

2016-2017
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. Therefore, you can learn cutting-edge science and technology in Japan.

You can study not only law, economics, science and engineering, but also 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

About 200,000 international students from more than 170 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.



CONTENTS

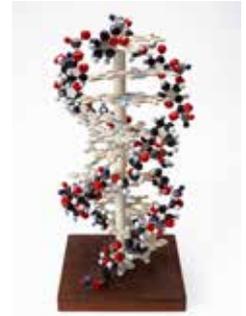
Japan Facts and Figures	2
Japanese Educational System	4
Q & A about Study in Japan	6
Japanese Language Institutes.....	8
Universities (undergraduate) and Junior Colleges	10
Transfer Admission and Short-term Study Programs	12
Colleges of Technology	13
Professional Training Colleges	14
Graduate Schools.....	16
Degree Programs in English.....	19
Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)	20
Other Exams Required for Studying in Japan	22
Interview with International Students in Japan Tips for Students Wishing to Study in Japan	23
Immigration Procedures	24
Academic Fees.....	28
Scholarships.....	30
Living Cost and Price.....	32
Funds to Prepare before Studying Abroad	33
Part-time Work.....	34
Accommodation.....	35
Medical Insurance and Accident/Property Insurance.....	36
Internship and Job Hunting.....	37
Employment in Japan	38
Statistics	39
Useful Information.....	40



Japan Facts and Figures

High level of science and technology, as well as Japanese culture of *monozukuri*

One of the factors contributed to Japan's economic growth as a leading country of *monozukuri* manufacturing despite scarce resources is knowledge and technology backed by excellent education. Japan has been offering many products using the state-of-art science, technology and medicine to the world, including electric vehicles, digital cameras, optical fibers and artificial heart. Instant noodles, which have changed the dietary life of the world, and Karaoke are also innovation of Japanese origin. The culture to use innovative ideas and come up with creative products is rooted in Japan.



Conducive living environment and safe and secure infrastructures

Japan is known as a good place to live with its low crime rate. Even if you misplace something, it will be returned to you most of the time. Public transportation system in Japan boasts of its on time departure and arrival and helps you reach the destination safely and securely. With well-established health insurance system, you can receive advanced medical care when you fall ill just with a small amount of payment. Japan is a country to live with peace of mind for international students who feel anxious after leaving their home country.



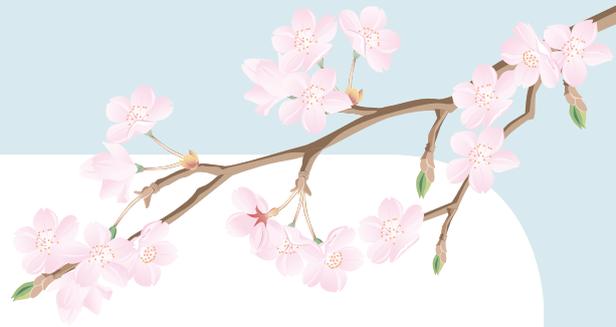
Rich natural environment, attractive modern and traditional cultures, and *omotenashi* hospitality

Surrounded by the sea, Japan has four seasons to enjoy.

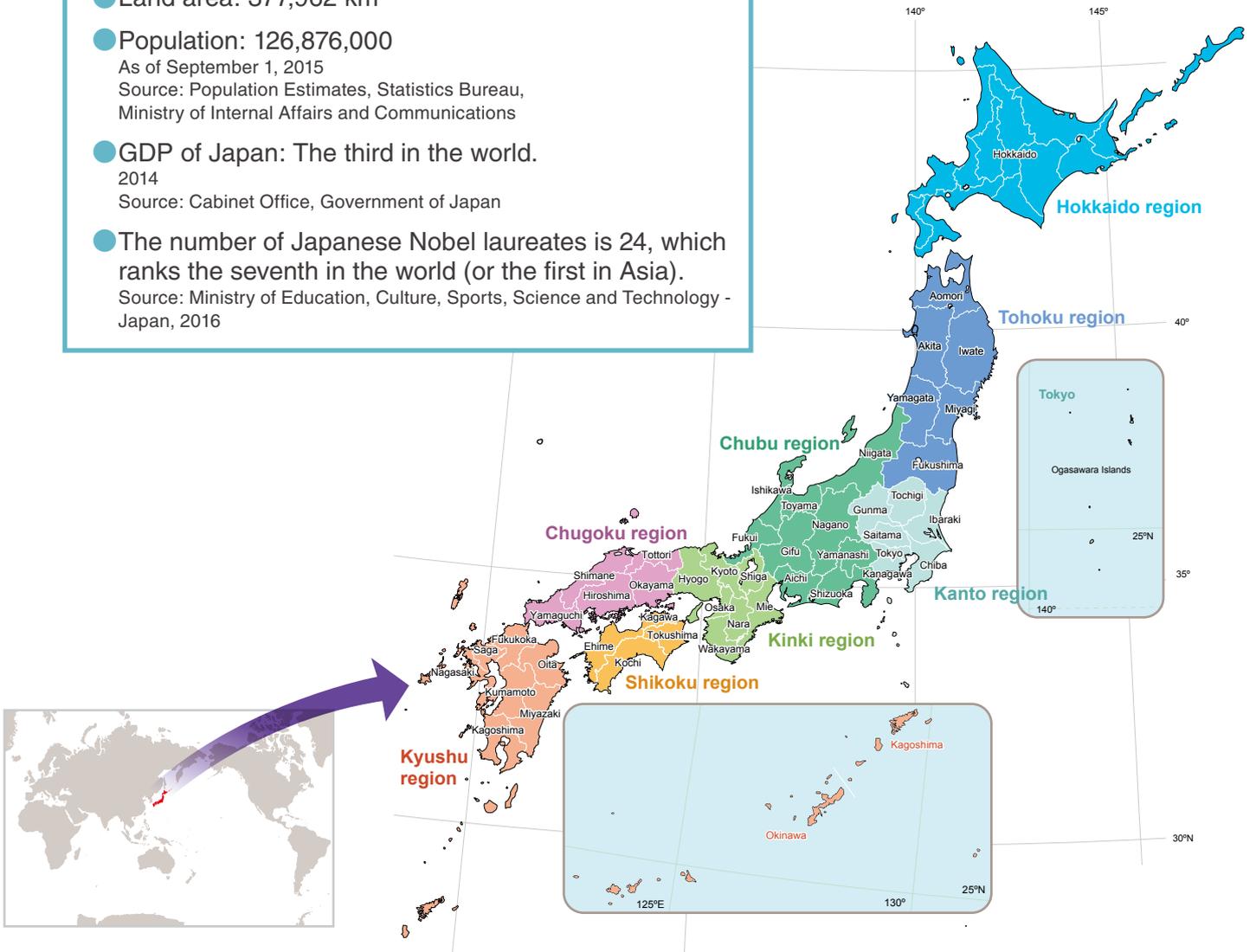
In Japan, pop culture, such as anime and fashion, coexist with traditional cultures, such as tea ceremony and flower arranging.

