

# Student Guide to Japan

2019-2020



Independent Administrative Institution  
Japan Student Services  
Organization

 **STUDY in JAPAN**

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## 5 Reasons to Study in Japan

### 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. The automobiles, digital cameras, fiber optics, artificial hearts 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.



### 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-third 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.

### 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.



### 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.

### 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: 1st**



**Total of financial contributions to the UN: 3rd**



**Gross national income in the world: 3rd**



**Total automobiles exported in the world: 3rd**

**Number of Nobel laureates (26) in the world: 7th (and 1st in Asia)**

**Global Peace Index in the world: 9th (and 2nd in Asia)**

**Population in the world: 11th**

**Number of World Heritage Sites in the world: 12th (and 4th in Asia)**

Sources:  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan  
 Global Peace Index 2018  
 References:  
 Statistical Abstract of Education, Culture, Sports,  
 Science and Technology of Japan, 2018  
 Nobel Foundation

## Basic information on Japan

Area: Approx. 378,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 126,420,000

Capital: Tokyo

Language: Japanese

Currency: yen (¥)

Source: Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (As of December 2018)



Japan is known for its bountiful nature,  
amazing food and fascinating history!



### Websites with information on Japan

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

# Feedback from International Students in Japan

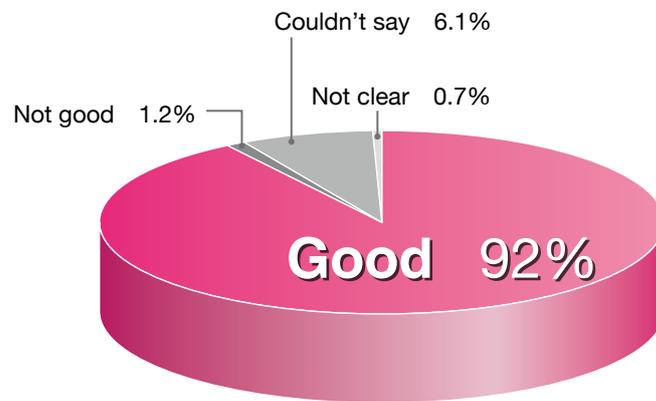


**Why did you choose to study in Japan?** (multiple answers possible)

<b>No. 1</b>	<b>Interested in Japanese society, wanted to live in Japan</b>	<b>60.8%</b>
<b>No. 2</b>	<b>Wanted to study the Japanese language/Japanese culture</b>	<b>48.2%</b>
<b>No. 3</b>	<b>Found education and research at Japanese institutions, etc. appealing</b>	<b>34.1%</b>
No. 4	Wanted to work in an occupation connected to Japan	24.5%
No. 5	Wanted to come in contact with a different culture	23.7%
No. 6	Because the specialty or major I was interested in was offered in Japan	23.6%
No. 7	Recommended by friends, acquaintances, families, etc.	18.4%
No. 8	Geographically close	17.5%
No. 9	Considered other countries, but conditions such as academic abilities and costs in Japan suited me best	16.8%
No. 10	Got a scholarship	5.5%



**What was your impression of studying in Japan?**



Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2017 (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.*

Listen to what they have to say!

# Why I Chose to Study in Japan



Vietnam

Pham Thi Thao  
I.C.NAGOYA

*When people ask me why I came to Japan, I tell them because Japan is a place where miracles happen. I was inspired to start learning Japanese because my parents wanted me to study in Japan. They thought a bright future was waiting for me. Thanks to studying Japanese, I was able to make the most wonderful friends in the world. They did not just become my friends, they helped me find my dream. Someday I hope to build a company that provides safe food products to help keep people healthy. I believe this dream can become a reality in Japan.*

*Two things I find fascinating are why Japan, despite being such a disaster-prone country, has so many world-class companies, as well as why the Japanese are able to create such safe and healthy food products. I also wanted to learn about the indomitable spirit of the Japanese, because they never give up no matter the hardships they face. I really wanted to learn these things and more about this wonderful country, which strengthened my desire to study in Japan. I was sure that even someone like myself with so little life experience could learn discipline and grow if I went to Japan. This desire to proactively and passionately learn from Japan is why I decided to study here.*

