

Student Guide to Japan

2025-2026



English



STUDY in JAPAN

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5 Reasons to Study in Japan

1 World-Class Educational Standards

The biggest appeal of studying abroad in Japan is the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge technology and science. Japan is a world leader in the field of science, and recently has been producing Nobel laureates nearly every year. Automobiles, home appliances, medical equipment, robots, aerospace technology, AI and other products that Japan's scientific and technological prowess generates are recognized around the world. Many of these products become an essential part of people's lives.

Japanese educational institutions do not just develop your academic abilities. They also instill personal values such as proper behavior in relationships and respecting others that will help students once they enter the real world. This earns high praise from international students.



2 Affordable Academic Fees

Academic fees in Japan are much lower than in the United States or the United Kingdom. In fact, tuition at Japan's national universities is about one-fifth that of public universities in the United States. There are also various financial support programs for international students in Japan, including scholarships, tuition reductions and waivers.

3 International Environment

Around 300,000 international students from around 180 regions and countries are now studying at Japanese universities, Japanese language institutes, and other schools here. Strong continued economic growth has made Asia one of the world's hottest economic regions in recent years. Studying abroad in Japan offers you the chance to learn about not just Japan but the whole world. In addition, more and more Japanese institutions are offering degree programs in English so that the need to learn Japanese does not become a barrier.



4 Rich Nature and Culture

Japan is known for its rich natural environment and four very distinct seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter. Surrounded by the sea, Japan has fostered a unique culture since ancient times. Traditional culture such as the tea ceremony and flower arrangement now coexists with pop culture elements such as anime and manga. *Washoku*—meaning Japanese cuisine—which is listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, is popular around the world for its colorful and healthy dishes made with seasonal ingredients.

5 Employment in Japan

Japan is hiring more and more talented international students regardless of their nationality. They energize their organizations with diverse thinking and perspectives, and serve as international go-betweens. Japan has many blue-chip companies with world-beating technology and top market shares. These include major corporations as well as small and medium-sized companies. Working in Japan can be a great opportunity to accumulate knowledge and experience that will help your future.



Japan Facts and Figures



Longest life expectancy: 1st



Industrial robots in operation in the world: 2nd



Total automobiles exported in the world: 2nd



Gross domestic product (GDP): 3rd



Total of financial contributions to the UN: 3rd

Number of Nobel laureates (30) in the world: 6th (and 1st in Asia)
According to Japan Student Services Organization research

Global Peace Index in the world: 17th (and 3rd in Asia)

Population in the world: 11th

Number of World Heritage Sites in the world: 11th (and 3rd in Asia)

Sources:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Global Peace Index 2024
Reference:
Nobel Foundation

Basic information on Japan

Area: Approx. 378,000 km²

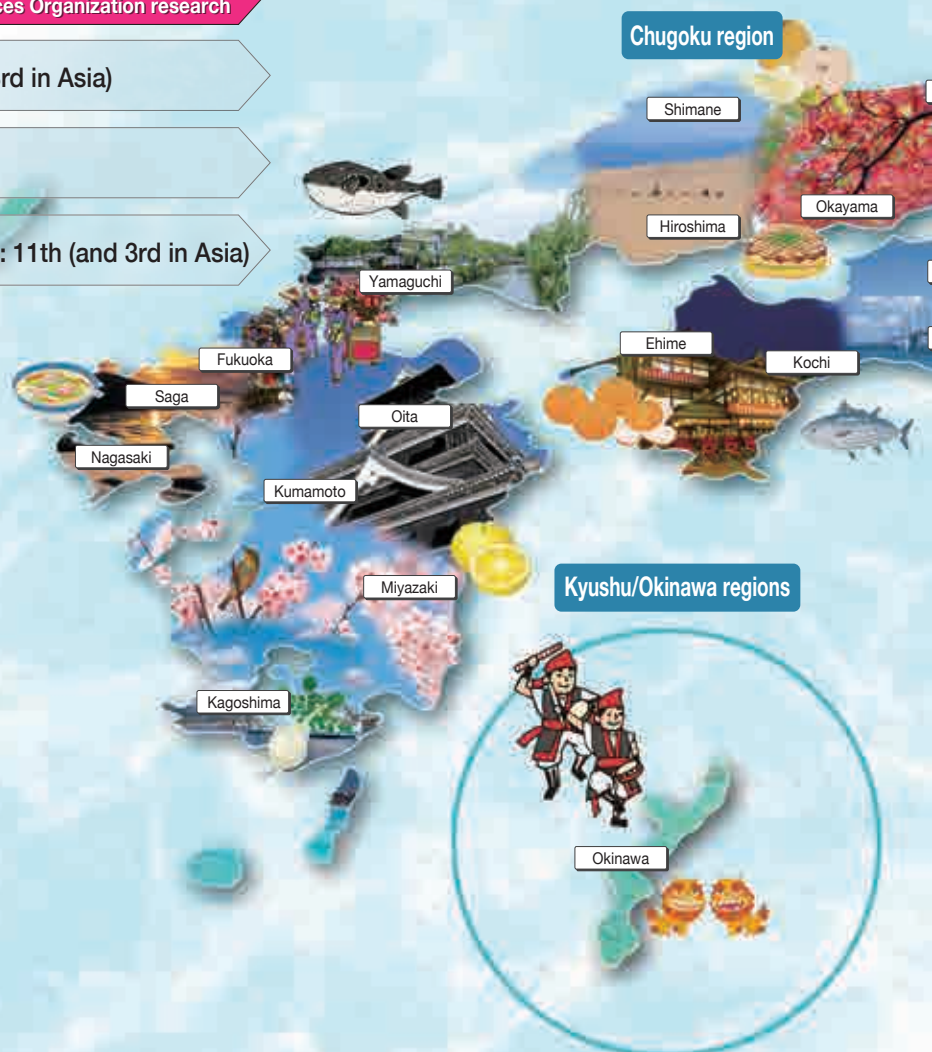
Population: Approx. 124,352,000

Capital: Tokyo

Language: Japanese

Currency: yen (¥)

Source: Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (As of 2023)





Websites with information on Japan

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



Feedback from International Students in Japan

Q

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

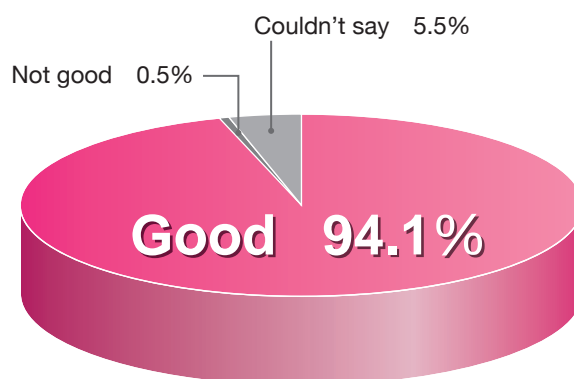
A

No. 1	Interested in Japanese society, wanted to live in Japan	61.3%
No. 2	Wanted to study the Japanese language/Japanese culture	39.4%
No. 3	Found education and research at Japanese institutions, etc. appealing	37.8%
No. 4	Because the specialty or major I was interested in was offered in Japan	25.0%
No. 5	Wanted to come in contact with a different culture	21.7%
No. 6	Geographically close	18.0%
No. 7	Considered other countries, but conditions such as academic abilities and costs in Japan suited me best	17.2%
No. 8	Wanted to work in an occupation connected to Japan	16.7%

Q

What was your impression of studying in Japan?

A



Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2023 (JASSO)



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



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



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

Planning Your Studies in Japan

Making a plan is the key to success!

Why?



Why do you want to study in Japan?

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

What?



What do you want to study?

What will be your specialty or major?

Where?



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

How long?



How long will your studies require?

1 Academic degrees and titles	Bachelor's degree	Economics? education? physics? engineering? information science? medicine? agriculture? design, art? fashion? anime?	University	4 years (6 years for some)
	Master's degree		Graduate school	2 years–
	Doctoral degree		Graduate school	3 years–
	Associate degree		Junior college	2 years (3 years for some)
	Associate degree		College of technology	3 years (3 years and 6 months for some)
	Diploma		Professional training college	2–3 years
	Advanced diploma		Professional training college	4 years

2 Short-term study experiences	Short-term study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese language Japanese culture Comparative culture 	Japanese language institute, short-term university program	Several months–1 year
	Student exchange program		University	Up to 1 year

3 Japanese language learning	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University entry course• Japanese conversation• Business Japanese	Japanese language institute	Up to 2 years
	University entry		Japanese language institute	Up to 2 years
			Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges	1–2 years

When?



When will you go?

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

How much?



How much will things cost?

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

Make your plan while viewing the schedule on pages 6 and 7.

Make your calculations while looking at pages 30–38.

Schedule

Have you planned your studies in Japan yet?
Next, let's look at the following general timetable and see what sort of preparations you'll have to make.

From planning to enrollment—what to do

Plan 1

To study Japanese language only

You will take care of items **1-8** on the chart in your own country, **9** in Japan, start at a Japanese language institute in **10**, and finish your study at a Japanese language institutes at **11**.

Plan 2

To enter university or a professional training college after studying the Japanese language

You will take care of items **1–8** on the chart in your own country, **9** in Japan, and start at a Japanese language institute in **10**. Take care of items **12–22** while studying at a Japanese language institute. Your study at a Japanese language institute is completed at **23**. Item **24** marks your entry into a university or professional training college.

Plan 3

To enter a university or professional training college in Japan directly from your own country

If you already have sufficient Japanese language abilities or will be entering a course conducted in English, skip items **2–11** and start at **12**, request materials from university or professional training college. After passing the entrance examination and making the proper arrangements, item **24** marks your entry into a university or professional training college.

Using an agent

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

Key points for choosing an agent

1) Cost

Is the price reasonable in comparison with other agents? Is the agent misleading you to take a part-time job in Japan to pay for all of your school fees and living expenses? Are fee details and service content stated clearly in the contract?

2) Support















































Is the agent providing you with information about schools that match your goals for studying in Japan? Is the agent recommending that you enter the country with false documents? Does the agent properly answer questions and provide proper answers if asked about procedures? Is the agent rushing you to make an application? Is the agent telling you both about the good points of studying in Japan as well as things you might find difficult?

3) Track record

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

- Taken care of in your own country
- Taken care of in Japan

- Taken care of in Japan

Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

Step	Relevant pages	Time period		Action
1 Planning and information gathering	Pages 5 and 25, pages 30–33, pages 44 and 45			Clarify and concretize your goal for studying in Japan. Confirm the language abilities required and costs for studies in Japan.
2 Request materials from Japanese language institutes	Pages 20 and 21	April–June	October–December	Request school information and application materials from several schools you are interested in. Confirm requirements for application.
3 Choose a school	Pages 20 and 21	By September	By February	Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
4 Apply	Pages 20 and 21	September–November	February–April	Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school you wish to attend.
5 Admission acceptance letter		January–March	July–September	Receive admission acceptance letter. Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc.
6 Immigration procedures	Pages 26–29			Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
7 Prepare to study in Japan				Find a place to live.
8 Make travel preparations and depart				Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
9 Enrollment procedures				
10 Enroll and start studying at Japanese language institute		April (One- or two-year course)	October (One-and-a-half-year course)	
11 Japanese language institute completion				