There are a number of world heritages such as Mt. Fuji, a symbol of Japan, as well as Himeji Castle and Itsukushima Shrine. *Washoku* (traditional Japanese cuisine), a registered intangible cultural heritage, is a colorful and healthy food using the ingredients of the season and contributes to Japan being one of the countries with the world's highest life expectancy. Japanese people are known to have a sober nature and attach importance on discipline. In Japan, the *omotenashi* hospitality, which is a spirit to care about the guest with the highest priority, is deeply rooted and international students are welcomed warmly.





- Land area: 377,962 km²
- Population: 126,876,000
As of September 1, 2015
Source: Population Estimates, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
- GDP of Japan: The third in the world.
2014
Source: Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
- The number of Japanese Nobel laureates is 24, which ranks the seventh in the world (or the first in Asia).
Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan, 2016



Introduction
on Japan

- Web Japan
<http://web-japan.org/>

- DISCOVER the SPIRIT of JAPAN
<http://www.visitjapan.jp/en/>

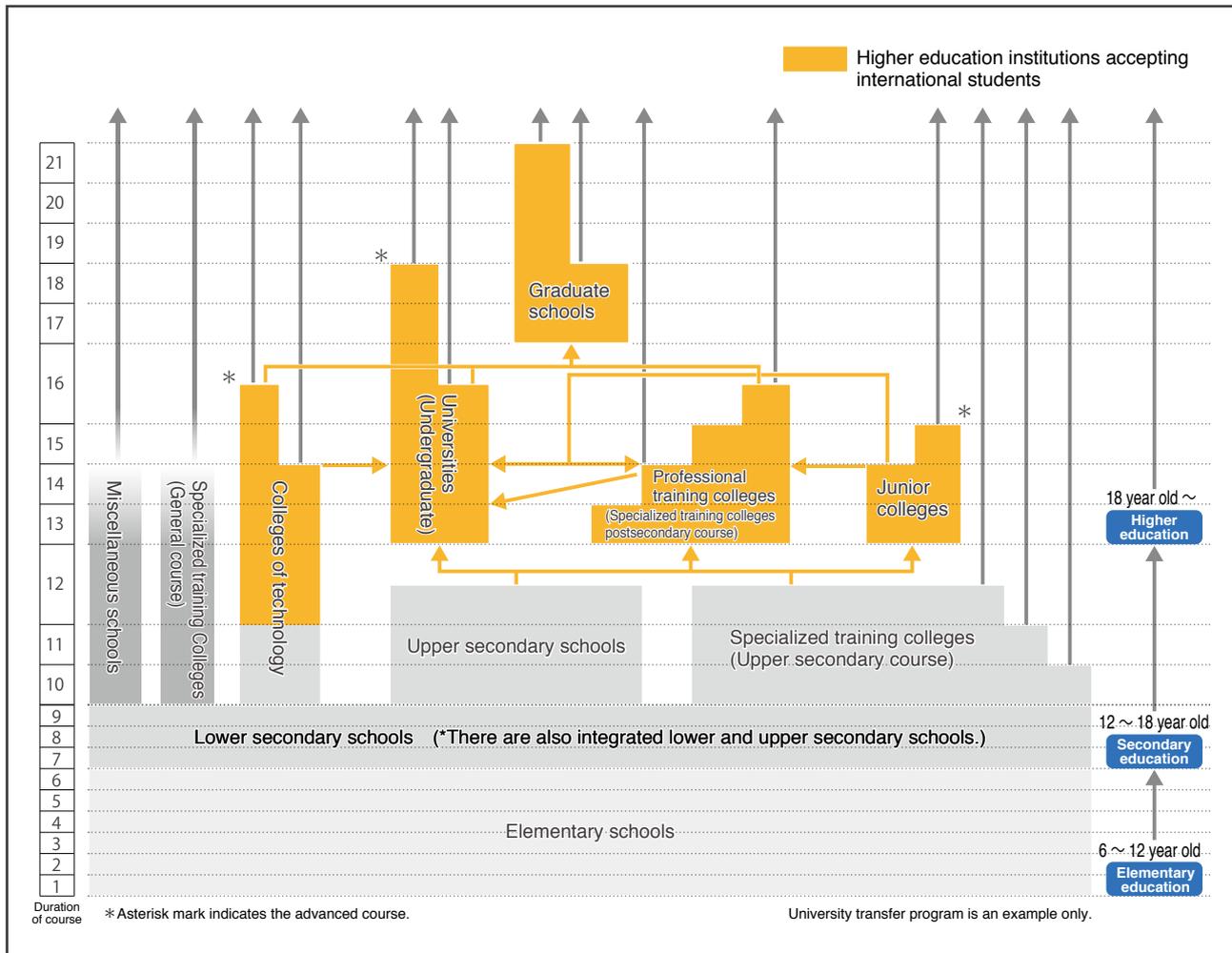
- Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/>

Japanese Educational System

In Japan, its higher education starts upon the completion of 12 years of education: elementary education (6 years of elementary school) and secondary education (3 years of lower secondary school and 3 years of upper secondary school).

There are 5 types of higher education institutions where international students can be admitted to, which are ① Colleges of technology, ② Professional training colleges (postsecondary course of specialized training colleges), ③ Junior colleges, ④ Universities (undergraduate) and ⑤ Graduate schools.

Depending on the founding bodies, these higher education institutions are categorized into three types: national, local public and private.



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. Especially many graduate schools adopt 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, Myanmar, Mongolia, and other countries who have completed 10 or 11 years of elementary and secondary school education wish to apply for admission to higher education institutions, such as universities, in Japan, they must meet either of the following eligibility criteria:

- ① Have completed 12 years of formal school education by accumulating an additional one or two years of schooling at university preparatory programs for students wishing to enter universities or higher education institutions, such as universities, in their home countries.
- ② Have completed “university preparatory courses” authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (provided, however, that they must have completed a level of education equivalent to a high school diploma in Japan).

In a situation where you have completed less than 12 years of education, you are considered to be eligible for admission upon completion of the 11 years or more of education at an education institution that are approved by the Minister in your home country, not necessary needed to complete the “university preparatory courses (Junbi Kyouiku Katei)” authorized by the Minister. If you are unsure whether your qualifications meet the entry requirements, talk to the school of your choice.