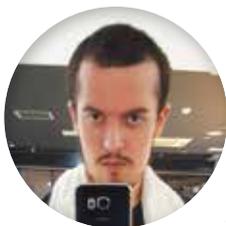


China

Guo Yifan  
Waseda University

*I decided to study in Japan because of my interest in Japanese society. I've frequently watched shows like Detective Conan and Pokémon since I was a kid. I also read a lot of Japanese literature, including Haruki Murakami's novels, which made me want to see what Japanese society was really like with my own eyes. When I had to think about the path I would take in my education and my career, I chose studying abroad in Japan without hesitation.*

*It's been five years since I came to Japan. Studying subjects such as Japanese politics and economics at a university while living inside Japanese society and also making many Japanese friends have made every day I have spent here incredibly stimulating. Looking back on my time as an international student, I'm sure that if I could study abroad again anywhere in the world, I would still choose Japan. However, the reason would be the people here in Japan rather than an interest in Japanese society. I now feel that the biggest appeal of studying abroad in Japan is the people who kindly accepted me and supported me when I was in trouble.*



Turkey

Ozturk Ahmet Furkan  
Aichi Prefectural University

*I came to Japan for two reasons. The first was that I wanted to learn about the IT industry in Japan, the first country in Asia to become a leader in that industry. Japan became active in the area of computer science in a joint relationship with American companies beginning in the 1990s. Now Japan is one of the world leaders in IT, both in Asia and around the globe. I wanted to thoroughly learn about Japan's IT industry, since the country has long-established traditions in the fields of IT and technology and has experienced a great deal of both success and failure.*

*The second reason I chose Japan was the tendency of young people in my country, Turkey, to study abroad in Europe or the Americas. However, for the past sixty years Asia and especially Japan have seen remarkable economic growth. By studying in Japan, I felt I could be part of Japan's development and become an irreplaceable bridge between Turkey and other countries as well as different companies around the world.*



Egypt

Mahmoud Mohamed Nasef  
Kyushu University

*Where to begin. I have known about Japan and all its glory since I was in primary school. This is when I started to develop an interest in reading and watching Japanese anime and gradually over time immersed myself in the world of Japanese culture. Ever since I visited Japan back in 2013 when I was an undergraduate student, I have had great passion on how systematic and precise things were. I was fascinated by what I saw and experienced and that included the hospitality of the people, beautiful places and amazing food. I like the overall Japanese culture and work ethics, as I have gained some experience studying in a Japanese institute and did my industrial internship in a Japanese based company (Toyota) before. My main aim studying in Japan is that it provides the stepping stones for my future career as a researcher in my field. I am here to experience firsthand living and studying in Japan and to adopt their style in order to better oneself, learn and grow. Ultimately, I hope to complete my studies and graduate from Kyushu University as a PhD student. I am looking forward to new experiences and to accomplish great things.*

# Campus Diary (1)

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!



*My prospects are growing brighter every day, and I am getting closer to achieving my dream, so I'm glad I came to Japan.*

**Lontsi Chrisko Jules Vidal (Cameroon)**  
National Institute of Technology, Oshima College  
Electronic-Mechanical Engineering Department

*I've been interested in machines such as cars ever since I was a child. Since there is not much information about the field available in my own country, I decided that I had to study abroad to deepen my understanding. Seventy percent of the cars in my country are Toyotas, so I chose to study in Japan. Since coming to Japan in April 2016, I've experienced many hardships due to my complete lack of understanding of the Japanese language and Japanese culture. After graduating from a Japanese language institute, I entered the*

*National Institute of Technology, Oshima College. I'm now enjoying my life as a student there. My Japanese is also quickly becoming better and I've made a lot of friends. Now that I can understand my classes, my knowledge is growing rapidly. Once I graduate, I want to continue my education at another school to deepen my knowledge of machines. My prospects are growing brighter every day, and I am getting closer to achieving my dream, so I'm glad I came to Japan.*

## How I Spend a Day

**7:00 a.m. Wake up**  
After our morning meeting at 7:00 a.m., I brush my teeth, take a shower and then have breakfast (bread and coffee).