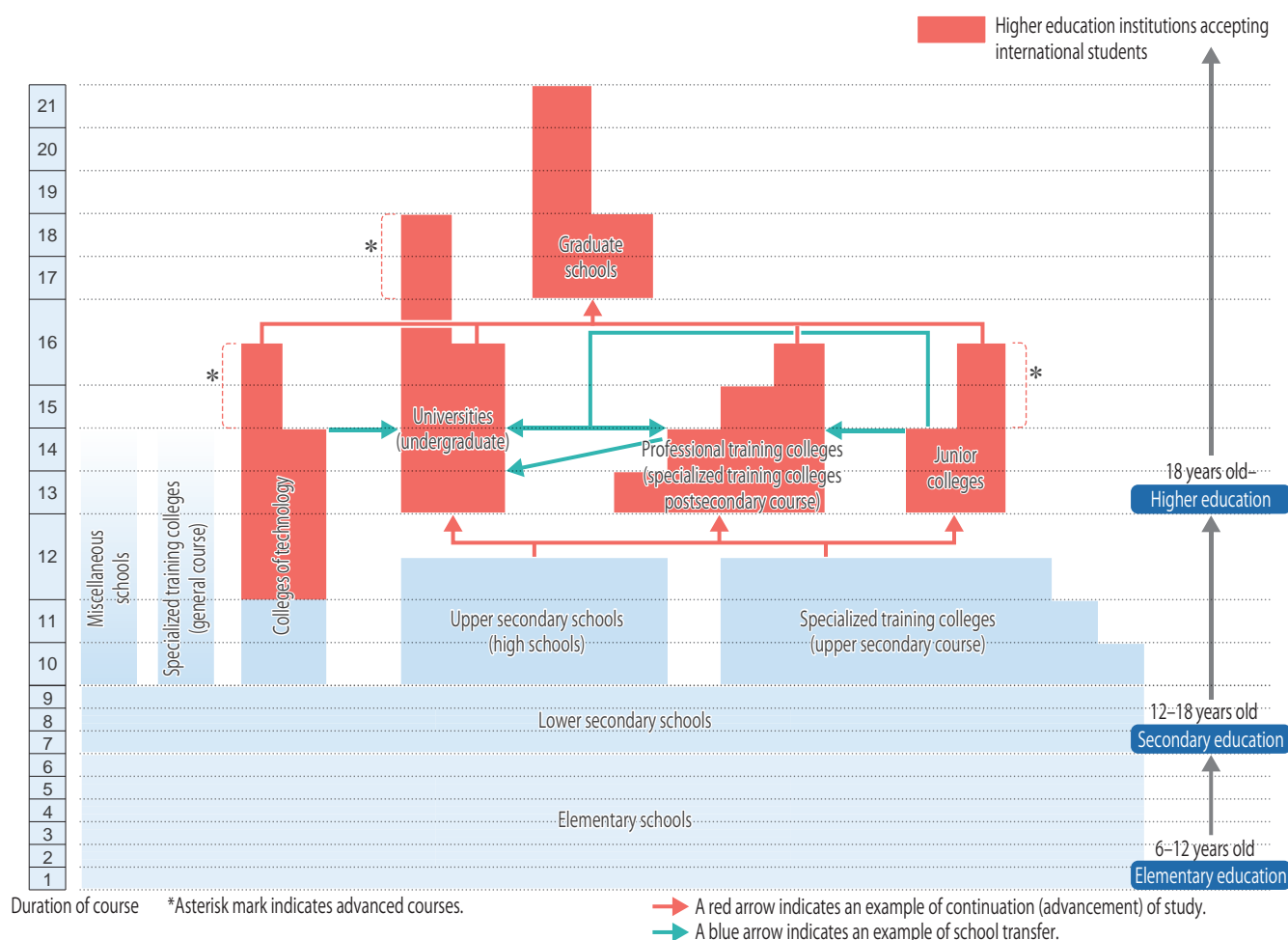
12	Request materials from university or professional training college	Pages 10–19	April–May/September–October	Request school information and application materials from several schools you are interested in. Confirm application requirements.
13	Choose a school	Pages 10–19	By June/by November	Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
14	Apply for Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)	Pages 22 and 23	By July/by March	Apply for EJU and take any necessary examinations; e.g. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC.
15	Apply	Pages 10–19	August–October/January–November	Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school.
16	Take entrance examination		November–February/March–August	Get your documents screened, take EJU, take the entrance examination of the school, etc.
17	Admission acceptance letter		January–March/June–August	Receive admission acceptance letter. Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc.
18	Immigration procedures	Pages 26–29		Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
19	Prepare to study in Japan			Find a place to live.
20	Application for extension of period of stay/notification concerning an organization for the activity			
21	Make travel preparations and depart			Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
22	Enrollment procedures			
23	Japanese language institute completion			
24	University/professional training college enrollment		April/September or October	Notes: 1. Some schools allow enrollment in the fall (September or October).
25	University/professional training college graduation		March/August or September	2. The procedure from application to enrollment will vary depending on school. Thoroughly review a school's application guidebook and take care not to make any procedural mistakes.

Japanese Educational System

In Japan, the higher education starts upon the completion of 12 years of education: elementary education (6 years of elementary school) and secondary education (3 years of lower secondary school and 3 years of upper secondary school). There are five types of higher education institutions here that admit international students: 1) universities (undergraduate; see pages 10 and 11), 2) junior colleges (see pages 10 and 11), 3) graduate schools (see pages 12 to 14), 4) colleges of technology (see page 17), and 5) professional training colleges (postsecondary courses at specialized training colleges; see pages 18 and 19).

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

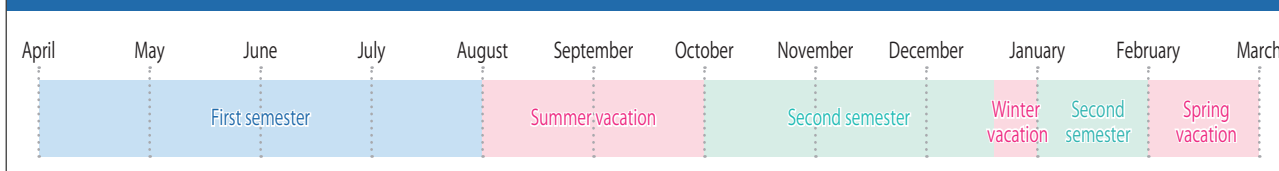
In addition, there are Japanese language institutes (see pages 20 and 21) where international students can study Japanese.



1. Academic year and school term system

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

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



2. Admission eligibility

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

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

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



1. List of Minister of MEXT-approved university preparatory courses

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/highered/title02/detail02/sdetail02/1395421.html>



2. List of Minister of MEXT-approved schools in foreign countries that are equivalent to Japanese upper secondary education

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/highered/title02/detail02/sdetail02/1395423.html>



3. Degrees and titles you can obtain and the required study periods

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

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

^{*2} The required period of study at a college of technology is five years. In normal cases, international students are accepted into the third year.

^{*3} "Associate" at the college of technology and "diploma" and "advanced diploma" at the specialized training college listed above are academic titles, not degrees.

^{*4} After graduating from a junior college or college of technology and completing an advanced course in a junior college or college of technology authorized by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), you can obtain a bachelor's degree if you pass the examination set by the NIAD-QE. Please check the details with the school you are applying to.



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

<https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/adegrees/>



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

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

Universities (Undergraduate) and Junior Colleges

Universities and junior colleges constitute the core of higher education institutions in Japan. In principle, the required period of study for universities is four years, while that for junior colleges is two years. Some universities and junior colleges offer audit and credit-earning programs, both intended for non-degree students. Also, in addition to long-term, credit-earning programs, non-degree, short-term programs are available (see page 16).

1. Admission eligibility

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Students who have graduated from an upper secondary school or integrated secondary school (completed 12 or more years of normal school education).
- Students who have graduated from a special needs high school or completed the third year of a college of technology (completed 12 or more years of normal school education).
- Students who have completed 12 years of school education in countries other than Japan. If normal school education in the student's home country is less than 12 years, however, he/she must complete either a Minister of MEXT-approved university preparatory course or one the same ministry offers through a Japan-approved training facility.
Note: "Students who have completed 12 years of school education in countries other than Japan" as mentioned above refers to students who completed the 12th year of their country's normal school education system. Please contact your country's embassy to confirm whether the course you have completed is part of the normal school education system and which year of the curriculum it corresponds to.
- Students who are 18 years of age or older and have successfully passed an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to the completion of 12 years of school education in countries other than Japan. If normal school education in the student's home country is less than 12 years, however, he/she must complete either a Minister of MEXT-approved university preparatory course or one the same ministry offers through a Japan-approved training facility.
Note: Please contact your country's embassy to confirm whether the examination you passed certifies the academic qualification equivalent of the completion of 12 years of school education.
- Students who have completed a course at an approved school equivalent to a Japanese upper secondary school that meets certain requirements, such as certifying that a student has completed a designated course of 11 or more years in countries other than Japan (Minister of MEXT-approved schools in foreign countries that are equivalent to Japanese upper secondary education).
- Students who have graduated from a foreign school in Japan that is designated as equivalent to an upper secondary school in a foreign country. If normal school education in the student's home country is less than 12 years, however, he/she must complete a Minister of MEXT-approved university preparatory course.
- Students who have completed a course at a Minister of MEXT-approved overseas educational institution recognized as equivalent to an upper secondary school (institution must have an upper secondary education program).
- Students who have completed a Minister of MEXT-approved postsecondary course of a specialized training college.
- Students who have graduated from a school under a former school education system.
- Students who hold a higher education qualification from a foreign country such as the International Baccalaureate, Abitur, Baccalaureate, GCE A-Level, International A Level, and European Baccalaureate.
- Students who have completed a 12-year course at education institutes accredited by any of the following international accreditation organizations: The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Council of International Schools (CIS), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Cognia, or Council of British International Schools (COBIS).
Note: Students who have completed a 12-year course accredited by ECIS—the former name of CIS—are also eligible for admission.
- Students who have successfully passed the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination (former University Entrance Qualification Examination) in Japan. (Those who are not 18 years of age at the time of passing the exam will be certified on their 18th birthday.)
- Students who are 18 years of age or older and are certified by the educational institutions to which they apply for admission based on individual admission qualification examinations.

2. Find a school

Key points to consider

Content of classes and research

Do they offer classes that I am truly interested in? Do they provide an opportunity for me to conduct research? Do they have instructors I want to study with?

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?

Research facilities

Are they well equipped with research facilities?

Entrance examination

Do they offer a pre-arrival admission system? Do they have a special admission procedure for international students?

Number of international students accepted to date, support systems for international students

Do they offer supplementary Japanese classes? Do they have staff who support international students and tutors who assist international students in their studies and everyday life? Do they provide career-related support to students?

Career paths of graduates

Is it possible to go on to graduate schools? What about graduates' employment record?

School and other necessary expenses

How much are school and other necessary expenses for the first year? What about the amount of expenses for the second year onwards? What about the total amount of expenses to be incurred before graduation?

Chances of getting a scholarship


Do they have their own scholarship program and tuition exemption or reduction program? What is the possibility of receiving a scholarship? Will I be told of any decision on the approval or disapproval of a scholarship before I come to Japan?

Student housing

Do they have a dormitory or attached residential quarters? Do they refer students to apartments?

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?

 Search for information on universities and junior colleges (check the Study in Japan website)
https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/search-for-schools/school_search.php?lang=en&offset=0&go=go&narabikae=2&limit=25&course=0&school_name=&level-1=1&level-3=1&level-4=1

 Search for universities and junior colleges (Japan Study Support)
<https://www.jpss.jp/en/>



●私費外国人留学生のための大学入学案内

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

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

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

Note: Available for browsing at Study in Japan Resource Facilities (see page 44)



3. Application materials required

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

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

● Professional and vocational university and professional and vocational junior college

These are universities and junior colleges where students can learn logic and gain knowledge as well as the practical skills necessary to become a professional in a specified career. Through various practical training opportunities that include long-term on-the-job training at companies as well as studies focusing on other fields related to their chosen career, students develop advanced practical abilities and keep perceptions directly linked to their desired careers. Graduates obtain a bachelor's degree (professional degree) or associate degree (professional degree).

4. Entrance exam

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

- 1) Document screening
- 2) Test of academic ability
- 3) Interview
- 4) Short essay
- 5) Other competence and aptitude tests
- 6) Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
- 7) Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
- 8) Common Test for University Admissions



5. Qualifications for course completion and graduation

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

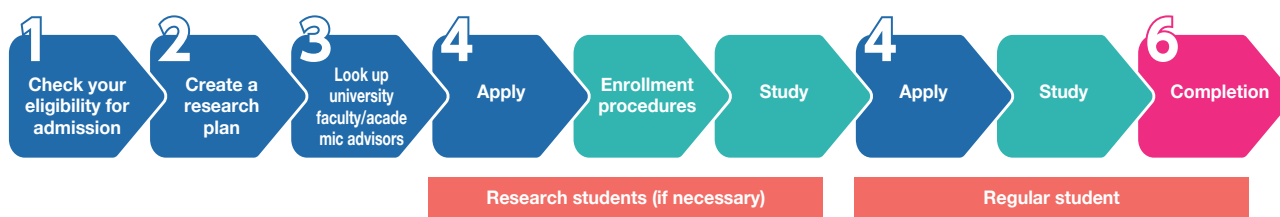
Note: Some universities set their own requirements (number of credits, etc.) for graduation.

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

Notes:

1. If you complete the first half (or first 3 years) of degree course of professional and vocational university that splits its program into two phases, you can obtain an associate degree (professional).
2. After graduating from a junior college or college of technology and completing an advanced course authorized by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE), you can obtain a bachelor's degree if you pass the NIAD-QE examination.

Graduate Schools



1. Eligibility for admission

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria:

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

- 1) 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
- 3) Students who have completed 16 years of school education in countries other than Japan (18 years for enrollment to doctoral programs related to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine).
- 4) Students in Japan who have completed 16 years of school education in countries other than Japan through distance learning offered by schools in those countries (18 years for enrollment to doctoral programs related to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine).
- 5) Students who have completed a course at a foreign school in Japan that is designated as equivalent to a university in a foreign country (Minister of MEXT-approved Japan branches of foreign universities).
- 6) Students who have received a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree by completing a course of three or more years at a foreign university, etc. (five or more years for enrollment to doctoral programs related to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine).
- 7) Students who have completed a Minister of MEXT-approved postsecondary course at a specialized training college.
- 8) Students who have graduated from a school under a former school education system.
- 9) Students who have graduated from ministry-affiliated universities, such as the National Defense Academy, the Japan Coast Guard Academy, and the Meteorological College.
- 10) Students who are 22 years of age or older and are certified by the graduate school to which they are applying for admission based on individual admission qualification examinations.

2. Doctoral program (second phase)

- 1) Students with a master's degree or professional degree
- 2) Students who have been awarded with an overseas degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree
- 3) Students in Japan who have completed a course offered by a school in countries other than Japan through distance learning, and were awarded a degree that corresponds to a master's degree or professional degree.
- 4) Students who have completed a course at a foreign school in Japan that is designated as equivalent to a graduate school in a foreign country (Minister of MEXT-approved Japan branches of foreign universities [graduate school level]), and were awarded a degree that corresponds to a master's degree or professional degree.
- 5) Students who have completed a course at United Nations University, and were awarded a degree that corresponds to a master's degree.
- 6) Students who have graduated from a university or the like, have engaged in research at a university, research institute, or other institution for at least two years, and have been recognized by the graduate school to which they are applying for admission as having academic ability equivalent to that of a person who has obtained a master's degree.
- 7) Students who are 24 years of age or older and are certified by the graduate school to which they are applying for admission based on individual admission qualification examinations.