List of “University Preparatory Courses” authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-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	3 years
		Master of Education (Professional)	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

*Graduate school doctorate programs are sometimes divided into the first phase (2 years) and the second phase (3 years). The duration of a doctorate program in medicine, dentistry, veterinary and pharmacy (six-year program) is 4 years as their required periods of undergraduate study are 6 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 5 years, and 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.

*Associates from a college of technology, diploma and advanced diploma from a professional training college are the titles, not degrees.

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

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 Department of Education or a qualifications assessment institution (a non-profit 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 How do I apply for university from outside Japan?

A The typical procedure that you must take before starting your study in Japan is as follows:

Before entering university, many students learn Japanese at a language institute in Japan.

1 Planning and Information Gathering

- Gather information
- Be sure to language proficiency requirements
- Be sure to the amount of money required to study in Japan



2 Selecting Schools

- Check school brochures and application guidebooks
- Be sure to eligibility requirements for admission
- Compare schools and develop a short list of potential schools of choice



3 National Standard Test for University Admission

- Sit the exams required for application
e.g. • Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
• Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
• TOEFL®, IELTS, TOEIC®



4 Applying for Admission

- Prepare application documents
- Arrange to send application fee



5 Taking the Entrance Examination of Your Target School

- e.g. Interview
- Take an academic achievement test



6 Implementing Admission Procedures

- Receive an admission acceptance letter
- Arrange for the remittance of admission fee



7 Preparing for Travel

- Look for a place to live
- Reserve airline ticket and apply for insurance
- Apply for visa



8 Enrollment

- Travel to Japan
- Submit admission documents

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

A The timing for applying for admission varies, depending on 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. If they are not available on the website, you should ask the school you are interested in applying to 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 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 apply, 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. However, many schools still require international students to take entrance examinations in Japan.

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

A The reasons why guarantors are required include "financial assurance for the payment of academic fees" or "to avoid problems when applying for status of residence upon admission." Students are sometimes required to notify the school of a person who can contact their family 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 Japanese language for non-Japanese speakers. For international students aiming to be admitted to higher education institutions in Japan, many Japanese language institutes offer foundation courses, such as EJU, JLPT, English, mathematics, science or liberal arts.

Types of Japanese language institutes

There are two types of Japanese language institutes for international students aiming to enter higher education.

1 Japanese language institutes

Controlling entity: Educational foundations (Specialized training colleges, miscellaneous schools), public interest incorporated foundations, corporations, voluntary organizations, individuals and etc.

Objective: (1) Acquire Japanese language proficiency for academic purposes (2) Receive preparatory education for admission to universities (3) Acquire Japanese language proficiency for purposes other than 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 (and published in the Official Gazette of Japan).

Japanese language institutes publicly notified 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 other university of their choice. The advantages 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) to apply for courses for admission to a higher education institution.

Students who have completed secondary education (including high school) only, who have completed 10 or 11 years of elementary and secondary school education, and who have not completed certain programs designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan are not qualified for admission. In case of that, they will become qualified for admission after completion of a “Junbi Kyouiku Katei”(University preparatory course) designated by the Minister if they are aged at least 18.

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

List of “university preparatory courses” authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (JASSO)

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

Application, Entrance, Course duration

Many schools accept applications about 6–4 months before entrance and start courses in April or October. Generally, the course duration is 1–2 years.

Application requirements

- application form
- personal statement
- transcript of an upper secondary school or a university
- certificate of graduation (or anticipated graduation) of an upper secondary school or a 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 of Selection

① Is the Japanese language institute notified 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's 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 the number of teachers to the number of 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 entrance exams	Does this Japanese language institute offer classes for examination preparation (such as EJU or JLPT) or general foundation subjects (such as English, mathematics, science and liberal arts)?
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 amount of school expenses to be incurred?
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 for international applicants in their home countries or somewhere else 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 school?

A There are various courses available depending on your purposes of studying Japanese language, such as general Japanese, 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 degree-programs or long-term research programs, non-degree, short-term programs are also 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 contents of entrance examinations of each university and junior college and the number of international students who 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 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 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 the 11 years or more of education at education institutions that are approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan at education institutes 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 meet 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 an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to a high school diploma 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.

※ With regard to ① through ③ above, if a student has completed less than 12 years of education and not completed certain programs approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan, he/she may be needed to complete an authorized university preparatory courses 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 admission procedure consists of the following:
Admission procedure and requirements vary depending on the school.
It is best that you check the school application guide book for details.

- document screening
- test on academic ability
- interview
- short essay
- other competence and aptitude tests
- EJU (Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students)
- JLPT (Japanese-Language Proficiency Test)
- 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 the “bachelor’s degree (学士)” upon graduation provided that the following criteria have been satisfied.

	Required study period	Total credits earned
Regular undergraduate departments, 4-year faculty of pharmacy	4 years	124 credits or more
Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences, and Pharmacy (six-year program only)	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 the “associate degree (短期大学士)” upon graduation provided that the following criteria have been satisfied.

	Total credits earned
For a 2-year course	62 credits or more
For a 3-year course	93 credits or more

Universities and Junior Colleges	Key Points of Selection
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 studies and living? 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 the 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 waiver 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 for 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 the diploma title (graduates of professional training colleges)
- Graduates of the advanced course of upper secondary schools
- Students who have completed the university's general education (Year 1 and above) and fulfill the necessary credits required by the transfer institution.
- Graduates of the undergraduate program

Compared to regular admission, information on university transfer program is very limited. Get early information from your school of choice on its availability and other details.

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 exchange student programs, in which students can study abroad at a university with which their university of enrollment has concluded an exchange student agreement. Please check whether your school has an exchange student 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 Exchange Student Program

Programs that are not under international exchange student 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 school of destination.

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 full-time 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 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 scholarship 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 the school of destination.

Colleges of Technology

What are colleges of technology?

Colleges of technology are higher education institutions and are called 高専 (KOSEN) for short.

They offer a comprehensive five-year program (a five and 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.

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 that develop hands-on engineers who acquired world-class expertise and can handle the latest technology, with focus on lab works, practical works and hands-on exercises as well as having advanced theoretical knowledge.
- Though most departments in KOSEN are related to the industrial field, department on mercantile marine that aim to develop mariners are also available.
- Graduates of KOSEN are awarded the title of an "associate (準学士)."
- After a five-year curriculum, a two-year advanced course is offered to provide a further 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.

- 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 an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to a high school diploma 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 colleges of technology (KOSEN) nationwide. The application document has been standardized. It is best that you visit the KOSEN admissions website for details.