**8:50 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Classes**  
My humanities courses are a little hard to understand, but I understand my other courses just fine.

**4:00–5:30 p.m. Club activities**  
I belong to the track team and the robotics contest club.

**5:30–7:30 p.m. Shopping and cooking**  
I buy ingredients for tomato soup, including potatoes and cabbage, as well as other groceries such as spaghetti, meat and fruit, and make dinner.

**8:00–10:00 p.m. Self study**  
I do my assignments and write reports.

**11:00 p.m. Lights out**  
I go to sleep.



*Open up and participate in as many cultural activities as possible while in Japan!*

**Yoshie Sasagawa (Malaysia)**  
Ritsumeikan University  
Community and Regional Policy Studies

*I feel very lucky to have the chance to study in Japan. Although there were some difficulties due to language barriers, the people and the community around me are incredibly supportive. I could not have asked for a better study abroad experience! I came to Japan because I wanted to explore the Japanese side of me. My university offered many opportunities and cultural activities for international students to participate in. Some of the experiences of mine included working at one of the biggest shrines in Osaka, doing field studies and agricultural work in rural communities,*

*summer internships, interacting with Japanese school kids, and many more. Although it may sound like a lot work, going through all these events not only taught me more about Japan but along the way, I also learned more about myself. Currently in my last year, I found that Japan has given me more than what I expected to learn before arriving for example, the Japanese work ethic, social mannerisms, patience and practical life skills. I highly encourage current and potential international students to open up and participate in as many cultural activities as possible while in Japan!*



## How I Spend a Day

**7:15–8:15 a.m. Getting ready for the day**  
I wash up, get dressed and have a big breakfast.

**8:15–9:00 a.m. Travelling to university**  
Cycle to the station, take the train and walk to university.

**9:00 a.m.–12:10 p.m. Classes**  
My classes are 90 minutes with a 10 minute break in between classes.

**12:10–1:00 p.m. Lunch**  
Sometimes I make my own bento, but mostly I eat at the school cafeteria.

**1:00–2:00 p.m. Free time**  
Usually after lunch I enjoy getting coffee and desserts with my friend and work on course projects together

**2:00–4:00 p.m. Gym**  
My favorite part of the day is to workout at the gym to de-stress.

**4:00–5:00 p.m. Going home**  
I like to head home early if possible so that I have time to do groceries and make myself a fantastic dinner and study afterwards.

# 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?**

<b>1</b> 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

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

<b>3</b> Japanese language learning	Language acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University entry course</li> <li>• Japanese conversation</li> <li>• Business Japanese</li> </ul>	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?

Make your plan while viewing the schedule on pages 8–9.