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

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

2. Create research plan

A research plan is a document that outlines the subject and approach of your research. Most graduate schools require the submission of a research plan.

Your research plan should include the following items:

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



●『実践 研究計画作成法』(第2版)

(How to write a research plan [second edition], in Japanese only)
You can learn how to write a research plan and how to prepare for the oral test.

Author: JASSO

Published: Bonjinsha Co., Ltd. (sold in Japan)

Note: Available for browsing at Study in Japan Resource Facilities (see page 44)

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

Key examination points are as follows:

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

Online database of journal articles



CiNii Articles

<https://cir.nii.ac.jp/?lang=en>



3-1. Find a school



Search for information on graduate schools (Study in Japan website)

https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/search-for-schools/school_search.php?lang=en&offset=0&go=go&narabikae=2&limit=25&course=0&school_name=&level-2=1



Graduate school lookup (Japan Study Support)

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



3-2. Look for your prospective academic advisor

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

How to search for an academic advisor:

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



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

Online database of researchers



researchmap

<http://researchmap.jp/researchers?lang=en>



When contacting a university or an academic advisor:

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

4-1. Application materials required

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

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

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



What is a research student (*kenkyusei*)?

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

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

Selection process: The admission process is mainly based on document screening, but some graduate schools include an interview as well.

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

4-2. Application period

In most cases the application period is generally between June and January. Admission is generally in April. There are some graduate schools that use a September or October admission system.

• What are professional graduate schools?

Professional graduate schools offer programs designed to cultivate highly specialized professionals who can contribute to society on a global scale by responding to advances in science and technology, as well as the globalization of society and the economy.

There are professional graduate schools available for a variety of fields, including law (law school), teacher training (graduate school of education), accounting, business/MOT (management of technology), public policy, and public health.

4-3. Entrance exam

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

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

5. Requirements for course completion

Program	Academic degree	Required study period	Total credits earned	Completion requirement
Doctoral program	Doctoral degree	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 degree	2 years	30 credits or more	Appraisal on the master's graduate thesis and has passed the exam
Professional degree program	Master's degree (professional degree)	1-2 years	30 credits or more	
	Juris doctor (professional degree)	3 years	93 credits or more	
	Master of education (professional degree)	2 years	45 credits or more	

Notes:

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



Degree Programs in English

As Japanese universities become more globalized, an increasing number of degree programs at universities and graduate schools allow students to earn degrees by taking classes only in English, so their Japanese-language ability poses no obstacles.

1. Find a school

Search for University Degree Courses Offered in English (Study in Japan website)

https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/search-for-schools/school_search.php?lang=en&offset=0&go=go&narabikae=2&limit=25&course=0&school_name=&medium_inst=2=1



Search for universities and junior colleges (Japan Study Support)

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



For those also interested in learning Japanese

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

2. Application materials required

In addition to the usual materials (see pages 13 and 15), the following are often required to be submitted:

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



Even if you enroll in a course in which you can earn a degree taking classes only in English, learning conversational Japanese, Hiragana and Katakana will make life in Japan much easier. It will also be an advantage when looking for a job in Japan. Since Japanese-language education is required for obtaining a visa for some countries, please check the application with your school.

3. Entrance Exam

Compared to programs offered in Japanese, entrance exams for these programs often focus on English proficiency. The exam methods vary depending on the school, so be sure to check the school's website for more information.

Rankings in the field of "Internationality"

Rank	University	Type	Location	Internationality %
1	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Private	Oita	99.8
2	International Christian University	Private	Tokyo	98.0
3	Osaka Jogakuin University	Private	Osaka	94.4
4	Kansai Gaidai University	Private	Osaka	92.0
5	Miyazaki International University	Private	Miyazaki	91.4
6	Soka University	Private	Tokyo	90.8
7	Kyoto University of Foreign Studies	Private	Kyoto	90.6
8	Sophia University	Private	Tokyo	89.8
9	Reitaku University	Private	Chiba	89.2
10	Fukuoka Women's University	Public	Fukuoka	88.9

*Calculated from the percentage of international students, foreign faculty members, courses taught in foreign languages, and Japanese students studying abroad.
Source: Times Higher Education Japan University Ranking 2023

Guideline for required English language proficiency

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

Universities with a high percentage of classes taught in foreign languages (excluding second language classes)

Rank	University	Type	Location	%
1	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Private	Oita	77.8
2	Akita International University	Public	Akita	75.2
3	Tokyo Institute of Technology (now the Institute of Science Tokyo)	National	Tokyo	55.8
4	The University of Aizu	Public	Fukushima	46.2
5	International Christian University	Private	Tokyo	42.2
6	Tokyo Medical and Dental University (now the Institute of Science Tokyo)	National	Tokyo	41.0
7	Nagoya University	National	Aichi	37.1
8	Nagaoka University of Technology	National	Niigata	36.2
9	Hiroshima University	National	Hiroshima	35.9
10	Kanazawa University	National	Ishikawa	34.6

Source: Times Higher Education Japan University Ranking 2021

Short-term Study Programs and University Transfer Programs

1. Short-term study programs

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

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

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

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

* To obtain the “Student” status of residence as a research student by studying exclusively by auditing classes, audit student or credit-earning student, he/she is required by law to attend at least ten hours of classes a week. A research student who will engage in unpaid research without auditing classes requires the “Cultural Activities” status of residence.

Search for universities with “2) Programs other than student exchange programs” (Study in Japan website)

https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/search-for-schools/school_search.php?lang=en&offset=0&go=go&narabikae=2&limit=25&course=0&school_name=&jissikeitai-短期プログラム=1&jissikeitai-1=1&jissikeitai-2=1



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

A The following scholarship programs are available.

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

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

Monthly stipend: JPY 117,000

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

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

Eligibility: International students accepted under an inter-university exchange program agreement with a program duration of eight days to one year.

Monthly stipend: JPY 80,000

Inquiries: Current school in your home country

2. University transfer programs

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

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

To transfer to a university (for an undergraduate course), one of the following requirements must be met:

- Students who have graduated from a junior college (including junior colleges in a country other than Japan) or college of technology
- Students who have completed a Minister of MEXT-approved postsecondary course of a specialized training college
- Students who have completed a Minister of MEXT-approved course at a Japan branch of foreign school (junior college level)
- Students who have completed a Minister of MEXT-approved specialized course at an upper secondary school (including the latter stage of a secondary school or special needs school)

Note: Each university determines its own qualifications and requirements for transfer admission.

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

Search for universities with a university transfer program (Study in Japan website)

https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/search-for-schools/school_search.php?lang=en&offset=0&go=go&narabikae=2&limit=25&course=0&school_name=&henyu_seido-1=1&henyu_seido-2=1&henyu_seido-3=1



Colleges of Technology

Colleges of technology are higher education institutions and are also called *kosen* (高専). They offer a comprehensive five-year program (a five-and-a-half-year program for mercantile marine studies) for junior high school graduates. As a general rule, international students start from the third year of the college of technology's program, skipping the first and second years. There are 51 national colleges of technology (and 55 campuses) in Japan. There are also local public (three) and private (four) colleges of technology.

1. Features

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

2. Eligibility for transfer admission

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

- 1) Students who have completed (or are scheduled to complete) 11 years or more of schooling (a course of 11 or more years, with the final level equivalent to upper secondary education in Japan) in countries other than Japan
- 2) Students who have successfully passed (or are scheduled to pass) an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to the completion of 11 years or more of schooling in countries other than Japan
- 3) Students who have completed (or are scheduled to complete) studies at international schools in Japan that are officially recognized as equivalent to high schools in countries other than Japan
- 4) Students who have obtained (or are scheduled to obtain) an IB diploma from the International Baccalaureate, a foundation whose establishment was based on the Swiss Civil Code, in countries other than Japan
- 5) Students who have obtained (or are scheduled to obtain) an Abitur, a university admission qualification that each state in Germany can grant, in countries other than Japan
- 6) Students who have obtained (or are scheduled to obtain) a Baccalaureat—a university admission qualification of France—in countries other than Japan
- 7) Students who have completed (or are scheduled to complete) 11 years of curriculum at international schools in Japan that are accredited by any of the following international accreditation organizations: WASC, CIS or ACSI
- 8) Students recognized as having academic ability that is equivalent to graduates of an upper secondary school or above

Note: With regard to 1) to 3) above, students who have not completed 11 years of schooling are required to complete a university preparatory course or a course at a training facility authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, among other things.

3-1. Government-financed study in Japan

If you wish to be selected for a Japanese government (MEXT) scholarship to study in Japan, you must apply through the Japanese embassy or consulate in your country. Not all countries and regions are eligible, so please check with the Japanese embassy or consulate in your country.

3-2. Privately-financed study in Japan

1 Application materials required

The National Institute of Technology administers a common selection exam for national *kosen*. The application form for this is standardized. Please visit the National Institute of Technology website for more information.

If you wish to apply to a public or private *kosen*, please check the application guidelines for each school and follow the procedures.

2 Entrance exam (for national *kosen*)

The results are determined by an overall evaluation of the following items:

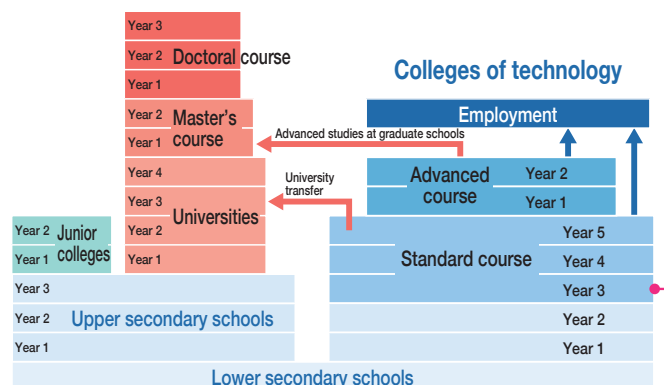
- 1) Application form
- 2) Certificate of graduation (completion) or transcript of upper secondary school
- 3) Transcript of TOEFL®, IELTS or TOEIC® L&R
- 4) Assessment of interview (conducted in Japan)

 **National Institute of Technology**
<https://www.kosen-k.go.jp/en>



4. Career or academic path after graduation

Kosen graduates can choose from a variety of career paths after completing a regular course, such as employment at a company where they can use the knowledge and skills acquired in fields such as research and development, production management, and production sites. If they wish to pursue further education and acquire even more specialized knowledge and skills, they can attend an advanced *kosen* course or transfer to a university.



Note: *Kosen* accept international students from the third year onwards.

Professional Training Colleges (specialized training colleges postsecondary course)

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

1. Characteristics of education at a professional training college

Professional training colleges can be broadly divided in eight fields: 1) medical care, 2) technology, 3) culture and general education, 4) business, 5) hygiene (nutrition, cooking, baking, etc.), 6) hygiene (hairdressing, barbering, etc.), 7) education and social welfare, and 8) fashion and home economics.

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

Students can acquire the knowledge, skills and certifications necessary for these occupations, and many graduates stay in Japan to work in these professional fields.

2. Japanese proficiency requirements

Classes in professional training colleges are conducted in Japanese, so international students must be proficient in Japanese.

Any one of the following qualifications must be met.

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

3. Admission eligibility

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria.

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

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



Admission requirements for postsecondary courses of specialized training colleges (professional training colleges) (MEXT)

https://www.mext.go.jp/content/202209292-mxt_syogai01-000014554_1.pdf



4. Find a school

Key points for choosing a school

1) Officially accredited institute	Are they authorized by the relevant prefectural governor? You will not be awarded the title of diploma if the professional training college is unauthorized.
2) Content of education and number of teachers	Is it a curriculum where I can obtain the knowledge and skills I want? What about the ratio of the number of teachers to the number of students?
3) Facilities and equipment	Do they have adequate facilities and equipment that allow you to acquire the skills you are looking for?
4) Career guidance program and graduates' career paths	What is the school's career guidance policy? What about graduates' employment track record? Can I gain employment in the career of my choice?
5) School expenses, scholarships	What is the total cost of attending the school until graduation? Are there scholarships or tuition reduction/exemption programs?



 **Search for professional training colleges in Tokyo (Metropolitan Tokyo Professional Institution Association)**

<https://studyintokyo.tsk.or.jp/en/ptc.php>



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

https://study-japan-ptc.jp/search/index_en.html



Professional Postsecondary Courses

Some professional training colleges offer professional postsecondary courses in collaboration with companies and other organizations that instruct students in the latest knowledge and skills. The Japanese government is implementing various initiatives to help international students who have taken these courses find employment in Japan using the skills they have acquired.

5. Application materials required

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

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

6. Entrance exam

The exam includes some or all of the following tests: 1) Document screening, 2) subject test, 3) interview, 4) short essay, 5) aptitude test, 6) practical test, 7) Japanese language proficiency test, etc. The entrance exam mainly examines whether students are focused on their objective in the field they have chosen, whether they have the Japanese language proficiency and academic skills required to cope with the classes after their admission, and whether the students have the desire to study.