Entrance exam

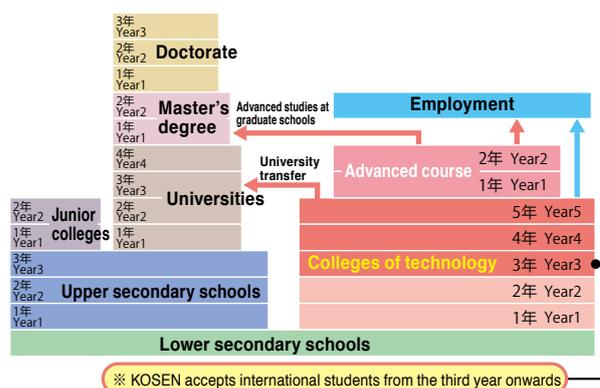
The National Institute of Technology determines the results by overall evaluation of the following items

- ① application form
- ② results of EJU Examination
- 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 is one of the institutions classified under higher education institutions. These colleges provide the learning of know-how, technology and skills useful in one's future job and life as well as to improve their 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-school.com/from-now.php>

List of professional training colleges that accepting 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 skill sets in their respective 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 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 6 months at institutions accredited 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 and upper secondary school education for more than 1 year.
- ④ Students who have scored more than 200 points 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 more than 400 points 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 are 18 years of age or older and hold an International Baccalaureate diploma, German Abitur diploma or French Baccalaureate diploma.
 - ⑤ 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).
 - ⑥ Students who are 18 years of age or older and have successfully passed an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to a high school diploma in Japan.
 - ⑦ 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.
 - ⑧ A student who satisfies any one of the admission qualifications specified in the School Education Act, other than those outlined above.
- ※ With regard to ① through ③ above, if a student has completed less than 12 years of schooling, he/she must 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 in 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	1700 hours or more	3400 hours or more
Qualification for completion	Exam results 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 a “diploma” or an “advanced diploma” when they complete courses recognized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology–Japan.

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

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

Professional Training Colleges Key Points of Selection

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① Officially Accredited Program | Is this professional training college authorized by the relevant prefectural governor? You will not be awarded the title of a “diploma” if the professional training college is unauthorized. |
| ② Content of Education and Number of Teachers | What about 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 allows you to acquire skill sets that 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 the 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 education in countries other than Japan.
- ④ Students who have completed more than 3 years of program at universities or equivalent education institutions in countries other than Japan and awarded an overseas 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 or better than university graduates in an individual entrance qualification examination conducted by the graduate school, and 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 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 more than 2 years, 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 or better than a master's degree or professional degree in an individual entrance qualification examination conducted by the graduate school, and 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 science, 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"/> graduation research 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 graduate schools where adopt 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 advices 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 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 in specific 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 over several letters to show your deep interest in the subject matter.

Research plan

Research plan is a document that compiles the subject and approach of a research. Most of graduate schools require the submission of a research plan. Research plan should include the theme, purpose, background, meaning as well as the method of the research, references and etc. The format and word count requirement vary with each graduate school. The word count for 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

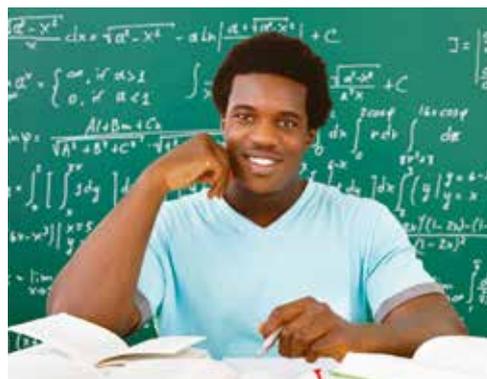
- **CiNii Articles** <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/en>
- **Article Search Cross** <https://cross.atlas.jp/top>



● 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 who are 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 its entrance exam but there are some that prefer its 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 can play a leadership role in a variety of social and economic fields. Typical examples of professional graduate school are the graduate school of law that educates professionals in law and the 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 policies. 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		

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.



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 are not required 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 an “associate degree” or the academic title of “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 Programs.”

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, depending on the type of programs. Also you may be charged separate tuition and fees, depending on the type of programs.

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, Japan and the world and Mathematics).

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) in Japan consider the EJU scores in their admission process.

Number of schools using the EJU

Universities	421
Junior colleges	79
Graduate schools	50
Colleges of technology	51
Professional training colleges	114
Total	715

(as of March, 2016)

List of schools using the EJU for screening

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

Date of exam

June (1st Session) and November (2nd Session)

Venues

Japan - 16 cities
outside Japan - 17 cities spanning over 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 as specified by universities of their 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 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	Course 1, which is for those who will study liberal arts or sciences that require relatively minor proficiency in mathematics, or Course 2, which is for those who will study areas that require a high level of proficiency in mathematics	

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. ※ 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 be enrolled as regular students in universities (undergraduate program), junior colleges, colleges of technology (in third academic 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 (FY2016): JPY48,000

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 in the number of times EJU has been taken and also age! EJU scores remain valid

EJU scores remain valid for two years (EJU scores for up to the past four EJU sessions may be used), but you can only submit the test score of one session out of the past four sessions 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				Basic academic abilities Examination language options	Effective scores
				Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Selection of subjects		
Faculty of Law	○	○	Course 1					Japanese	Implement in 2016 June / November
Faculty of Engineering			Course 2	○			Optional one subject	English	Implement in 2016 June

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

List of Schools Offering Pre-arrival Admission using EJU (approximately 140 universities and other higher education institutions)

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 sound 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

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

Japan Testing Division, Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) TEL: +81-3-6407-7457 Email: ej@jasso.go.jp

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)

4-5-29 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-8503, Japan

TEL: (+81) 3-6686-2974

(Application Center / open on weekdays from 10:00 ~ 17:00)

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

② Administered overseas

The Japan Foundation Center for Japanese-Language Testing

8F 4-3 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0004, Japan

TEL: (+81) 3-5367-1021

<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 that are necessary in business settings.

The Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation

551 Gionmachi-minamigawa, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto 605-0074, Japan

TEL: 0120-509-315 (Japan only)

Email: bjt@kanken.or.jp

<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 on faculty of medicine and dentistry).

National Center for University Entrance Examinations

2-19-23 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-8501, Japan

<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 high 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 is very different from my own country. Japanese 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 usual 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 cash only. I think it is difficult to live in Japan with credit cards only.

I lost my wallet and smartphone but I got them all 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 it by using animation and cartoons. That said, it is also necessary to learn Japanese grammar using Japanese newspapers, magazines and the like to cope with composition, short essay, interviews, etc. at an entrance examination.