**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 calculations while looking at pages 32–40.

# 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.

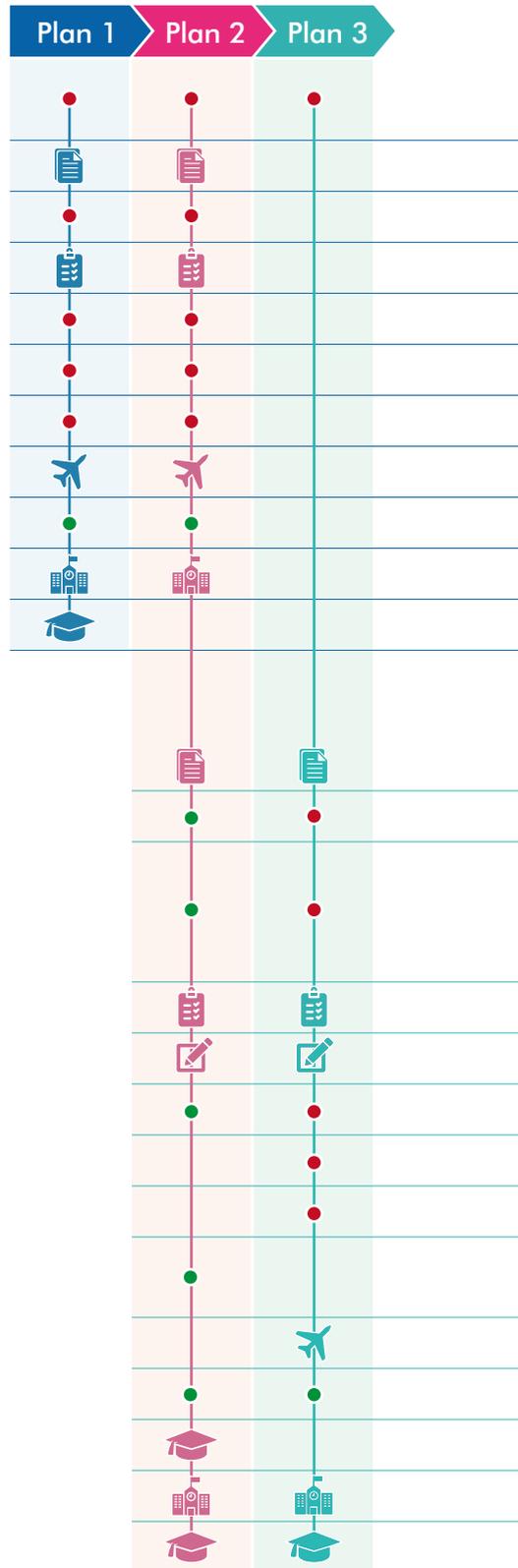
## From planning to enrollment—what to do

**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.

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



## Using an agent

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

### Key points for choosing an agent

- 1) **Cost**  
 Is the price reasonable in comparison with other agents? Isn't the agent misleading you to take a part-time job in Japan to pay for all of your school fees and living expenses? Are fee details and service content stated clearly in the contract?
- 2) **Support**  
 Is the agent providing you with information about schools that match your goals for studying in Japan? Isn't the agent recommending that you enter the country with false documents? Does the agent properly answer questions and provide proper answers if asked about procedures? Isn't the agent rushing you to make an application? Is the agent telling you both about the good points of studying in Japan as well as things you might find difficulties?
- 3) **Track record**  
 Does the agent have a proven track record of sending people to Japan?