7. Difference between a diploma and an advanced diploma

	Diploma	Advanced diploma
1) Course term	2 years or more	4 years or more
2) Total class hours	1,700 hours or more (62 credits or more)	3,400 hours or more (124 credits or more)
3) Qualification for completion	Exam results and other factors are evaluated for the qualification of course completion	
4) Course structure	-	The curriculum is systematically structured
5) After graduation	Students that complete a course that awards a diploma are eligible to transfer to a university	Students that complete a course that awards an advanced diploma are eligible to enroll in a graduate school



Professional training college information (Association for Technical and Career Education)

https://study-japan-ptc.jp/top_en.html



Japanese Language Institutes

These institutions teach Japanese to non-native speakers.

They offer courses tailored to the learning objectives of each student, such as courses for acquiring the Japanese proficiency necessary for studying at Japanese higher education institutions—attending lectures in Japanese and writing reports—as well as courses for learning the Japanese necessary for daily life and work in Japan.

Many Japanese universities conduct classes in Japanese, and Japanese-language proficiency equivalent to B2 or higher in the Framework of Reference for Japanese-Language Education^{*1} is required (Japanese-Language Proficiency Test N1 or N2 level). This is said to be equivalent to completing 700 to 1070 hours of study.

^{*1} MEXT has established a “Framework of Reference for Japanese-Language Education” based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This framework outlines the six levels of Japanese proficiency (A1 to C2) and other information.

1. Types of schools

There are three main types of institutions where you can study Japanese:

1. Japanese-language schools

These are schools established by educational institutions, corporations, etc. In addition to basic Japanese-language studies, they offer a variety of courses, including ones to prepare students for higher education and business Japanese courses. The length of study also varies widely, from a few weeks to a maximum of two years.

2. Japanese-language courses at specialized training colleges

These courses are established in specialized training colleges approved by prefectural governors. In addition to basic Japanese-language studies, they offer courses to prepare students for higher education. The length of study is from one to two years.

3. Preparatory courses offered at private universities and junior colleges

Among the special courses established to provide special skills education offered by universities, those primarily designed to educate international students are generally referred to as preparatory courses for international students.

There are various types of preparatory courses for international students, such as those focused on nursing care, international studies, and the Japanese language. The course content varies depending on the school, but most preparatory courses provide education on the Japanese language, basic academic subjects, and Japanese culture necessary for advancing to universities or other institutions. The length of study is from one to two years.

• MEXT university preparatory course

To advance to a university or other institute of higher education in Japan, applicants must have completed the 12th year of normal school education. If the normal school system (up through the completion of secondary school) in your home country is less than 12 years, you can complete a university preparatory course designated by MEXT to become eligible for university admission (see page 9, “Japanese Educational System” of this guide).

In this preparatory course, students study not only the Japanese language but basic subjects necessary for university admission as well. Japanese-language education institutions that offer preparatory courses are listed on the MEXT website.



List of Minister of MEXT-approved university preparatory courses

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/highered/title02/detail02/sdetail02/1395421.html>



2. Required application materials and enrollment periods

April enrollment	October enrollment	
April to September	October to February	Request application form and prepare materials
September to November	February to April	Application period
January to March	July to September	Immigration and enrollment procedures
April	October	Start of course

Notes:

1. While it is not common in Japan, a small number of Japanese-language institutes offer courses that start in January or July.

2. Some preparatory courses for international students offer fall enrollment (September).



3. Application materials required

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

- 1) Application form/resume (format specified by individual school)
- 2) Certificate of graduation (or expected graduation) from last school attended
- 3) Transcript of the last school attended
- 4) Proofs of financial means
- 5) Others



Can I transfer?

Transferring between Japanese language institutes is difficult. Choose your school carefully by gathering as much information as possible on that school, browsing the school's website, studying the school prospectus or talking to current students or graduates of the school.

4. Find a school

When choosing a Japanese-language institute, check to see if it is approved by the Minister of MEXT ("Certified Japanese-Language Institutes").

The MEXT minister certifies institutions that meet certain requirements and are capable of providing Japanese-language education in an appropriate and reliable manner as "Certified Japanese-Language Institutes." For Japanese-language education in Japan, student visas are only provided for students attending a certified Japanese-language institute^{*2}. Some courses at specialized training colleges as well as preparatory courses for international students offered by universities have also been designated as "Certified Japanese-Language Institutes."

^{*2}: Until March 2029, student visas for Japanese-language education will also be provided for Japanese-language institutes designated by the Ministry of Justice, as well as Japanese-language courses of specialized training colleges and preparatory courses for international students offered by universities that have not been designated as "Certified Japanese Language Institutes."

Websites that can help you search for Japanese-language institutes



Japanese-Language Education Institution Accreditation Act Portal (MEXT)

<https://www.nihongokyouiku.mext.go.jp/top>



Association for the Promotion of Japanese-Language Education

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



List of schools designated by the Ministry of Justice

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/resources/nyuukokukanri07_00217.html



Japanese-Language School Association (JaLSA)

<https://jalsa.tokyo>



Points to consider when choosing a Japanese-language institute

1) Purpose of learning	Does the school offer classes that suit my purpose of learning?
2) Student visa	Is the school certified by the MEXT minister (or designated by the Ministry of Justice)?
3) Class composition	Are classes separated by proficiency level? How many students are in one class?
4) Percentage of students by nation of origin	Is there a high percentage of students from countries that use Chinese characters? Are there considerations for students from countries that do not use Chinese characters?
5) Exam preparations	Does the school offer classes to prepare for exams such as EJU and JLPT? Does the curriculum also include basic subjects (English, mathematics, science, history, geography, etc.)?
6) Career guidance and daily life consultations	Does the school offer further studies/career guidance and/or consultation services for daily life issues?
7) After graduation	What paths do graduates of the school typically take?
8) Tuition, etc.	Are the class hours, school facilities and other factors worth the tuition cost? Are the refund policies clearly stated on the website or in the application guidelines?
9) Entrance exams	Are there additional steps to the application document screening? Will the school need to interview my guarantor or emergency contact in Japan? Are exams conducted outside of Japan?
10) School location	Is the school located in a big city or a suburban town? Will I be able to adapt to the climate?
11) Student housing	Does the school have dorms or student apartments? Will the school help find housing?

Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)



The Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) is designed to assess the Japanese-language proficiency and basic academic abilities (science, general subjects, and mathematics) of international students who wish to enroll at the undergraduate level at universities or other institutions of higher education in Japan.



More than 60 percent of Japanese universities—and almost all national universities—use EJU scores in their admissions selection process.

1. When?

First session: June
Second session: November

2. Where?

Japan: 17 cities
Outside Japan: 17 cities in 13 countries and regions
Examination sites (outside Japan)
India (New Delhi), Indonesia (Jakarta, Surabaya), South Korea (Seoul, Busan), Sri Lanka (Colombo), Singapore, Thailand (Bangkok, Chiang Mai), Taiwan (Taipei), the Philippines (Manila), Vietnam (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City), Hong Kong, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Myanmar (Yangon), Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar)

Some schools have different entrance exams for each department. There may also be schools that use multiple entrance exam methods, so be sure to check what preparations are required for the entrance exam of your desired department as soon as possible. The following website provides a list of schools that use EJU as part of their screening and information on the subjects required for application:



List of schools using EJU for screening

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



3. Subjects to take

Students will take the subjects specified by the university they are applying to (one to three subjects) in the language specified by the university. Please note that “Science” and “Japan and the World” cannot be taken at the same time.

Subjects	Purpose	Time	Score range	Selection of subjects	Examination language options
Japanese as a Foreign Language	Measurement of the Japanese language skills (academic Japanese) required for studying at Japanese universities.	125 minutes	Reading comprehension, listening comprehension, and listening-reading comprehension: 0–400 points Writing: 0–50 points		Japanese only
Basic academic abilities	Science Measurement of the basic academic skills in science (physics, chemistry, and biology) necessary for studying in a science department of a Japanese university.	80 minutes	0–200 points	Select two of the following subjects: physics, chemistry or biology	Selective, either Japanese or English
	Japan and the World Measurement of the basic academic skills in liberal arts, particularly thinking and logical abilities, necessary for studying at Japanese universities.	80 minutes	0–200 points		
	Mathematics Measurement of the basic academic skills in mathematics necessary for studying at Japanese universities.	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	

Note: “Japan and the World” is a subject unique to EJU, and combines three Japanese upper secondary school subjects: civics (politics, economics, etc.), geography, and history.

Example: Application requirements for a certain university (designated EJU subjects)

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

4. Schedule

	1 st session	2 nd session	
1) Application period	February–March	July	Obtain the bulletin of EJU, pay the exam fee and send out your application form. ¹ Note: Never fail to check the application period because it changes annually
2) Examination voucher to examinee	May	October	The exam voucher will be sent out. ²
3) Examination date	June	November	Sit for EJU
4) Announcement of results	July	December	The results will be posted on the website. Note: The university will confirm your EJU scores directly with JASSO.

Notes:

- Applications may be submitted via post or online depending on city. Please see the following website for details.
- For some countries, the examination voucher is distributed at the time of application.



How to apply for EJU

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



5. EJU merits

1) A reservation program for a scholarship

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

Monthly stipend (FY2024): JPY 48,000

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

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



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

https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/scholarship_j/shoreihi/yoyaku_eju/index.html



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

No matter how many times or how old you are, you can take EJU. EJU scores remain valid for two years so you can have up to four valid EJU scores, but you can only submit the test score of one session to each school. Submitting subject scores from different sessions is not allowed. Some schools only accept EJU results from a specified academic year and/or month, so please check the application guidebook of your school of choice to find out about their EJU requirements.

3) Schools offering pre-arrival admission system

You can gain admission before you arrive in Japan by taking EJU.



List of schools offering pre-arrival admission using EJU

<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/examinee/prearrival/index.html>



6. Past EJU exams



Sample questions and answers

https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/examinee/pastpaper_sample/index.html



● EJU Questions Booklet (with a voice file containing listening and listening-reading comprehension questions)



Past year questions of EJU
 Authored and edited: JASSO
 Published: Bonjinsha Co., Ltd.
 (sold in Japan and Republic of Korea)
 Note: Booklet available for browsing at Study in Japan Resource Facilities (see page 44)

Contact



Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)

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



Taking EJU outside Japan

<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/examinee/contact/index.html>
 [Inquiries to EJU Overseas Representatives]



Taking EJU in Japan EJU Uketsuke-Center (Information Desk)

https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/about/1199658_3677.html



Comments from students who took EJU

<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/examinee/voice/index.html>



Other Exams Used for Studying in Japan

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


1. Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

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

JLPT has five levels, from N1 to N5, with N1 being the highest level. People at the N1 level are expected to understand Japanese used in a wide range of everyday situations. N1/N2-level Japanese proficiency is strongly recommended for those wishing to study at a Japanese university or professional training college.

1) Taking JLPT in Japan

Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES)
(Application Center: Open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)
Tel: +81-3-6686-2974

 **Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT: for tests administered in Japan)**
<https://info.jees-jlpt.jp/#>



2) Taking JLPT overseas

Center for Japanese-Language Testing, the Japan Foundation
Tel: +81-3-5367-1025

 **Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)**
<https://www.jlpt.jp/e/index.cgi>



2. Common Test for University Admissions (大学入学共通テスト)

This test is for Japanese students who wish to enroll in national and public universities or certain private universities (undergraduate programs).

It covers the Japanese language, geography and history, civics, mathematics, science (physics, chemistry, biology, etc.), and foreign languages (English, Chinese, Korean, etc.), and is designed to broadly assess the students' basic academic abilities. It is administered once a year.

Although most universities do not require international students to take this test, it may be required for those wishing to enroll in some university programs (mainly medical and dentistry programs).

 **Common Test for University Admissions (National Center for University Entrance Examinations)**

<https://www.dnc.ac.jp/kyotsu/>



3. Other examinations used for studying in Japan

● English-language proficiency tests

TOEFL®, IELTS, TOEIC®, EIKEN Test

● Proof of academic ability equivalent to secondary education (upper secondary school, etc.)

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.