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

Immigration Procedures

Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

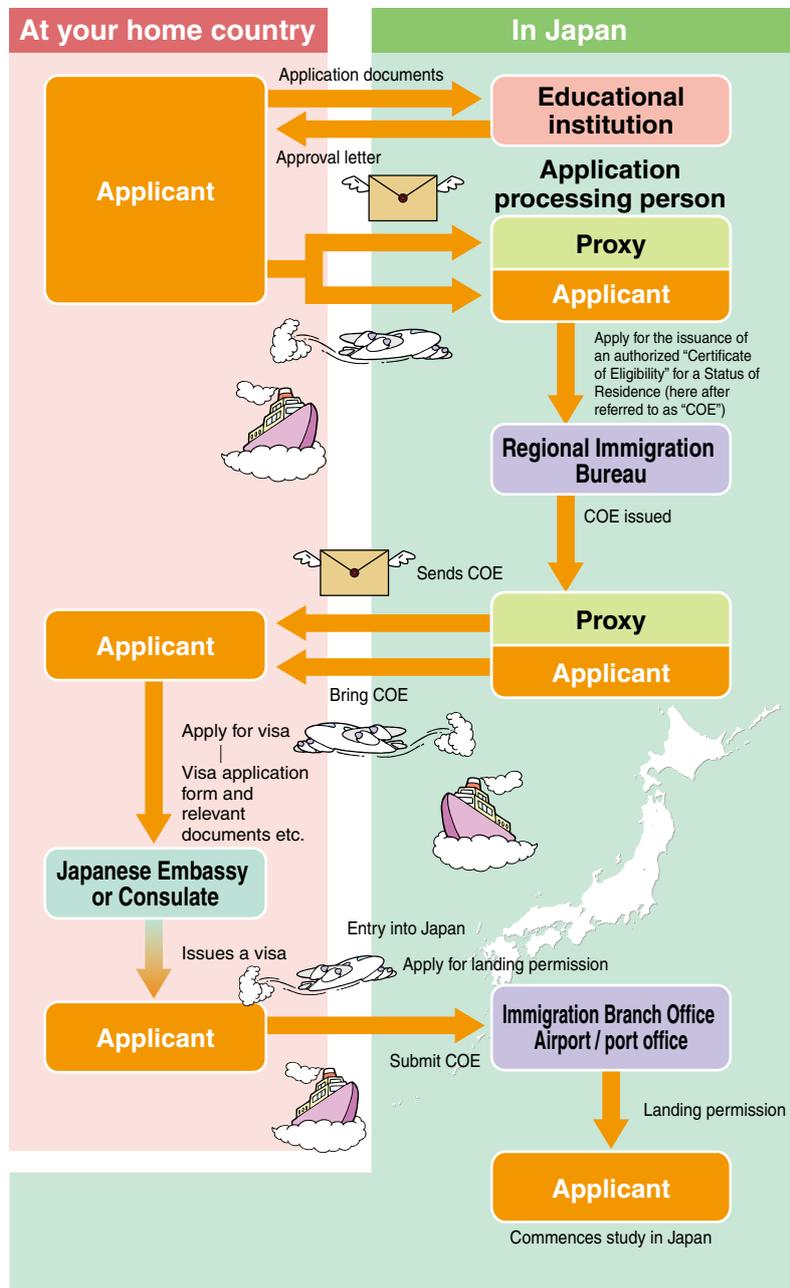
<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/index.html>

● Applicable status of residence

Status of residence is categorized according to types of activities, statuses and positions that foreign residents are allowed to undertake in Japan. The one applicable to international students for study at a university, a junior college, a college of technology, a professional training college and a Japanese language institute etc., in Japan is “Student.”
 Period 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 person.

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., 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 certificate of eligibility or visa, you may be asked for proof that you are able to pay for 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 afford expenses required for entering and staying in Japan, usually, his/her parent 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 at your home country.

[Required documents]

- (1) Passport
- (2) Visa application form
- (3) Photographs
- (4) Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence (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) A valid passport
- (2) Visa from Japanese Embassy or Consulate from your home country
- (3) COE (If already issued)

● Residence Card

A "Residence Card" will be issued for a foreign national residing in Japan for more than 3 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, Kansai, Hiroshima or Fukuoka Airport

During the immigration process, "Landing Permission" will be stamped on your passport and a residence card will be issued. Persons who have been issued a residence card must give notification of the address at the municipal office of their address within 14 days.

When entering Japan via airports other than those mentioned above:

During the immigration process, "Landing Permission" will be stamped on your passport, and near the landing permit there will be another stamp indicates the later delivery of a Residence Card. Your Residence Card will be mailed to your registered address after it has been registered at the municipal office in the district where you live.



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 the examples when your individual number is required:

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



Notification Card

● Immigration procedures for exam purpose

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’s 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 granted for the sole purpose of studying in Japan and as such do 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 allowed to work part-time if he/she obtains permission for “activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted.”

● 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 indicated their intention of re-entry and will be re-entering Japan within 1 year of their departure (or before expiration of the period of stay if the period of stay expires within 1 year after the departure) will, in principle, not be required to apply for a re-entry permit.

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

ED card for Special Re-entry Permit



● Extension of period of stay

If a foreign national wishes to continue 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 will incur serious penalties or deportation.

● Changing status of residence

Status of residence must be changed to a different type when activities initially applied for is discontinued to engage in other activities. The application must be filed at Regional Immigration Bureaus.

! 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 activities engaged in were falsely declared and/or submission of false personal history documents.

! Status of residence may also be revoked if activities specified in the status of residence have not been performed for 3 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

The 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.”

Its period of authorized stay in Japan will be determined based on 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 change the “Temporary visitor” (commonly referred to as the tourist visa) to “Dependent” status of residence in Japan if the initial entry was under the “Temporary Visitor.”

● 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 (such as a change of school) to 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 so high as those in the United States and the United Kingdom. In addition, Japan's scholarship programs and tuition exemption/waiver programs are more extensive than those in other countries.