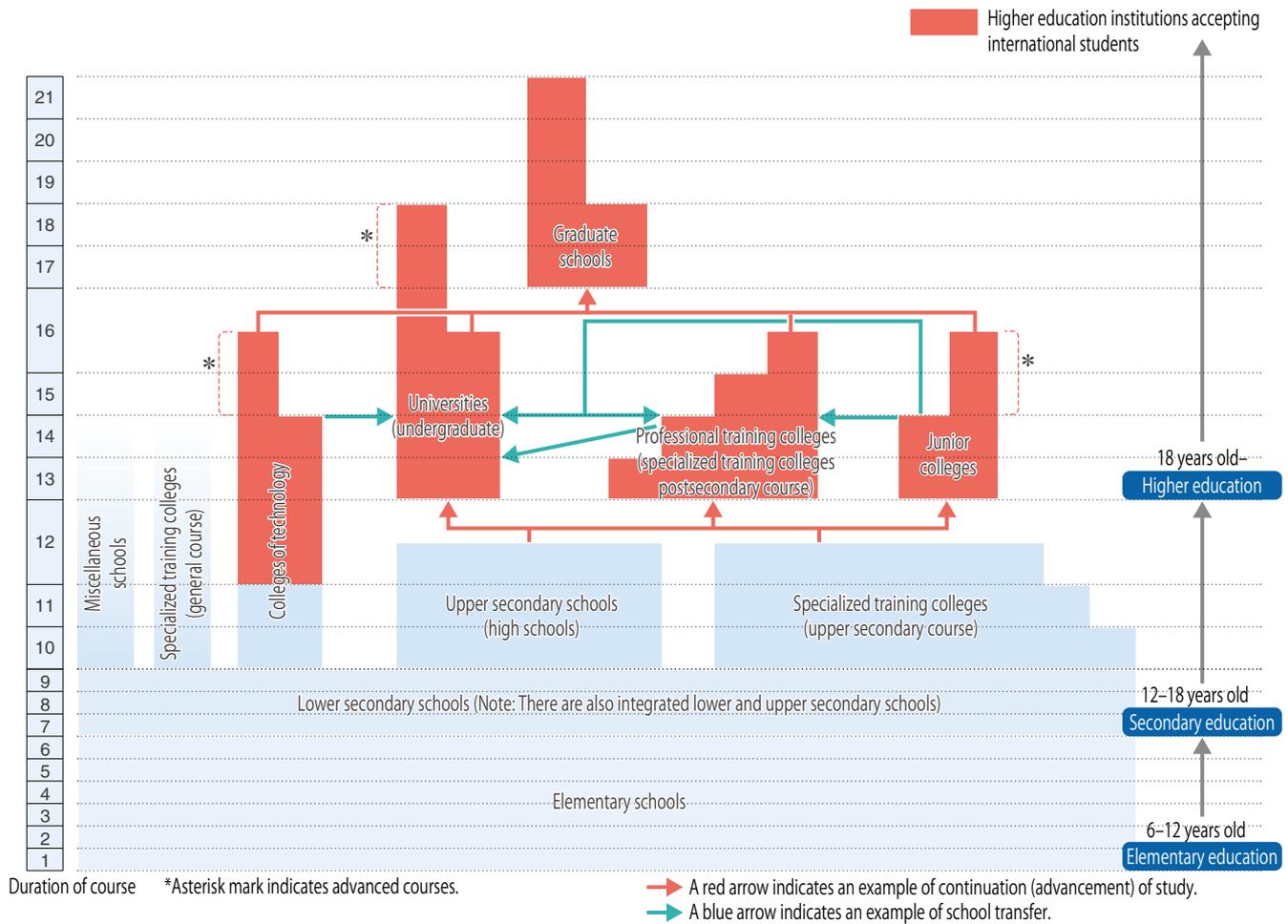
Step	Relevant pages	Time period		Action
<b>1</b> Planning and information gathering	Page 7, pages 32–35			Clarify and concretize your goal for studying in Japan. Confirm the language abilities required and costs for studies in Japan.
<b>2</b> Request materials from Japanese language institutes	Pages 22–23	April–June	October–December	Request school information and application materials from several schools you are interested in. Confirm requirements for application.
<b>3</b> Choose a school	Pages 22–23	By September	By February	Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
<b>4</b> Apply	Pages 22–23	September–November	February–April	Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school you wish to attend.
<b>5</b> Admission acceptance letter		January–March	July–September	Receive admission acceptance letter. Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc.
<b>6</b> Immigration procedures	Pages 28–31			Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
<b>7</b> Prepare to study in Japan				Find a place to live.
<b>8</b> Make travel preparations and depart				Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
<b>9</b> Enrollment procedures				
<b>10</b> Enroll and start studying at Japanese language institute		April (One- or two-year course)	October (One-and-a-half-year course)	
<b>11</b> Japanese language institute completion				

