per month working part-time while studying in Japan."
- Fact:** **No such thing exists.**
- False!** "You can earn JPY 3,000 (about US\$ 26) per hour working part-time."
- Fact:** **The average hourly wage is about JPY 900 (about US\$ 8).**
- False!** "You can cover your tuition, living costs and also send money to your home country by making money while studying in Japan."
- Fact:** **There is no such thing.**

Note: 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.

Student dormitory

Advantages

- Lower expenses
- Getting to know other students quickly
- 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



When you receive a letter of admission, you should immediately start gathering information on where to live.



Apartment

Advantages

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

Disadvantages

- **Higher costs**
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 arrangements**
You will have to sign a rental agreement with the landlord or real estate agent.
- **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 (office or teaching staff) can serve as joint guarantors for international students with limited Japanese connections.

Comprehensive Renters' Insurance for Foreign Students Studying in Japan (留学生住宅総合補償)

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.

Information gathering

- **School's international student office**
- **Internet, housing information magazines**
- **Real estate agents in areas where you want to live**

Points of accommodation search

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

Medical Insurance and Accident/Property Insurance

Medical insurance

In Japan, a 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”).

■ Procedures for enrollment

Register for the National Health Insurance at the municipal office.

■ Health insurance premium

The annual premium is about JPY20,000 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.

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 you fall and break a bone.**
- **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.

Additionally, Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES) offers Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (“Gakkensai”), with which 96% of universities in Japan are associated. JEES also offers an additional insurance coverage plan called “Inbound Futai-Gakuso.”

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

If you go to a university, you can enroll in a mutual insurance program called “Univ. CO-OP’s Kyosai.”

i <http://kyosai.univcoop.or.jp/>

Internship and Job Hunting

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, please take note of the need to obtain permission to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted.

■ 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

Job Hunting

Even if you are unable to find a job before graduation from the Japanese university or professional training college, 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. For more information on procedures, please inquire at a regional immigration bureau.

■ JASSO website has testimonials about job-hunting and information on related events.

Job Hunting Guide for International Students (JASSO)

 http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/job/guide.html

Japan Alumni eNews (JASSO)

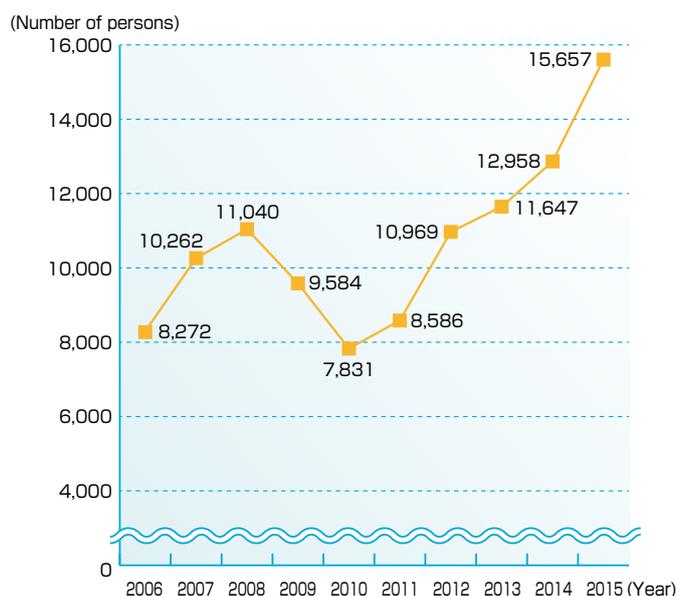
 http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/enews/index.html

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 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



Source: The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies in 2015 by Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

Composition ratio by type of business (Top 5)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| No. 1 Commerce / Trading | 21.1% |
| No. 2 IT | 10.1% |
| No. 3 Education | 7.5% |
| No. 4 Electrical appliances | 3.4% |
| No. 5 Food and drink | 3.2% |

Starting salary (monthly)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Less than JPY 200,000 (US\$ 1,800) | 31.0% |
| Less than JPY 250,000 (US\$ 2,200) | 49.5% |
| Less than JPY 300,000 (US\$ 2,700) | 11.0% |
| Less than JPY 350,000 (US\$ 3,100) | 2.9% |
| JPY 350,000 (US\$ 3,100) or more | 3.4% |
| Unknown | 2.2% |

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.

The following four points need to be noted when having the status of residence changed for this purpose:

| | |
|---|--|
| Academic background | Graduates of universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology. Graduates of professional training colleges in Japan who have obtained the academic title of “diploma.” |
| Types of job to be engaged in | 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. |
| Salary | International students must receive a salary equivalent to or more than a Japanese national employee. |
| The actual situation of the employer | The companies international students plan to work in are required to have a stable management foundation and business performance. |

Statistics

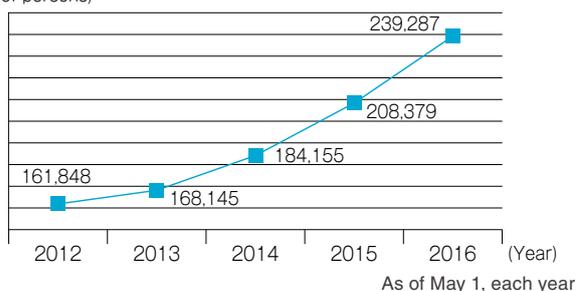
Number of international students in Japan