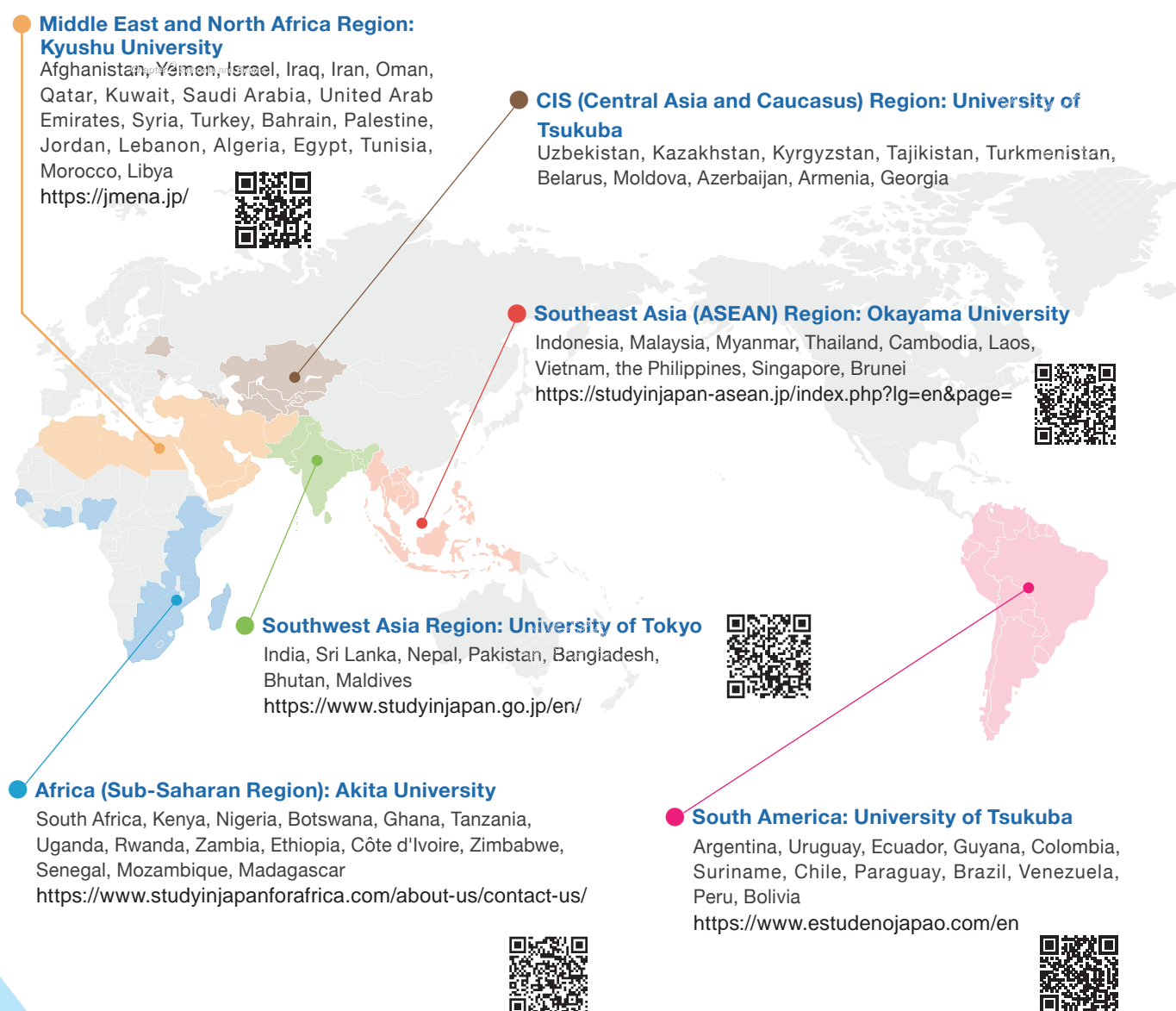
Many Japanese universities require applicants to submit proof of their English-language proficiency. To make sure you can submit your English-language proficiency test results with your application, check the test schedule and take the necessary test as early as possible.



Global Network Project to Promote Study in Japan

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has established Study-in-Japan Overseas Centers around the world to promote the appeal of studying in Japan.

The following universities were commissioned by the Global Network Project to Promote Study in Japan to lead related activities at respective centers, such as information dissemination, study abroad fairs, and school visits aimed at attracting outstanding international students. They also provide comprehensive support from student recruitment to follow-up after their return.



Immigration Procedures



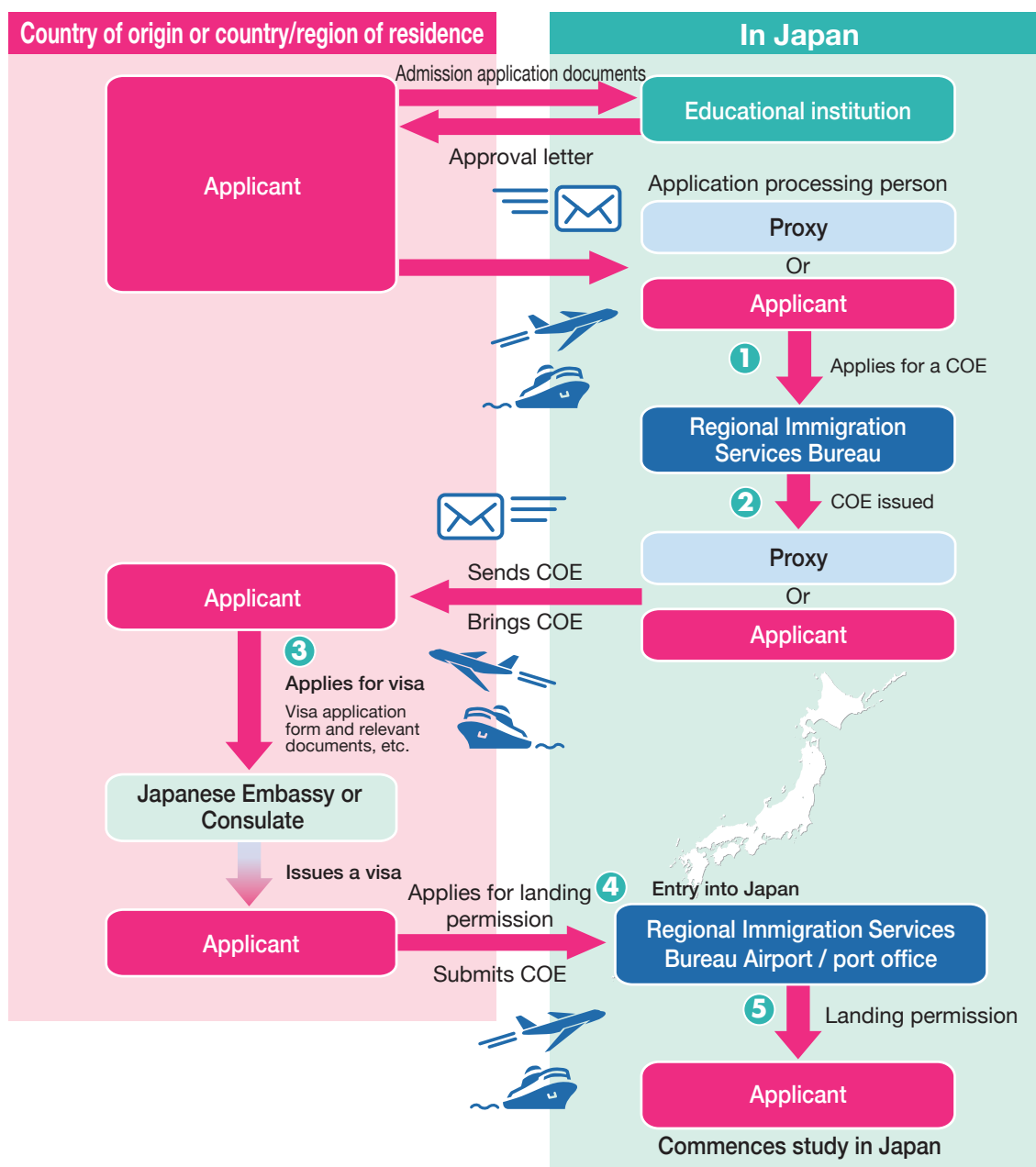
Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/index.html>



Visa and status of residence

People wishing to enter Japan must apply for a visa according to the purpose of their stay in advance. The person's status of residence is determined according to his/her reason for coming to Japan, status and position. The one applicable to international students for study at a university, a junior college, a college of technology, a professional training college, or a Japanese language institute etc., in Japan is "Student." Periods of stay are as follows: 4 years and 3 months, 4 years, 3 years and 3 months, 3 years, 2 years and 3 months, 2 years, 1 year and 3 months, 1 year, 6 months or 3 months.



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

An international student wishing to study in Japan or his/her proxy (e.g., a family member of the student or an employee of the school accepting the student) will first apply for an authorized COE at a regional immigration services bureau in Japan.

Notes:

1. In many cases, the school accepting the international student will serve as the student's proxy.
2. Please check with your school on documentation requirements when applying, as each school may have its own requirements.

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

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

Required documents: A savings balance certificate, income certificate covering the past several years or taxation certificate of the person wishing to study in Japan (or his/her guarantor), etc.

3. Visa application

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

Required documents:

- 1) Passport
- 2) Visa application form
- 3) Photographs
- 4) COE (copies are also accepted)
- 5) Documents other than the above

4. Entry to Japan

When entering Japan, the following documents are required.

Required documents:

- 1) Passport
- 2) Visa issued by a Japanese embassy, etc.
- 3) COE (If already issued; copies are also accepted)

5. Residence card

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

Issue of residence card:

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

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

When entering Japan via airports other than those mentioned above:

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



Residence card

6. My Number (individual number)

This is a 12-digit number assigned to all people who register as residents in Japan. It is different from the 12-digit number printed on residence cards.

Once you register as a resident at the municipal office administering your address, an individual number notification form will be mailed to you. This notification cannot be used as a document to certify your My Number or as a form of personal identification, so once you receive it, apply for a My Number card.

You can use your My Number card to certify your My Number and as an official personal identification document. Applications for My Number cards can be completed by mail or online via your PC or smartphone.

You may be asked to provide your My Number when conducting procedures at government offices, applying for part-time work, or sending/receiving money to and from a bank overseas.



Notification card

7. Immigration procedures for entrance exam purposes

If a foreign national travels to Japan to take an exam, he/she must obtain a "Temporary Visitor" visa at the Japanese embassy or the like in his/her country by presenting the exam voucher of his/her school of choice. With a "Temporary Visitor" visa, you may be able to stay in Japan for 15, 30, or 90 days. If a foreign national is a national of a country under the Visa Exemption Arrangements, he/she will not need to apply for a visa. Note: As a rule, you must return to your home country after passing the exam to obtain a student visa.

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

The "Student" status of residence is granted for the sole purpose of studying in Japan and as such does not permit work. However, if you file an application at a regional immigration services bureau or other such official organization and are granted permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted, you can work part-time (see page 36).

Notes:

1. Persons with the "Student" status of residence who are entering Japan for the first time and will be definitely living in the country for over three months may apply for permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted at an airport, etc. when landing permission was issued.
2. If applying after arrival, please do so at a regional immigration services bureau.

9. Temporary exit from Japan

An international student studying in Japan who will be returning to his/her home country temporarily or visiting another country for a short period must apply for a re-entry permit at a regional immigration services bureau.

However, those in possession of a valid passport and residence card who will be returning to Japan within one year of their departure (or before their expiration period of stay, if the period is within one year) do not need to apply for a re-entry permit at a regional immigration services bureau before leaving Japan.

10. Extension of period of stay

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



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

ED Card for Special 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.

11. Changing of the status of residence

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



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

12. Revocation of the status of residence

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



Status of residence will be revoked if a person with the "Student" status of residence is working every day without going to college unless with valid reasons.

13. Bringing dependents to Japan

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

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



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

14. Notification and application to the immigration services agency and the municipal office

File a notification or application as soon as possible in the following cases:

- **Regional immigration services bureau**

Any change in the name, sex, date of birth, or nationality/region; if your residence card is lost or damaged, etc.; or for school transfers, enrollment, graduation, withdrawal, etc.

- **Municipal office**

When your address in Japan changes, before returning to your home country after finishing studies in Japan, etc.

Calculating the Costs of Studying in Japan

Calculating the total expenses to cover all preparations and the first year of studying in Japan and creating a solid funding plan (including self-financing) will help you enjoy a more stable life. Be sure to do this calculation, and do not rely on solely obtaining scholarships or income from part-time work so your plan for studying in Japan is practical and reasonable.

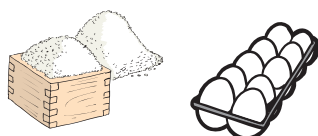
		Guideline amount (four-year national university)		Calculate the amount you will need
Costs required prior to applying	Examination fees EJU, JLPT, TOEFL®, etc.	¥38,000	Assuming that you will take EJU (two or more subjects) twice in Japan	
	Entrance exam fee for desired school	¥17,000	Assuming that you will take the examination once for a national university	
	Physical examination fee (varies by school)	¥6,000	Varies depending on country	
	Application mailing costs (varies by school)	¥2,000	Varies depending on country	
Costs required to take entrance examinations	Airfare and lodging expenses (Required for all except those using the pre-arrival admission system)	¥100,000	Varies depending on country and stay schedule	
	Passport application fee	¥12,000	Varies depending on country	
	Visa fee	¥3,000	Varies depending on country	
Costs required after being accepted into a school	Travel costs	¥70,000	Varies depending on country	
	Lodging expenses (hotel cost until finding a place to live)	¥30,000	Varies depending on stay schedule	
	Admission fee	¥282,000	For national university (some exceptions apply)	
	First-year tuition fees, etc.	¥535,800	For national university (some exceptions apply)	
	Commuting expenses	¥48,000	Amounts for one year (calculated based on the JASSO 2023 Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students)	
	Food expenses	¥384,000		
	Housing costs	¥492,000		
	Utilities (electricity, gas, water)	¥96,000		
	Insurance/medical expenses	¥36,000		
	Hobbies/entertainment expenses	¥96,000		
	Miscellaneous expenses	¥108,000		
	Total	¥2,355,800		

Living Cost and Price

1. Price of goods

Prices of major products in Japan

Rice (5 kg)	JPY 2,650	(US\$16.8)
Bread (1 kg)	JPY 511	(US\$3.2)
Milk (1,000 ml)	JPY 253	(US\$1.6)
Eggs (10 eggs)	JPY 264	(US\$1.7)
Apples (1 kg)	JPY 1,039	(US\$6.6)
Cabbage (1 kg)	JPY 178	(US\$1.1)