The first academic year's school expenses include admission fee, tuition fee, facility/equipment usage fee, among other things. The average academic fees for the first academic year are summarized below. 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 = ¥117)

● Graduate schools

Graduate schools		Tuition fees		Admission fee		Total		
		JPY	USD	JPY	USD	JPY	USD	
National		535,800	4,579	282,000	2,410	817,800	6,990	
Local Public		537,883	4,597	363,436	3,106	901,319	7,704	
Private	Master's program	Arts	1,217,438	10,405	225,089	1,924	1,442,527	12,329
		Engineering	953,229	8,147	224,301	1,917	1,177,530	10,064
		Health care	889,264	7,601	250,675	2,143	1,139,939	9,743
		Science	833,017	7,120	213,951	1,829	1,046,968	8,948
		Agriculture & Veterinary science	781,229	6,677	222,787	1,904	1,004,016	8,581
		Pharmacy	754,132	6,446	229,639	1,963	983,771	8,408
		Home economics	724,971	6,196	239,643	2,048	964,614	8,245
		Liberal arts	741,106	6,334	207,014	1,769	948,120	8,104
		Social science	684,735	5,852	222,294	1,900	907,029	7,752
		Humanities	645,783	5,520	211,883	1,811	857,666	7,330
	Doctorate program	Medicine	663,835	5,674	208,899	1,785	872,734	7,459
		Arts	1,100,482	9,406	227,752	1,947	1,328,234	11,352
		Health care	782,867	6,691	253,665	2,168	1,036,532	8,859
		Science	793,512	6,782	223,650	1,912	1,017,162	8,694
		Agriculture & Veterinary science	783,912	6,700	220,853	1,888	1,004,765	8,588
		Engineering	786,853	6,725	214,182	1,831	1,001,035	8,556
		Home economics	720,910	6,162	240,309	2,054	961,219	8,216
		Pharmacy	709,251	6,062	195,977	1,675	905,228	7,737
		Liberal arts	681,025	5,821	214,912	1,837	895,937	7,658
		Dentistry	648,325	5,541	232,075	1,984	880,400	7,525
Social science	612,383	5,234	214,148	1,830	826,531	7,064		
Humanities	584,597	4,997	219,107	1,873	803,704	6,869		
Medicine	521,091	4,454	182,991	1,564	704,082	6,018		

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

※ 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	4,579	282,000	2,410	817,800	6,990
Local Public		537,857	4,597	397,721	3,399	935,578	7,996
Private	Medicine	3,561,941	30,444	1,299,019	11,103	4,860,960	41,547
	Dentistry	3,579,981	30,598	608,764	5,203	4,188,745	35,801
	Pharmacy	1,714,920	14,657	349,116	2,984	2,064,036	17,641
	Arts	1,390,959	11,889	260,300	2,225	1,651,259	14,113
	Health care	1,224,660	10,467	280,696	2,399	1,505,356	12,866
	Science & Engineering	1,176,913	10,059	249,251	2,130	1,426,164	12,189
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	1,105,816	9,451	253,383	2,166	1,359,199	11,617
	Physical education	1,013,103	8,659	260,632	2,228	1,273,735	10,887
	Home economics	989,372	8,456	265,289	2,267	1,254,661	10,724
	Literature & Education	930,144	7,950	246,294	2,105	1,176,438	10,055
	Social welfare	930,119	7,950	224,296	1,917	1,154,415	9,867
	Law, Commerce & Economics	884,841	7,563	241,519	2,064	1,126,360	9,627
	Theology & Buddhism	873,190	7,463	234,574	2,005	1,107,764	9,468

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

※ 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	1,121,519	9,586	254,767	2,177	1,376,286	11,763
	Engineering	1,031,697	8,818	211,253	1,806	1,242,950	10,624
	Science & Agriculture	921,331	7,875	227,246	1,942	1,148,577	9,817
	Humanities	854,027	7,299	245,739	2,100	1,099,766	9,400
	Education & Childcare	848,820	7,255	250,624	2,142	1,099,444	9,397
	Home economics	852,357	7,285	246,367	2,106	1,098,724	9,391
	Law, Commerce, Economics & Social science	849,699	7,262	235,300	2,011	1,084,999	9,273
	Physical education	804,857	6,879	238,571	2,039	1,043,428	8,918

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

● Colleges of technology

College of technology		Tuition fees		Admission fee		Total	
		JPY	USD	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
National		234,600	2,005	84,600	723	319,200	2,728

Source: National Institute of Technology

● Professional training colleges

Professional training colleges		Tuition fees		Admission fee		Total	
		JPY	USD	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
Private	Personal care	1,286,500	10,996	170,500	1,457	1,457,000	12,453
	Medical care	1,135,000	9,701	251,429	2,149	1,386,429	11,850
	Agriculture	1,028,000	8,786	180,000	1,538	1,208,000	10,325
	Technology	1,001,000	8,556	196,250	1,677	1,197,250	10,233
	Culture & General education	1,017,333	8,695	153,555	1,312	1,170,888	10,008
	Business	969,250	8,284	135,500	1,158	1,104,750	9,442
	Education & Welfare	949,333	8,114	151,333	1,293	1,100,666	9,407
	Fashion & Home economics	825,000	7,051	177,000	1,513	1,002,000	8,564

Source: Metropolitan Tokyo Professional Institution Association

※ Data given on private professional training colleges are the average fee for day-course

● Japanese language institutes

Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges

	Tuition fees	
	JPY	USD
1-year course	400,000 ~ 925,000	3,419 ~ 7,906
18-month course	642,000 ~ 1,300,000	5,487 ~ 11,111
2-year course	640,000 ~ 1,280,000	5,470 ~ 10,940

Source: JASSO

Japanese language institutes

	Tuition fees	
	JPY	USD
1-year course	415,000 ~ 997,400	3,547 ~ 8,525
18-month course	760,000 ~ 1,530,000	6,496 ~ 13,077
2-year course	1,026,000 ~ 2,000,000	8,769 ~ 17,094

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 waiver 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 system or their own scholarship programs.

For independent scholarship programs of universities, you can search for details on the JASSO website.

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 that 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.*"

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

Target students	Monthly stipend (FY2015)		Reference
Young Leaders' Program (YLP) Students	JPY 242,000		Approx. US\$ 2,068
Research students	Non-degree students	JPY 143,000	Approx. US\$ 1,222
	Master's course	JPY 144,000	Approx. US\$ 1,231
	Doctoral course	JPY 145,000	Approx. US\$ 1,239
Teacher training students	JPY 143,000		Approx. US\$ 1,222
Undergraduate students / College of technology students / Specialized training college students / Japanese studies students	JPY 117,000		Approx. US\$ 1,000

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 EJU and who will enroll as regular students in universities (undergraduate program), junior colleges, colleges of technology (3rd 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 (FY2016): JPY 48,000 (Approx. US\$ 410)

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

This scholarship is for international exchange students under the Inter-university Exchange Program Agreement, etc. on a short-term basis from 8 days to 1 year.