<b>12</b> Request materials from university or professional training college	Pages 12–21	April–May/September–October		Request school information and application materials from several schools you are interested in. Confirm application requirements.
<b>13</b> Choose a school	Pages 12–21	By June/by November		Select the school you wish to attend based on school information and other materials.
<b>14</b> Apply for Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)	Pages 24–25	By July/by March		Apply for EJU and take any necessary examinations; e.g. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC.
<b>15</b> Apply	Pages 12–21	August–October/January–November		Send the application for admittance and other necessary documents to the school.
<b>16</b> Take entrance examination		November–February/March–August		Get your documents screened, take EJU, take the entrance examination of the school, etc.
<b>17</b> Admission acceptance letter		January–March/June–August		Receive admission acceptance letter. Send money to pay for tuition fees, etc.
<b>18</b> Immigration procedures	Pages 28–31			Receive your Certificate of Eligibility for a Status of Residence and apply for a visa.
<b>19</b> Prepare to study in Japan				Find a place to live.
<b>20</b> Application for extension of period of stay/notification concerning an organization for the activity				Arrange for a plane ticket and travel insurance.
<b>21</b> Make travel preparations and depart				
<b>22</b> Enrollment procedures				
<b>23</b> Japanese language institute completion				
<b>24</b> University/professional training college enrollment		April/September or October		Notes: 1. Some schools allow enrollment in the fall (September or October). 2. The procedure from application to enrollment will vary depending on school. Thoroughly review a school's application guidebook and take care not to make any procedural mistakes.
<b>25</b> University/professional training college graduation		March/August or September		

# Japanese Educational System

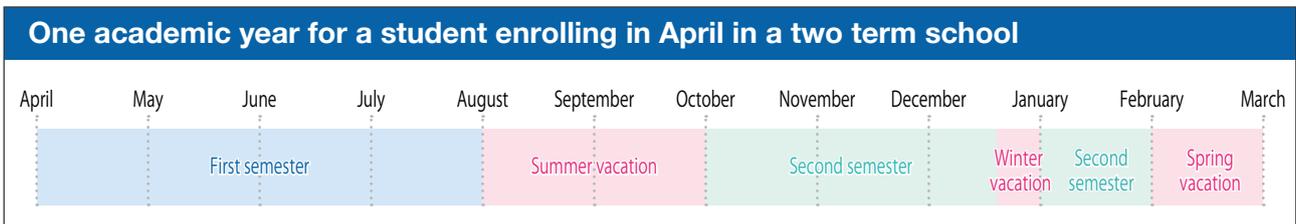
In Japan, the higher education starts upon the completion of 12 years of education: elementary education (6 years of elementary school) and secondary education (3 years of lower secondary school and 3 years of upper secondary school).

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



## 1. 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.



## 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 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:

- 1) Have completed 12 years of formal school education by taking an additional one or two years of schooling at a university or other higher education institution or a university preparatory program in their home country.
- 2) Have completed university preparatory courses (*junbi kyoiiku katei*) authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan<sup>1</sup> (provided, however, that they have completed a level of education equivalent to a Japanese high school).  
If you have completed elementary and secondary education courses in your home country that are 11 years long or more but less than 12 years, you are considered eligible for admission without completing the university preparatory courses if the said education courses are designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan<sup>2</sup>.

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 university preparatory courses authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/nihongokyoiiku.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/nihongokyoiiku.html)
2. "Courses that are 11 years long or more" authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan  
[http://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/koutou/shikaku/1380756.htm](http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/shikaku/1380756.htm)

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

	Program	Academic degrees and titles	Required study period
Graduate school	Doctorate program <sup>*1</sup>	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
Junior college <sup>*2*5</sup>	2-year program	Associate degree	2 years
	3-year program		3 years
Professional and vocational university	–	Bachelor's degree (professional)	4 years
Professional and vocational junior college <sup>*2*5</sup>	2-year program	Associate's degree (professional)	2 years
	3-year program		3 years
College of technology <sup>*3*4*5</sup>	–	Associate degree	3 years (3 years and 6 months for mercantile marine studies)
Specialized training college <sup>*4</sup>	Postsecondary course (professional training college)	Diploma	2 years or more
		Advanced diploma	4 years or more

<sup>\*1</sup> 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.

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

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

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

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



 National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (academic degree awarding organization)  
<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 18).