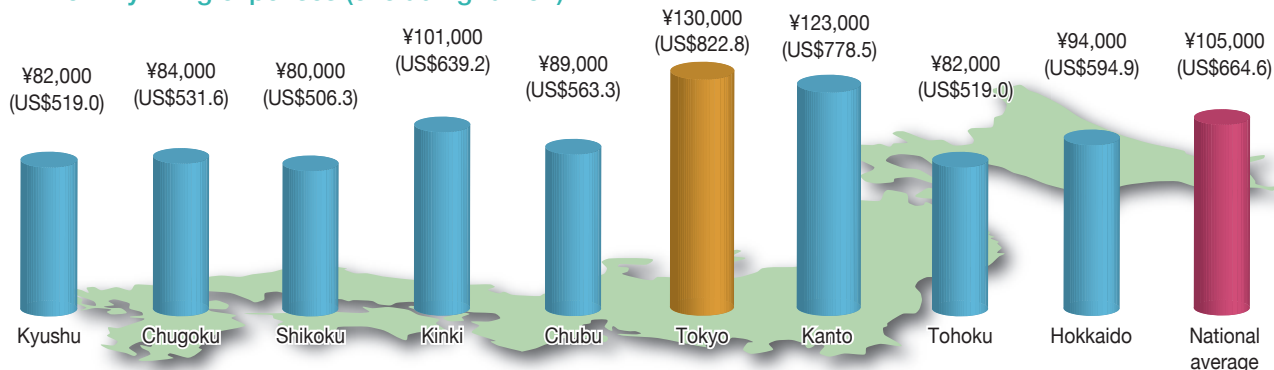
(Non-alcohol) beverage (500 ml plastic bottle)	JPY 236	(US\$1.5)
Hamburger	JPY 233	(US\$1.5)
Gasoline (1 liter)	JPY 176	(US\$1.1)
Toilet paper (1,000 m)	JPY 799	(US\$5.1)
Haircut	JPY 3,737	(US\$23.7)
Taxi (4 km)	JPY 1,693	(US\$10.7)

Source: Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan
Calculated at US\$1 = ¥158

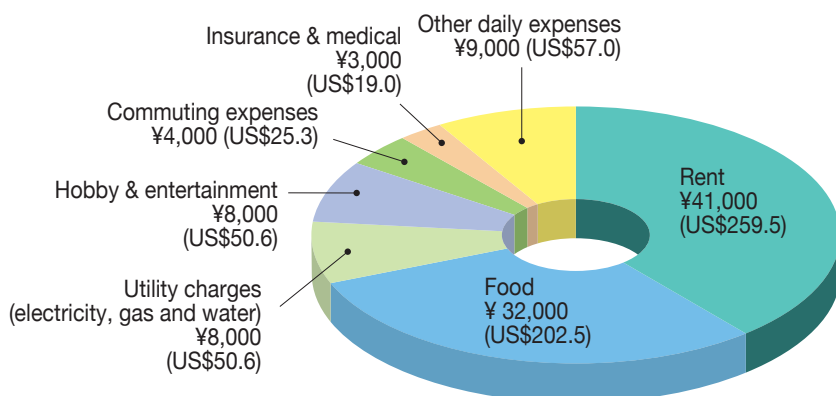
2. The cost of living

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

Monthly living expenses (excluding tuition)



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



Average rent by area

Note: Calculated at US\$1 = ¥158

	JPY	US\$
National average	41,000	259.5
Hokkaido	34,000	215.2
Tohoku	26,000	164.6
Kanto	51,000	322.8
Tokyo	57,000	360.8
Chubu	30,000	189.9
Kinki	40,000	253.2
Chugoku	26,000	164.6
Shikoku	27,000	170.9
Kyushu	29,000	183.5

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2023 (JASSO)

Academic Fees

Academic fees in Japan are not as high as those in the United States and the United Kingdom. The admission and tuition fees, etc. for the first year in an undergraduate program in Japan total **around ¥820,000 (US\$5,200)* at a national university, ¥910,000 (US\$5,800) at a local public university, and ¥1,140,000 (US\$7,200) to ¥1,640,000 (US\$10,400) at a private university (excluding medical, dental and pharmaceutical schools).**

There are also scholarship programs and tuition exemption/reduction programs offered.

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

*This does not apply for some national universities.

Average academic fees for the first academic year Unit: JPY and USD (calculated at the rate of US\$1 = ¥158)

● Graduate schools

Graduate schools		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	First-year total		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
National (Master's program)		282,000	535,800	817,800	5,176	1,353,600	8,567
Local public (Master's program)		364,864	536,789	901,653	5,707	1,438,442	9,104
Private (Master's program)	Arts	224,531	1,215,974	1,440,505	9,117	2,656,479	16,813
	Engineering	200,251	971,940	1,172,191	7,419	2,144,131	13,570
	Health care	229,022	836,175	1,065,197	6,742	1,901,372	12,034
	Science	195,731	888,895	1,084,626	6,865	1,973,521	12,491
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	212,466	808,128	1,020,594	6,459	1,828,722	11,574
	Pharmacy	195,545	831,007	1,026,552	6,497	1,857,559	11,757
	Home economics	225,459	727,851	953,310	6,034	1,681,161	10,640
	Liberal arts	206,152	711,706	917,858	5,809	1,629,564	10,314
	Social science	197,938	878,368	1,076,306	6,812	1,954,674	12,371
	Medicine	186,326	676,568	862,894	5,461	1,539,462	9,743
Humanities	196,450	650,254	846,704	5,359	1,496,958	9,474	
National (doctoral program)		282,000	535,800	817,800	5,176	1,889,400	11,958
Local public (doctoral program)		364,864	536,789	901,653	5,707	1,975,231	12,501
Private (Doctorate program)	Arts	247,241	1,112,056	1,359,297	8,603	3,583,409	22,680
	Engineering	182,994	774,368	957,362	6,059	2,506,098	15,861
	Health care	238,450	796,220	1,034,670	6,549	2,627,110	16,627
	Science	199,209	750,809	950,018	6,013	2,451,636	15,517
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	212,376	811,982	1,024,358	6,483	2,648,322	16,762
	Pharmacy	187,239	683,492	870,731	5,511	2,237,715	14,163
	Home economics	213,434	721,730	935,164	5,919	2,378,624	15,055
	Liberal arts	216,720	632,590	849,310	5,375	2,114,490	13,383
	Social science	193,934	611,798	805,732	5,100	2,029,328	12,844
	Medicine	168,127	531,026	699,153	4,425	1,761,205	11,147
Dentistry	232,075	669,670	901,745	5,707	2,241,085	14,184	
Humanities	196,341	575,525	771,866	4,885	1,922,916	12,170	

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

In addition to the above costs, facility and equipment fees and research expenses may be required.

● University undergraduate programs

University undergraduate programs		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	First-year total		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
National		282,000	535,800	817,800	5,176	2,425,200	15,349
Local public		374,371	536,191	910,562	5,763	2,519,135	15,944
Private	Medicine	1,360,098	3,719,336	5,079,434	32,148	23,676,114	149,849
	Dentistry	594,849	3,786,859	4,381,708	27,732	23,316,003	147,570
	Pharmacy	332,681	1,743,389	2,076,070	13,140	10,793,015	68,310
	Arts	239,945	1,401,501	1,641,446	10,389	5,845,949	37,000
	Health care	262,142	1,239,657	1,501,799	9,505	5,220,770	33,043
	Science & Engineering	223,534	1,257,556	1,481,090	9,374	5,253,758	33,252
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	250,752	1,233,014	1,483,766	9,391	5,182,808	32,803
	Physical education	240,072	1,065,553	1,305,625	8,263	4,502,284	28,495
	Home economics	240,020	1,017,093	1,257,113	7,956	4,308,392	27,268
	Literature & Education	223,686	987,335	1,211,021	7,665	4,173,026	26,412
	Social welfare	218,549	963,816	1,182,365	7,483	4,073,813	25,784
	Law, Commerce & Economics	224,364	960,039	1,184,403	7,496	4,064,520	25,725
	Theology & Buddhism	220,745	923,350	1,144,095	7,241	3,914,145	24,773

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

In addition to the above costs, facility and equipment fees and research expenses may be required.

● Junior colleges

Junior colleges		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	First-year total		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
Local public		225,050	377,357	602,407	3,813	979,764	6,201
Private	Humanities	229,898	879,861	1,109,759	7,024	1,989,620	12,593
	Social science	225,124	884,953	1,110,077	7,026	1,995,030	12,627
	Science & Agriculture	207,714	937,000	1,144,714	7,245	2,081,714	13,175
	Engineering	215,527	1,056,728	1,272,255	8,052	2,328,983	14,740
	Education & Childcare	242,064	857,759	1,099,823	6,961	1,957,582	12,390
	Home economics	243,106	886,843	1,129,949	7,152	2,016,792	12,765
	Arts	233,376	1,148,037	1,381,413	8,743	2,529,450	16,009
	Physical education	230,000	980,000	1,210,000	7,658	2,190,000	13,861
	Other	227,091	896,639	1,123,730	7,112	2,020,369	12,787

*Calculated as the admission fee plus two years of tuition fees. In addition to the above costs, facility and equipment fees and research expenses may be required.

● Colleges of technology

College of technology		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	First-year total		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
National		84,600	234,600	319,200	2,020	788,400	4,990

*Third-year students that meet the requirements can receive financial help from the High School Student Tuition Support Fund.

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

● Professional training colleges

Professional training colleges		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	First-year total		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
Private	Technology	209,000	1,104,000	1,313,000	8,310	2,417,000	15,297
	Agriculture	163,000	982,000	1,145,000	7,247	2,127,000	13,462
	Medical care	269,000	1,244,000	1,513,000	9,576	2,757,000	17,449
	Hygiene	150,000	1,331,000	1,481,000	9,373	2,812,000	17,797
	Education & Social welfare	149,000	1,037,000	1,186,000	7,506	2,223,000	14,070
	Business	126,000	1,045,000	1,171,000	7,411	2,216,000	14,025
	Fashion & Home economics	199,000	960,000	1,159,000	7,335	2,119,000	13,411
	Culture & General education	152,000	1,064,000	1,216,000	7,696	2,280,000	14,430

*Calculated as the admission fee plus two years of tuition fees. In addition to the above costs, facility and equipment fees and research expenses may be required.

Note: Tuition and admission fees are calculated based on the average amount for the relevant field of study (for daytime programs).

● Japanese language institutes

Japanese language institutes	Tuition fees, etc.	
	JPY	USD
1-year course	614,800~1,113,300	3,891~7,046
18-month course	879,200~1,597,000	5,565~10,108
2-year course	1,141,600~1,910,200	7,225~12,090

Note: There are additional costs such as for learning materials. Source: Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education research

Reference: Tuition fees and other university expenses in the US

		One year		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	USD	JPY	USD
US	Public graduate schools (tuition and other expenses)	1,960,780	12,410	3,921,560	24,820
	Private graduate schools (tuition and other expenses)	4,202,326	26,597	8,404,652	53,194
	Public four-year university (tuition)	4,605,700	29,150	18,422,800	116,600
	Private four-year university (tuition)	6,563,320	41,540	26,253,280	166,160

*Graduate school tuition is calculated as two years of tuition, and undergraduate tuition is calculated as four years of tuition.

Source: *Study in the USA Guide 2025* (Keibunsha)

Conversion rate: \$1 = ¥158

Reference: Tuition fees and other university expenses in the UK

		One year		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	GBP	JPY	GBP
UK	Graduate school art/humanities program	3,104,000~5,238,000	£ 16,000~27,000	6,208,000~10,476,000	£ 32,000~54,000
	Graduate school science program	3,298,000~5,820,000	£ 17,000~30,000	6,596,000~11,640,000	£ 34,000~60,000
	Undergraduate liberal arts program	3,104,000~5,238,000	£ 16,000~27,000	9,312,000~15,714,000	£ 48,000~81,000
	Undergraduate science program	3,298,000~5,820,000	£ 17,000~30,000	9,894,000~17,460,000	£ 51,000~90,000

*Graduate school tuition is calculated as two years of tuition, and undergraduate tuition is calculated as three years of tuition.

Source: *Study in the UK Guide 2025* (Keibunsha)

Conversion rate: 1 GBP = ¥194

Scholarships

In Japan, only a few scholarships cover all the costs of study; most aim to cover just a portion of the student's living expenses and tuition fees. Therefore, calculate the total expenses of studying in Japan to create a financial plan that does not rely solely on scholarships but rather your own funds as well.

Types of scholarships available

1. Japanese Government (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology [MEXT]) Scholarships

The Japanese government (through MEXT, also known as Monbukagakusho) has been accepting international students via government-sponsored programs since 1954. Applications are accepted through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japanese embassies, consulates, etc.) or Japanese universities.

2. Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarships

JASSO provides two types of scholarships: the Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students and the Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-term Study in Japan).

3. Scholarships from Local Municipalities and Related International Exchange Organizations

Local municipalities in Japan and related international exchange organization provide these scholarships to students who live or attend a school in the municipality.

4. Private Scholarships

Private corporations or private scholarship organizations provide these scholarships.

These scholarships reflect the objectives and nature of the companies or organizations, and may be limited to schools in the area where they have a presence, to students majoring in fields related to the companies, or to students from countries or regions targeted for exchange programs.

5. Pre-arrival Scholarships

While most scholarships require you to be in Japan to apply, local municipalities, related international exchange organizations and private scholarship organizations offer scholarships that you can apply for while outside of Japan.



In addition to scholarships, some schools have a tuition exemption/reduction system (30%, 50%, 100% exemption, etc.)