Inquiries: Current school in home country

Monthly stipend (FY2016): JPY 80,000 (Approx. US\$ 683)

4 On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or waiver 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 (FY2015)		Reference
Research students	Master's course	JPY 144,000	Approx. US\$ 1,231
	Doctoral course	JPY 145,000	Approx. US\$ 1,239

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

2 Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students

Inquiries: Current school (in Japan)

Target students	Monthly stipend (FY2016)	Reference
Graduate school students (Doctoral course, Master's course) / Research (graduate non-degree) students (<i>kenkyu-sei</i>) / Undergraduate students / Junior college students / College of technology students (3rd year or upper) / Specialized training college (postsecondary course) students / Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges students / Advanced course by university, junior college and college of technology students / University preparatory course students	JPY 48,000	Approx. US\$ 410
Japanese language institute students	JPY 30,000	Approx. US\$ 256

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.



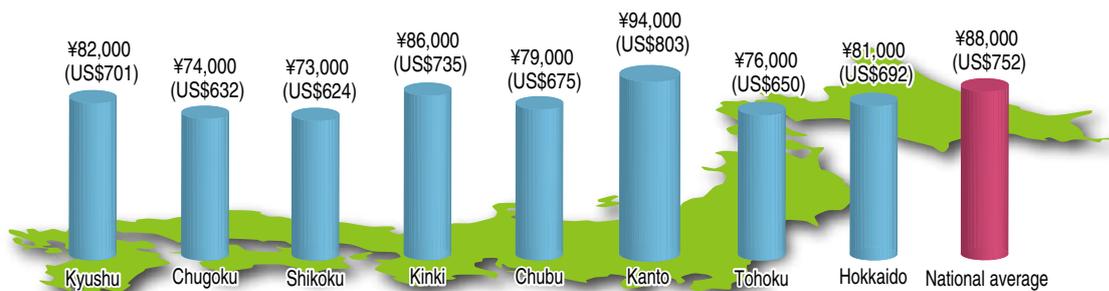
◆ Prices of major products in Japan

Rice (5 kg)	JPY 1,983 (US\$17)	Coca Cola (500 ml plastic bottle)	JPY 94 (US\$1)
Bread (1 kg)	JPY 433 (US\$4)	Hamburger	JPY 174 (US\$2)
Milk (1000 ml)	JPY 223 (US\$2)	Gasoline (1 liter)	JPY 128 (US\$1)
Eggs (10 eggs)	JPY 263 (US\$2)	Toilet paper (12 rolls)	JPY 284 (US\$2)
Apples (1 kg)	JPY 456 (US\$4)	Movie ticket	JPY 1,800 (US\$15)
Cabbage (1 kg)	JPY 192 (US\$2)	Taxi (4 km)	JPY 1,450 (US\$12)

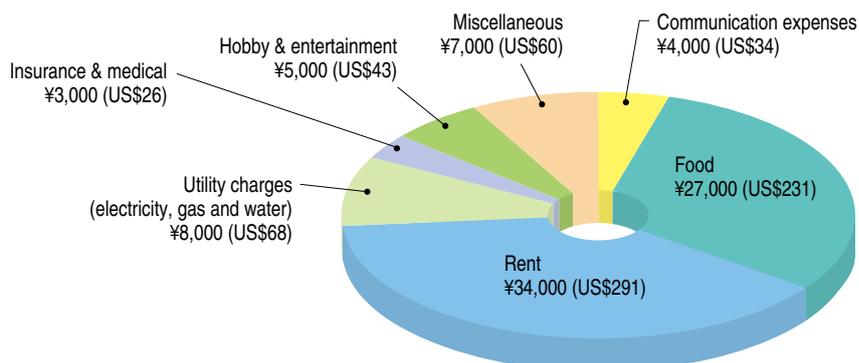
Source: Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan

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)



※ Calculated at US\$1 = ¥117

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2013 (JASSO)

Funds to Prepare before Studying Abroad

What kinds of expenses 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, 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\$427) 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. To work part-time, you must first obtain from your nearest regional immigration bureau the “Permission to Engage in Activity other than that Permitted under the Status of Residence Previously Granted.” Upon obtaining this approval, you may work part-time under the following conditions:

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. ※ Prohibited by law
4. Within 28 hours a week (up to 8 hours a day during long school holidays).
5. The part-time work is done while you retain student status in an educational institution.

※ Persons entering Japan for the first time who are granted “Student” status of residence with the permitted period of more than 3 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 and 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 on their studies. You have to be very careful not to let this situation happen.



<Type of part-time jobs in which international students are employed (multiple answer question)>

	Category	Ratio
1	Food and beverage	48.7%
2	Sales and marketing	24.7%
3	Teaching / Research assistant	7.4%
4	Language instructor	6.3%
5	Home tutor	5.1%
6	Cleaning	4.7%
7	Translation / Interpretation	4.2%
8	Hotel receptionist / Service staff	4.1%

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2013 (JASSO)

<Hourly Rate for Part-time Job>

Hourly rate	Ratio
Less than JPY 800	14.1%
Less than JPY 800 ~ JPY 1,000	54.7%
Less than JPY 1,000 ~ JPY 1,200	22.5%
Less than JPY 1,200 ~ JPY 1,400	3.6%
JPY 1,400 or more	4.4%
Unknown	0.6%

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



You may have seen recent advertisements that guarantee high-paying jobs 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\$ 2,500) 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 as “making plenty of money” while studying in Japan.

※ Calculated at US\$ 1 = ¥117

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 necessary 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
- Common 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 to your liking
- 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* (an amount equal to a few months' rent. *Shiki-kin* is also known as a security deposit in some areas.), *rei-kin* (gratuity money) and real estate agent's commissions, among other things.
- **Complicated arrangements**
You will have to conclude a rental agreement with the landlord or real estate agent.
- **Need to purchase all the furniture and electrical appliances**

Joint guarantor

A joint guarantor is required when renting an apartment in Japan. If you did not pay the rent before the due date or damaged fixtures in the room without paying for its repairing cost, the landlord will demand that the joint guarantor pay for the overdue rent or repairing cost. Systems that accept joint guarantors such as school-related persons (office or teaching staffs of the institute) are available 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 guarantor when renting an apartment. To find out if you are eligible for this insurance program, please contact the relevant school in which you are currently enrolled or will be enrolled.

Information gathering

- School's international student office
- Internet and 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 station and convenience in shopping)?

Medical Insurance and Accident/Property Insurance

Medical insurance

In Japan, a medical insurance system (also known as “Kokuho”) is available to lessen burden on medical cost. Foreign residents who will be staying in Japan for 3 months or more have to subscribe to the “National Health Insurance”.