## 1. Admission eligibility

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria:

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

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

## 2. Find a school

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?

 Information on universities and junior colleges (JASSO)  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

 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 45)



## 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.

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

## 5. 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 degree equivalent to a university or college students' bachelor's degree or associate degree, respectively.



## 6. Qualifications for course completion and graduation

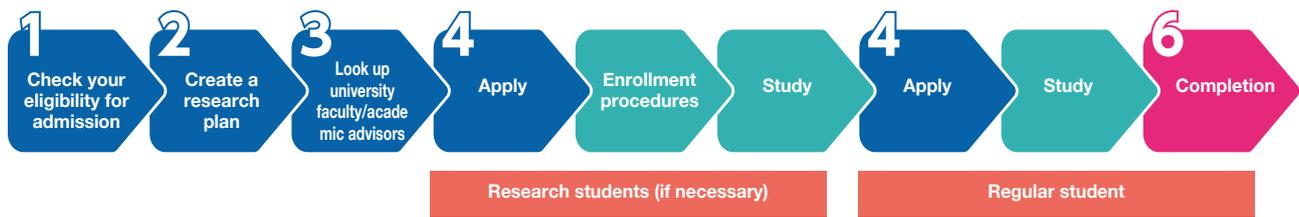
A student will be awarded a degree upon graduation, provided that the following criteria have been satisfied.

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	
Junior college	2-year program	-	62 credits or more	Associate degree
	3-year program	-	93 credits or more	
Professional and vocational university	-	4 years	124 credits or more	Bachelor's degree (professional)
Professional and vocational junior college	2-year program	-	62 credits or more	Associate's degree (professional)
	3-year program	-	93 credits or more	

Note: 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).

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

### 2. Doctoral program (second phase)

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

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

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

## 2. Create research plan

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

Your research plan should include the following items:

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

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

Key examination points are as follows:

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



### ● 『実践 研究計画作成法』

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

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

Author: JASSO

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

Note: Available for browsing at Study in Japan Resource Facilities (see page 45)

### Online database of journal articles



CiNii Articles

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

## 3-1. Find a school

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

 **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.

## 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.

### Online database of researchers

 **researchmap**  
<https://researchmap.jp/search/?lang=english>

### 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.



### 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.

## 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. Professional graduate school

A professional graduate school (professional degree program) specializes in cultivating highly-skilled professionals who can take a leading role in various fields of society and work anywhere in the world. There are programs specializing in fields such as law (law school), education (graduate schools of education), business management, MOT (management of technology), accounting, and public policy.

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

## 1. Find a school

 **University Degree Courses Offered in English (JASSO)**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

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

## 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)

## 3. Screening methods

- 1) Screening of application documents
- 2) Interviews (in the country or region where you live or online)
- 3) Other methods

### Guideline for required English language proficiency

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

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

Rank	University	Location	%
1	Akita International University	Akita	98.0
2	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Oita	88.9
3	Miyazaki International College	Miyazaki	40.3
4	Ohkagakuen University	Aichi	30.7
5	Nagoya University of Commerce & Business	Aichi	26.4
6	International Christian University	Tokyo	22.3
7	Osaka Jogakuin University	Osaka	18.7
8	Sophia University	Tokyo	16.0
9	Kansai Gaidai University	Osaka	15.9
10	Hitotsubashi University	Tokyo	15.1

Source: *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings Japan edition



### 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.



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.