As of May 1, 2016

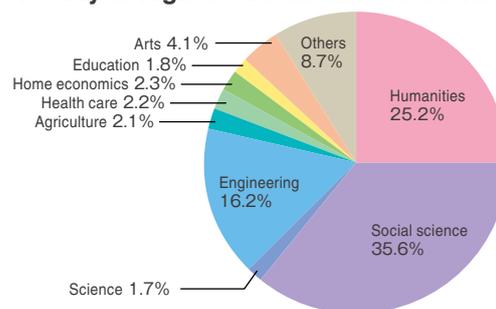


International student trends

(Number of persons)



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



Number of international students by academic level

(Number of students)

| | Founder | National | Local public | Private | Total |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Academic Level | Graduate school | 27,153 | 1,928 | 14,397 | 43,478 |
| | University (undergraduate) | 11,481 | 1,670 | 59,078 | 72,229 |
| | Junior college | 0 | 15 | 1,515 | 1,530 |
| | College of technology | 519 | 0 | 45 | 564 |
| | Professional training college | 0 | 12 | 50,223 | 50,235 |
| | University preparatory course | | | 3,086 | 3,086 |
| | Japanese language institute | | | 27 | 68,165 |
| | Total | | 39,153 | 3,652 | 196,482 |

Source: International Students in Japan 2016 (JASSO)
http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/about/statistics/intl_student_e/index.html

Number of higher education institutions

| | National | Local public | Private | Total |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Graduate schools | 86 | 79 | 462 | 627 |
| Universities (undergraduate) | 82 | 89 | 585 | 756 |
| Junior colleges | 0 | 17 | 324 | 341 |
| College of technologies | 51 | 3 | 3 | 57 |
| Professional training colleges | 9 | 182 | 2,579 | 2,770 |

Note: The Open University of Japan is included as a private university.
 Source: FY2016, School Basic Survey, MEXT

Note: As of May 1, 2016

Useful Information

Basic information



JASSO website

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
- JASSO Overseas Representative Offices (Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam)
 - Provide information and counseling by e-mail, telephone, mail or in person
 - Access to school prospectus, directory and reference books on study in Japan
 - Provide information at local education fairs<http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/toiawase/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

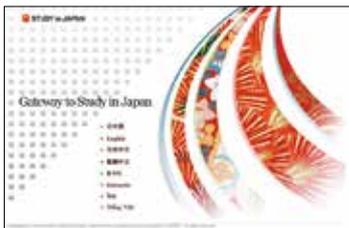
Study in Japan information



In Japanese



In English



Study in Japan portal site: Gateway to Study in Japan

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



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 · Event information
- Japan alumni associations · Messages from alumni



Japan Study Support

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

Various kind of information for international students in Japan

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

Japanese embassies and consulates

You may acquire necessary information on study in Japan and Japanese Government scholarships. Some embassies and consulates also provide consultations on study in Japan.

List of Japanese Embassies and Consulates (MOFA)

http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/mofaserv.html

Graduate schools, universities, junior colleges

| | |
|--|---|
| Search for schools (JASSO) | http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html |
| Search for schools (Japan Study Support) | http://www.jpss.jp/en/ |

Colleges of technology (*kosen*)

| | |
|--|---|
| Center for International Exchange, National Institute of Technology | http://ciex.kosen-k.go.jp/menuIndex.jsp?id=32333&menuid=7703&funcid=28 |
|--|---|

Professional training colleges

| | |
|---|---|
| Professional training colleges search (National Association of Vocational Schools of Japan) | http://www.zensenkaku.gr.jp/association/index.html |
| Professional training colleges search (Metropolitan Tokyo Professional Institution Association) | http://www.tsk.or.jp |
| Professional training colleges accepting international students (Association for Technical and Career Education) | http://www.sgec.or.jp/ryuugakuguide/en/index.html |

Japanese language institutes

| | |
|--|---|
| Search for Japanese language schools (Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education) | http://www.nisshinkyu.org/search/index_e.html |
| List of preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges 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 |

You can obtain the most accurate and latest information about a school from its brochure, application guidebook and website. Make sure to check the latest information about any school you are interested in applying to.



JASSO facebook



We at Japan Student Services Organization sincerely hope that your study in Japan will be a fruitful one.

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 Loan Programs for Japanese Students

JASSO provides scholarship loans to highly motivated Japanese students who have difficulties pursuing their studies due to financial reasons. JASSO has improved services by implementing a more efficient loan system and application procedure to cater for various needs of students, providing information about loans and collecting repayments in an appropriate manner.

2

Support Programs for International Students

JASSO offers support programs for international students, including providing scholarships, implementing international exchange programs, improving application procedures by administering the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU), and collecting and disseminating information on study abroad.

3

Student Life Support Programs

In order to contribute to the various student support services that universities and other educational institutions provide, JASSO collects and analyzes useful information on student support activities, and provides information on student support. JASSO also supports universities and other educational institutions to enhance student support services through various training programs.



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**Japan Student Services
Organization**

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infoja@jasso.go.jp

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Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Thailand
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<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Thailand>

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

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