■ Procedures for enrollment

Register for the National Health Insurance at the municipal offices.

■ Health insurance premium

The annual premium is about JPY20,000 in most cases. The premium varies according to the local council and your income. The premium reduction plan or subsidy system may be available for students. So you should contact the municipal offices.

■ 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 total medical cost is covered by the “National Health Insurance,” you will only 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, if you go to a university, you can enroll in a mutual aid program called “Univ.CO-OP’s Student Mutual Benefit (Kyosai).”

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

Internship and Job Hunting

Internship

Internship is a system that allows students, yet to graduate, gain experience in positions related to their future career or major by way of working in companies. Some universities recognize internships as part of education and gives credit for it. Please enquire directly with the school for the availability of internship program during your study in the school and the accreditation of its credits. If the internship comes with an income, please take note the student concerned has to obtain the 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 under an agreement or arrangement between the university and a Japanese company

When a student of 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."

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 that of "Student" to that of "Designated Activities". Period of stay of "Designated Activities" is 6 months and only one additional 6-month extension is allowed.

For more information on procedures, please inquire with Regional Immigration Bureaus.

■ 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 employment>



Source: The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies in 2014 by Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

<Composition ratio by type of business (Top 5)>

No.1 Commerce / Trading	22.6%
No.2 IT	9.9%
No.3 Education	9.1%
No.4 Electrical appliances / parts	3.9%
No.5 Food and drink	3.3%

<Starting salary (monthly)>

Less than JPY 200,000 (US\$ 1,800)	32.1%
Less than JPY 250,000 (US\$ 2,200)	48.1%
Less than JPY 300,000 (US\$ 2,600)	10.4%
Less than JPY 350,000 (US\$ 3,000)	3.3%
JPY 350,000 (US\$ 3,000) or more	3.7%
Unknown	2.5%

※ Calculated at US\$ 1 = ¥117

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 who have obtained their “diploma”
Type of jobs to be engaged in	Emphasis is placed on diploma-holders to engage in jobs that 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 to change his/her status of residence.
Salary	International students must receive salary equivalent to or no less 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

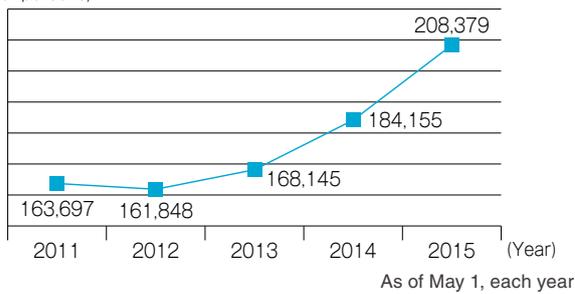
Number of international students in Japan

※ As of May 1, 2015

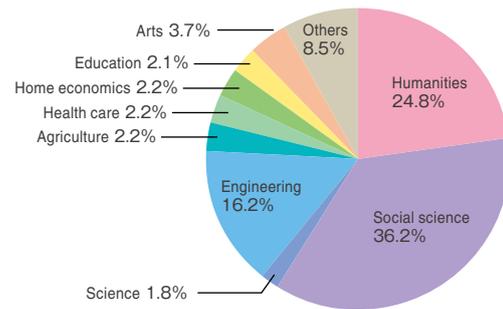


International student trends

(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	25,532	1,812	14,052	41,396
	University (Undergraduate)	11,024	1,737	54,711	67,472
	Junior college	0	13	1,401	1,414
	College of Technology	460	0	59	519
	Professional training college	0	6	38,648	38,654
	University preparatory course			2,607	2,607
	Japanese language institutes			56,317	56,317
	Total		37,016	3,568	167,795

Source: International Students in Japan 2015 (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	78	463	627
Universities (undergraduate)	82	87	584	753
Junior colleges	0	18	328	346
College of technologies	51	3	3	57
Professional training colleges	9	190	2,624	2,823

※ The Open University of Japan is included as part of private universities.
 Source: FY2015 MEXT, School Basic Survey

※ As of May 1, 2015

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 Seminars organized by JASSO
http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/event/index.html
- JASSO Overseas Representative Offices (Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia)
 - Provide information through e-mail, in-person advising, telephone calls and regular mail counseling
 - Access to school prospectus, application guidelines 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

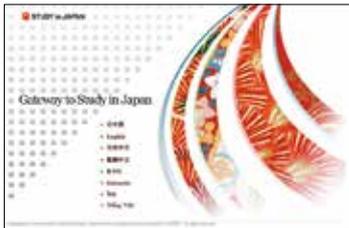
Study in Japan information



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 • Message 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
- The latest 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 also provide consultations on study in Japan.
List of Japanese Embassies and Consulate (MOFA)
http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/mofaserv.html

Graduate school · University · Junior college

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://tsk-school.com/from-now.php
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.nisshinkyō.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-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 school brochure, application guidebook and website. Make sure to check the latest information about a 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 is an organization under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan.

As a core and leading organization in the provision of student services, JASSO comprehensively administers scholarship loan programs, international student support programs and student support programs. JASSO aims to foster the development of creative individuals who, rich in humanism, will become the leaders of the next generation of society, while at the same time promote international understanding and international 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 more efficient loan system and application procedure to cater for various needs of students, providing information about loan and collecting loans in an appropriate manner.

2

Support Programs for International Students

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

3

Student 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.



Independent Administrative Institution
**Japan Student Services
Organization**

Tokyo

TEL (+81) 3-5520-6111
FAX (+81) 3-5520-6121

2-2-1 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-8630 JAPAN
infoja@jasso.go.jp

i

General information on STUDY in JAPAN

<http://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/>
<http://www.g-studyinjapan.jasso.go.jp/>
<https://www.facebook.com/jasso.studentexchange>

Overseas Representative Offices (JASSO Japan Educational Information Centers)

Indonesia TEL (+62) 21-252-1912

JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Jakarta Summitmas Tower I, 2nd Floor, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman KAV 61-62 Jakarta 12190 INDONESIA
info@jasso.or.id
<http://www.jasso.or.id/>
<https://www.facebook.com/jasso.indonesia>

Korea TEL (+82) 2-765-0141

JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Seoul Garden Tower 702, 84 Yulgok-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03131 REPUBLIC OF KOREA
jasso@jasso.or.kr
<http://www.jasso.or.kr/>
<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Korea>

Thailand TEL (+66) 2-661-7057

JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Bangkok 10F Serm-mit Tower, 159 Asok-Montri Rd., Klongtoey-Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 THAILAND
info@jeic-bangkok.org
<http://www.jeic-bangkok.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Thailand>

Malaysia TEL (+60) 3-2287-0812

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