Eligibility and the number of organizations offering relevant financial aid

	Eligibility	Apply before coming to Japan		Apply after coming to Japan
		Local government, private, etc.	Japanese government	Local government, private, etc.
1	College of technology students	2	○	21
2	Specialized training college postsecondary course students	5	○	19
3	University/junior college preparatory Japanese language program students	0		4
4	Students at Japanese language institutes other than those in 3 above	1		9
5	Junior college students	4		35
6	University undergraduate audit students	0		3
7	University undergraduate students	11	○ (Japanese studies students)	94
8	Graduate school-level research students	4	○ (Teacher training students)	15
9	Master's program students	15	○ (Young Leaders' Program (YLP) students)	117
10	Doctoral program students	12	○	111
11	Professional degree program students	1	○	13

Source: Japan Student Services Organization

Application requirements

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



In many cases, you will need to have the "Student" status of residence to apply for scholarships for international students.

Screening examinations

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

How to apply

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

Scholarships you can apply for before you arrive in Japan

Type	Eligible students/Number of organizations offering scholarships	Monthly stipend (yen)	Monthly stipend (US\$)	Inquiries
Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship ¹	Young Leaders' Program (YLP) Students	242,000	1,532	The Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country Current school in home country ²
	Research students (Non-degree students)	143,000	905	
	Research students (Master's course)	144,000	911	
	Research students (Doctoral course)	145,000	918	
	Teacher training students	143,000	905	
	Undergraduate students/college of technology students/specialized training college students/Japanese studies students	117,000	741	
Reservation Program for Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students	Privately-financed international students who have achieved an excellent score on EJU and who will enroll as regular students in universities (undergraduate program), junior colleges, colleges of technology (third year or upper), or specialized training colleges (postsecondary course)	48,000	304	JASSO ³
Local governments and private organization scholarships	17 organizations	60,000 to 200,000	380 to 1,329	Local governments, private organizations, etc. ⁴
On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or reduction system	—	—	—	School you will be enrolled in

- Students who study or do research in a designated region will receive an additional monthly stipend.
- For some countries, a governmental agency in your home country serves as a point of contact.
- https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/scholarship_j/shoreihi/yoyaku_eju/index.html
- Confirm with each organization whether acceptance will be decided before coming to Japan.



US\$ 1= JPY 158

Scholarships for exchange students under inter-university exchange agreements, etc.

Type	Eligible students	Monthly stipend (yen)	Monthly stipend (US\$)	Inquiries
Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Short-term Study in Japan)	International students accepted under an inter-university exchange program agreement with a program duration of eight days to one year.	80,000	506	Current school in home country

Scholarships you can apply for after you arrive in Japan

Type	Eligible students/Number of organizations offering scholarships	Monthly stipend (yen)	Monthly stipend (US\$)	Inquiries
Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students	Graduate school students (doctoral course, master's course) / research students (graduate school level) / undergraduate students / junior college students / college of technology students (3rd year or upper) / specialized training college (postsecondary course) students / students of preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges / students of advanced courses of university, junior college and college of technology / university preparatory course students	48,000	304	Current school (in Japan)
	Japanese language institute students	30,000	190	
Local governments and private organization scholarships	109 organizations	8,000 to 300,000	51 to 1,899	Each scholarship organization or current school (in Japan)
On-campus scholarships, tuition fee exemption or reduction system	—	—	—	Current school (in Japan)

Find a scholarship/tuition reduction/exemption system

- Scholarships for International Students in Japan (Japanese and English versions);** published by JASSO
<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/planning/brochures/#002>



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

- Search for scholarships and tuition fee reduction/exemption system (JASSO)**
https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/search-for-scholarships/tuition-reduction_search.php?lang=en



- Scholarship information lookup (Japan Study Support)**
<https://www.jpss.jp/en/scholarship/>



There are other scholarships that are not listed here. Please check with the school for more information.

Accommodation

Although student dormitories operated by local governments and universities are available, **approximately 70%** of international students are living in private houses or apartments. Once you receive your letter of acceptance, you should start gathering information about housing immediately. Some ways to get this information include 1) your school's international student office, 2) the Internet and informational magazines, and 3) real estate agents in areas you are interested in living in.

Student dormitory

Advantages

- Lower expenses compared to apartments (no need for *shiki-kin* [security deposit], *rei-kin* [gratuity money] or renewal fees)
- Student dormitory rooms may come equipped with electric appliances and/or other furniture
- Easier to make friends

Disadvantages

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



Guidelines for monthly housing expenses

Apartments: Rent varies greatly depending on the popularity of the station, distance from the station, age of the building, etc. You can find apartments in rural areas for around 30,000 to 40,000 yen a month, but for apartments in Tokyo the standard is closer to 60,000 yen.

Noise in your room

In Japan, apartments are close together, so making loud noises or being noisy can lead to problems with your neighbors. Be especially quiet at night.

Taking out the garbage

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

Apartment

Advantages

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

Disadvantages

- In many cases, you will have to pay *shiki-kin* (security deposit equal to a few months' rent), *rei-kin* (gratuity money), real estate agent's commissions, or other fees in advance.
- Complicated rental agreements
- Need to purchase all furniture and electrical appliances

Joint guarantor

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

Comprehensive Renters' Insurance for Foreign Students Studying in Japan

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



Points of accommodation search

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

Medical Insurance, Accident/Property Insurance, and Kyosai

National Health Insurance (NHI)

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

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

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

■ Procedures for enrollment

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

■ Health insurance premium

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

■ Coverage

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

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

Accident/property insurance and kyosai

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

For example, the following cases would be covered:

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

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

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

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

Note: The service is not available at all schools, so please confirm with your school.

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



University CO-OP's Kyosai

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

<https://kyosai.univcoop.or.jp/>



Part-time Work

Approximately 65% of privately financed international students at higher education institutes in Japan are working part-time. They earn about JPY 81,000 (US\$513) per month on average.

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



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

1. Apply for permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted at the nearest immigration services bureau.
2. The part-time work does not affect your studies.
3. The earned income is meant to supplement your academic cost and necessary expenses and not for saving or for remittance overseas.
4. The part-time work engaged in is not in adult entertainment businesses. Note: Prohibited by law
5. **Within 28 hours a week (up to eight hours a day during the long school holidays).**
6. The part-time work is done while you retain student status in an educational institution

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

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

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

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

◎ **Wages and payment method**

Are your wages paid daily, weekly or monthly? Are your wages paid in cash or via bank transfer?

◎ **Is the work safe?**

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

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



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

Types of part-time job in which international students are employed

	Category	Ratio
1	Food and beverage	39.2%
2	Sales and marketing	28.4%
3	Assembly work in a factory	6.0%
4	Teaching/research assistant	5.6%
5	Hotel receptionist/service staff	4.2%
6	Language teacher/cleaning	3.4%
7	General clerical work	3.1%
8	Warehouse maintenance/translation and interpretation	2.9%

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2023 (JASSO)

Hourly rate for part-time job

Hourly rate	Ratio
Less than JPY 1,000	20.5%
JPY 1,000 to less than JPY 1,200	50.2%
JPY 1,200 to less than JPY 1,400	20.5%
JPY 1,400 to less than JPY 1,600	5.0%
JPY 1,600 or more	3.6%
Unknown	0.2%



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

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

“You can earn JPY 3,000 (about US\$ 19) per hour working part-time.”

→ ✗ The average hourly wage is about JPY 1,300 (about US\$ 8).

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

→ ✗ This is not possible. (The average is around JPY 81,000 [US\$ 513].)

Calculated at US\$1 = ¥158

Internship

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

■ Differences between a part-time job and an internship

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

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

■ How to find an internship

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

METI Japan Internship Program

(only for foreign university students and graduates)

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) conducts a project to promote internship programs at small to medium Japanese companies, targeting international students and the like.

Inquiries: Technical Cooperation Division, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, METI
Tel: +81-3-3501-1937

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

When a student from a foreign university comes to Japan for internship 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."

Employment Service Centers for Foreigners

(Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka)

These centers offer employment information, career consultation and introductions, and also accept applications for internships.

Inquiries:

Tokyo:

<https://jsite.mhlw.go.jp/tokyo-foreigner/english.html>



Nagoya:

<https://jsite.mhlw.go.jp/aichi-foreigner/english.html>



Osaka:

<https://jsite.mhlw.go.jp/osaka-foreigner/home.html>



Fukuoka:

https://jsite.mhlw.go.jp/fukuoka-roudoukyoku/hw/fuzoku_kikan/gaisen.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 websites listed below contain the experiences of job seekers like yourself as well as job search event information; be sure to look through these materials and start your job hunt early.

Job Hunting Guide for International Students (JASSO)
https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/after_study_j/job/guide.html



Japan Alumni Global Network (JASSO)
https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/study_j/alumni/index.html

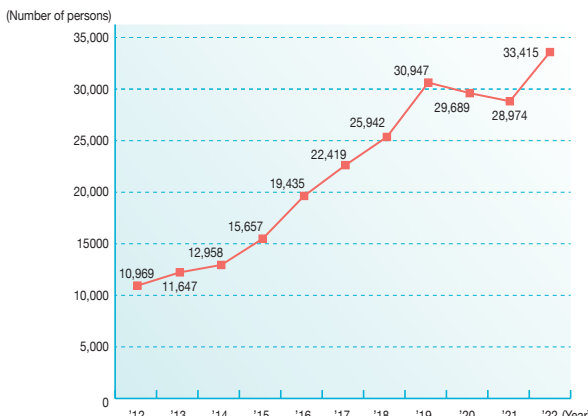


Open for Professionals
<https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/hrportal/>



The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies

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

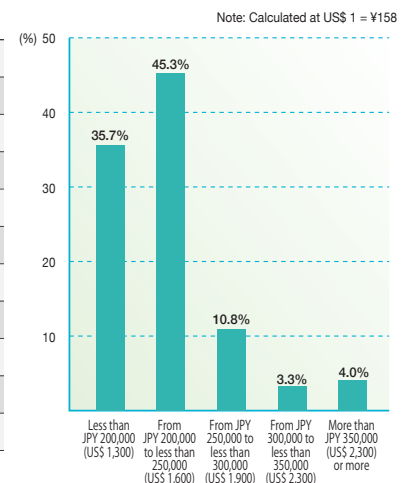


Reference: The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies in 2022 by Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice

Composition ratio by type of business (Top 10)

No. 1	Translation/interpretation	16.1%
No. 2	Information processing/communication technology	7.7%
No. 3	Planning administration (marketing, research)	7.4%
No. 4	Management (excluding executives)	7.0%
No. 5	Overseas trade	6.4%
No. 6	Corporate sales	4.7%
No. 7	Planning administration (public relations/advertising)	4.4%
No. 8	Care worker	3.7%
No. 8	Accounting	3.7%
No. 8	Production	3.7%
No. 8	Technology development	3.7%

Starting salary (monthly)



Note: Cases in which it is difficult to calculate the amount: 1%

Change of status of residence

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

Please note the following points at right regarding the “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” status of residence:

What to do if you cannot find a job

Even if you are unable to find a job before graduation from the Japanese university¹ or professional training college², you can still continue to engage in job-seeking activities in Japan for one more year after graduation by changing your status of residence from “Student” to “Designated Activities.” The period of stay of “Designated Activities” is six months, and as a rule, only one additional six-month extension is allowed^{3,4}.

1) Academic background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduates of universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology. Graduates of professional training colleges in Japan who have obtained the academic title of “diploma.”
2) Types of job to be engaged in	In addition to being a job that requires a certain level of academic knowledge, those who have obtained a diploma are expected to engage in work related to their major field of study.
3) Salary	International students must receive a salary equivalent to or more than a Japanese employee.
4) The actual situation of the employer	The companies international students plan to work for are required to have a stable management foundation and business performance.

- Includes junior colleges and graduate schools. However, this does not include preparatory Japanese language program students, audit students, credit-earning students and research students.
- Limited to those who have acquired a diploma.
- You need a recommendation from the school.
- If you meet certain requirements, you can continue job-seeking activities even in your second year after graduation. Please contact a regional immigration services bureau for more information about requirements.

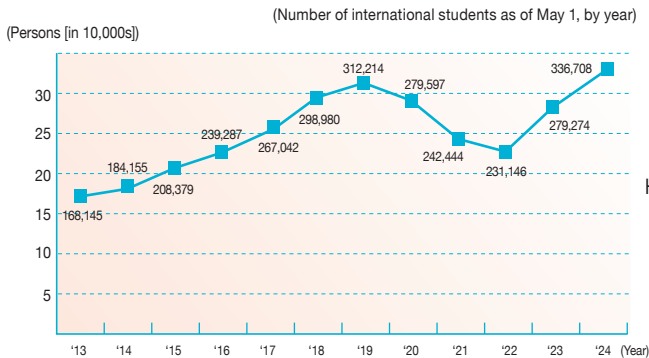
Statistics

Number of international students in Japan

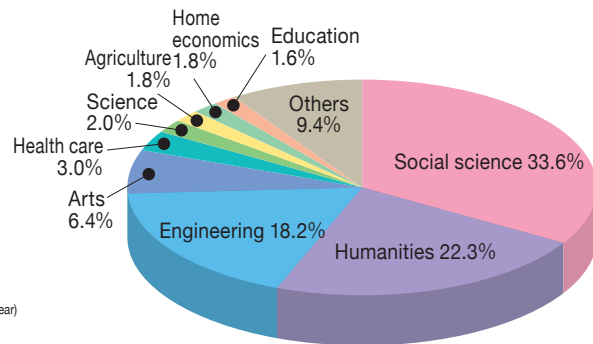
As of May 1, 2024



International student trends



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



Number of international students by academic level

(Number of persons)

Academic level		National	Local public	Private	Total
	Graduate school	34,411	2,176	21,628	58,215
	University (undergraduate)	10,844	1,719	74,858	87,421
	Junior college		2	3,263	3,265
	College of technology	504	0	2	506
	Professional training college	0	52	76,350	76,402
	University preparatory course	131		3,527	3,658
	Japanese language institute		100	107,141	107,241
Total		45,890	4,049	286,769	336,708

Number of international students by country (region) of origin

(Number of persons)

	Country (region)	No. of students
No. 1	China	123,485
No. 2	Nepal	64,816
No. 3	Vietnam	40,323
No. 4	Myanmar	16,596
No. 5	South Korea	14,579
No. 6	Sri Lanka	12,269
No. 7	Taiwan	7,655
No. 8	Bangladesh	7,597
No. 9	Indonesia	6,778
No. 10	Mongolia	4,085

Source: Results of an Annual Survey of International Students in Japan 2024 (JASSO)
<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/statistics/enrollment/data/2504301000.html>



Number of higher education institutions

(Number of schools)

	National	Local public	Private	Total in schools
Universities				
Graduate schools	86	91	486	663
Universities (undergraduate)	82	100	605	787
Junior colleges	—	15	282	297
College of technology	51	3	4	58
Professional training colleges	8	176	2,492	2,676

Note: The Open University of Japan is included as a private university.
 Source: FY2024, School Basic Survey, MEXT

As of May 1, 2024

Campus Diary

What is life as an international student like? We took a close look at the daily lives of current international students to help answer some of your questions. Let's hear from these international students who are working to achieve their dreams!



In the future, I'd like to become a bridge that connects Japan and India in the engineering field.

Avin Sharma (India)

International Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Course (co-study course) Third Year, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, School of Engineering Tohoku University

I decided to study abroad in Japan because of my father, who is a Japanese-language interpreter. When I first visited Japan, I had many unforgettable experiences. I was fascinated by the way people here think, their respect for others, and their attention to detail, so I started researching universities in Japan. I was particularly intrigued by Tohoku University and its state-of-the-art 3 GeV synchrotron radiation facility NanoTerasu, so I applied for the International Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering course. My life so far has been filled with exciting experiences not only in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) but

in various other fields as well. Life in Sendai has been especially wonderful, as I enjoy cycling or walking around this city with its tranquil atmosphere, surrounded by nature. Furthermore, the international environment that the university provides has contributed to my personal growth, enabling me to think from diverse perspectives and connect with people around the world. In the future, I'd like to contribute to both Japan and India in the field of engineering and become a bridge that connects the two countries. Studying in Japan has been a turning point in my life, and I'm excited to see where this journey will take me next.



An average day

8 a.m.: Wake up

The first thing I do after waking up is to make coffee. I get ready and head to the campus on my bicycle.

9 a.m. ~: Attend lectures, do research

I only have a few lectures, and my main activities consist of research in the laboratory.

1 p.m.: Lunch

I usually eat at the university cafeteria. It's cheap, close and convenient. There are vegan and halal options on the menu, and new dishes are added regularly.

2 p.m.: On-campus job

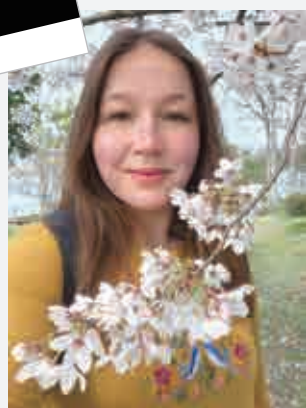
I work as an administrative assistant at the help desk, helping other international students with their life in Japan. I'm also a research assistant for an experiment involving quantum computers.

3 p.m.: Study

I write reports or finish assignments at the café, library, or other locations. There are many wonderful places to study on campus at Japanese universities.

6 p.m. ~: Club activities, dinner

As the leader of the Tohoku University Foreign Students Association, I host meetings to plan and discuss cultural exchange events. Afterwards, I often eat dinner with friends, go out to the city or read a book before going to sleep.



Maarja Lainevoog (Estonia)

MEXT Teacher Training Student
Hiroshima University

I have been curious about Japanese history since I was a middle school student. During my first year in university I decided to study Japanese language and that made me interested in Japanese contemporary culture, such as anime. After working as a teacher for six years, a friend of mine introduced the MEXT Teacher Training Scholarship and it seemed like an opportunity of a lifetime to learn about Japanese education while immersing myself in the culture and history of Japan. I was excited to live in Hiroshima as it is a very meaningful and historical place. I discovered that the area was very warm

compared to Estonia even in autumn and winter months. Even though adjusting to a totally different language is difficult, it is very rewarding to be self-sufficient in a new country. I realized that Japanese are very curious about other cultures, so I was very happy when I could share about Estonia's culture and history in Japanese Language Speech Contests or in children's camps/peace events for Tokyo high schoolers. In the future I want to share Japanese culture to my students in Estonia too, so that they can have a better understanding about the world outside of Estonia.



An average day

7:30 a.m.: Start of morning

I wake up, have breakfast and prepare to go to university.

9 a.m.: Study at the research room

Depending on weekday I either meet with my supervisor, study Japanese independently or read articles on education in Japan.

11:50 a.m.: Lunch at the cafeteria

To avoid lines at the cafeteria, I always go there about 15 minutes before the end of the lecture (12:05). There is always some tasty Japanese food to try!

12:50 p.m.: Japanese class

I have Japanese class for 3 hours, with a 15 minutes break. It is interesting to learn the language but also fun to spend time with friends during the break.

4:05 p.m.: Study at the research room

I finish up whatever I couldn't in the morning and do my Japanese class's homework, so I won't forget to do it by the Saturday's deadline. If I feel chatty I have conversations with my lab-mates.

6 p.m.: Dinner

I finish my studies between 17:00 - 18:00 and say good bye to my lab-mates. I either cook at home or go out to eat with a friend as there are many okonomiyaki, ramen etc. restaurants nearby.

7 p.m.: Relaxing

At home I'll either read books about Japanese culture and history or classical works by Japanese authors. The second option is to watch movies or anime. I also make travel plans for holidays.

Campus Diary



In the future, I want to build a school in Indonesia to contribute to the country's development

Kelly Tendean (Indonesia)

Japanese Language Course
ECC Kokusai College of Foreign Language

I've been interested in education since elementary school, and want to share the knowledge I've gained with others. I wanted to study abroad to further broaden my knowledge. I was particularly interested in Japanese education, manners and technological development, so I decided to study in Japan to grow as a person.

When I first came to Japan, everything was unfamiliar, and I couldn't speak Japanese at all. However, with the support of my family, teachers and friends, I gradually gained confidence. With that, I got the courage to participate in speech contests and presentation competitions, and won the grand prize and excellence award.

I also participated in a national debate

contest for Japanese-language learners at professional training colleges, which helped me grow significantly.

In the future, I want to create a system that gives access to high-quality education to as many people as possible. With that dream in mind, I plan to attend university, learn various things, and share my knowledge and ideas with many people. Eventually, I'd like to build a school in Indonesia and contribute to the country's development.



An average day

6:30 a.m.: Wake up, breakfast, study

I like waking up early to make breakfast while listening to music, and enjoying a relaxing morning.

8:30 a.m.~: Commute, classes

Classes start from 9 a.m., and we study language knowledge, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, and other topics. There are occasional presentations.

1:30 p.m.: Lunch

I sometimes make my own lunch but usually eat out with my friends.

2 p.m.: Part-time job

I participated in the Global Experience program, in which foreign students like myself and high school students in Osaka converse on various topics in English.

5 p.m.: Return home, exercise

I occasionally exercise at home or take a stroll through the park near my house.

8 p.m.: Study, free time

I review the contents of the class or do homework around this time if I have any. If not, I use this time to call family, play games with friends, or do other things I enjoy.

10:30 p.m.: Go to sleep

I never forget to get a good night's sleep!



If you're having difficulties deciding whether to study in Japan, use scholarship programs to give it a try!

Kim Sujeong (South Korea)

Confectionery Arts and Management Course
Tsuji Culinary Institute

I came to Japan to learn how to become a pastry chef and make delicious and beautiful desserts. Before coming to Japan, I did an internship overseas after graduating from a university in South Korea. I was starting my study-abroad life later than most people around me, so in the beginning I had doubts about whether I made the right choice. However, looking back, the year I spent studying the Japanese language and the two years I spent at a confectionery school were very meaningful times for me.

I attended the Tsuji Culinary Institute, which is famous even in South Korea, and very popular among those who aspire to become pastry chefs. Classes start at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. every day, and we studied all aspects of pastry making. During the first year, for example, we

learned about hygiene and management, which are subjects we need to know to obtain a confectionery hygiene master license.

In addition to classes, the school offered us opportunities to participate in competitions and contests. I participated in various competitions and contests in my two years at the school, and thanks to the guidance of my teachers I achieved good results.

I've been hired by a company in Tokyo, so after graduating this spring I'll be moving there. While there are others like me who stay in Japan, many international students return to their home countries immediately after graduation to find employment or start their own businesses. There are many different paths to take after completing your education, so if you're considering studying in Japan I'd encourage you to give it a try. If you have worries about costs, there are many scholarship programs available.



An average day

7:30 a.m.: Prepare to go to school

After taking a shower, I make sure I have my chef's uniform, equipment and textbooks, then walk to school.

9 a.m.~: Morning practicals

12:10 p.m.: Lunch

Since the school does not have a cafeteria, I make my own lunch or buy it at a convenience store. When we have full-day breadmaking practicals, we make our lunch as part of the class and eat together.

1:10 p.m.~: Afternoon practicals

Lectures for days with half-day practicals.

4:40 p.m.~: Extracurricular training

When there are tests or contest dates approaching.

6:30 p.m.~: Free time

I usually practiced piping and spreading using buttercream, and wrapping fillings with kneaded dough. When a national competition was approaching, I practiced the required tasks.

Q&A about Study in Japan

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Although many schools conduct their entrance examinations in Japan, some schools determine admissions solely by screening application materials, conducting interviews over the Internet, or even holding examinations in the examinee's country. (See page 30, "7 Immigration procedures for entrance exam purposes.")

Q Are there any rankings for Japanese universities?

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

Basic information



Study in Japan website

<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/>

- Search for schools
- Scholarships

- Study in Japan fairs and other events
- JASSO organizes

<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/events/>



- Study in Japan Resource Facilities
- Brochures of educational institutions in Japan and books on study in Japan are available for browsing.
- <https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/planning/brochures/studyinJapan-resource-facilities.html>

JASSO Study in Japan SNS



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092715664950>



Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/JASSO_study_in_Japan/



YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/@studyinJapan_official

Useful Websites When Studying in Japan

Tsunahiro: Connect and Enhance Your Life in Japanese (MEXT)

https://tsunagaru.jp.mext.go.jp/?lang_id=EN



This website is for foreigners who have just started living in Japan and are studying Japanese for the first time, as well as for those living outside of Japan who do not have opportunities to learn Japanese. It offers online Japanese learning in various languages, with themes divided by Japanese-language proficiency level, enabling you to learn Japanese that is useful for daily life in Japan.



Hirogaru: Get More out of Japan and Japanese (The Japan Foundation)

<https://hirogaru-nihongo.jp/en/>



You can select information and videos related to a dozen topics and learn Japanese online on this website. If you are interested in Japanese culture or studying Japanese as a hobby, you can learn about Japan and the language in a fun way.



Guidebook on Living and Working (Immigration Services Agency)

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/guidebook_all.html



This guidebook provides basic information about daily life and work to help foreign residents acclimate to Japan with peace of mind, and is available in various languages. A version of this guidebook is also available in simple Japanese for foreigners about to start their life in Japan.



JV-Campus A new type of Japanese online education

<https://www.jv-campus.org/en/>



Japan Virtual Campus (JV-Campus) offers high-quality educational content online from various universities in Japan and abroad. Courses are available in a wide range of fields, including languages, business, IT, art, and culture. You can choose a course that suits your level, from beginner to advanced. You can also get an idea about the classes that Japanese universities offer. There is a wealth of content for those interested in Japanese culture and the Japanese language.



Japanese Embassies, Consulates and Permanent Missions

https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/over/



This website lists the contact information, addresses and URLs for Japanese embassies and consulates around the world. Some embassies and consulates also provide information on scholarships the Japanese government (MEXT) offers as well as other information related to studying in Japan.



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

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

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

1 Scholarship Programs for Japanese Students

JASSO provides scholarship grants and loans to highly motivated students who have difficulty in pursuing their studies for financial reasons.

JASSO seeks to offer better services by implementing a more efficient scholarship system which meets various student needs, improving application procedures, enhancing the provision of information about scholarships, and collecting loans in an appropriate manner.

2 Support Programs for International Students

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

3 Student Support Programs

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



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Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/jasso.korea/>

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JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Kuala Lumpur
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Utara, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email : enquiry@studyinJapan.org.my
Web : <https://www.studyinJapan.org.my/>
Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.KL/>

Overseas representative offices handle the following matters:

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

<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/contact/>