### Number of university degree courses offered in English

Major	Undergraduate	Graduate school
Humanities	11	25
Social science	13	124
Education	0	8
Science	7	214
Engineering	17	571
Agriculture/fisheries/ veterinary science	3	83
Medicine/health science	1	104
Home science	0	0
Arts	0	8
Interdisciplinary	48	65

Source: JASSO survey (as of March 2018)

# 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 <sup>1</sup> .	Depending on the program	Normally, the university in Japan	The university in Japan
3) Research student <sup>2</sup>	A system in which a person who has graduated from a university may study a specialized field at a graduate school as a research student for six months or one year.	Not receivable	The university in Japan	The university in Japan
4) Audit student <sup>2</sup>	A system for the purpose of auditing classes.	Not receivable	The university in Japan	The university in Japan
5) Credit-earning student <sup>2</sup>	A system for the purpose of receiving credit for classes.	Receivable	The university in Japan	The university in Japan

1. Search for universities with short-term study programs (JASSO)

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

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



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

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

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

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

**Monthly stipend:** JPY 117,000

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

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

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

**Monthly stipend:** JPY 80,000

**Inquiries:** Current school in your home country

## 2. University transfer programs

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

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

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

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

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

**i Search for universities with a university transfer program (JASSO)**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

# Colleges of Technology

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

## 1. Features

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

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

**Inquiries:** Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country

## 3-2. Privately-financed study in Japan

### 1 Application materials required

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

### 2 Entrance exam

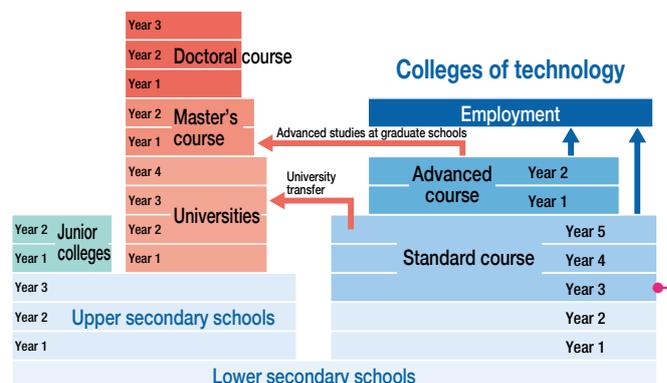
The National Institute of Technology determines the results by overall evaluation of the following items (recorded in 2018):

- 1) Application form
- 2) Results of Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
- 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/english/>

## 4. Career or academic path after graduation

After graduating from *kosen*, students can choose to go on to higher education or to seek employment. Those seeking employment may receive offers from over twenty famous companies. Many graduates use the knowledge and skills learned at *kosen* to work in fields such as research and development, production management, and production. Many international students also transfer to national universities.



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

# Professional Training Colleges

## (specialized training colleges postsecondary course)

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

### 1. Characteristics of education at a professional training college

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

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

### 2. Japanese proficiency requirements

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

Any one of the following qualifications must be met.

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

### 3. Admission eligibility

Students must satisfy any one of the following eligibility criteria.

- 1) Students who have completed 12 years of schooling in countries other than Japan
- 2) Students who are 18 years of age or older and have successfully passed an academic qualification examination that is equivalent to the completion of 12 years of schooling in countries other than Japan
- 3) Students who 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.



## 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? Be sure to check photos and school brochures.
4) Career guidance program and graduates' career paths	What is the school's career guidance policy? What about graduates' employment track record? Can I gain employment in the career of my choice?
5) School expenses	How much are school expenses for the first year? What about the total amount of school expenses to be incurred before graduation? When is the payment due date?
6) School reputation	Take advantage of a network of graduates, international students, etc. to learn about the school's reputation.



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

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

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

[http://www.sgec.or.jp/ryuugakuguide/search/index\\_en.html](http://www.sgec.or.jp/ryuugakuguide/search/index_en.html)



### Check graduation requirements

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

## 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	3,400 hours or more
3) Qualification for completion	Exam results and other factors are evaluated for the qualification of course completion	
4) Course structure	-	The curriculum is systematically structured
5) After graduation	If you obtain a diploma, you can transfer to a university	If you obtain an advanced diploma, you are qualified to enter a graduate school

# Japanese Language Institutes

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

## 1. Types and number of schools

	Japanese language institutes		Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges*
Controlling entity	Educational foundation (specialized training college or other miscellaneous school), public interest incorporated foundation, private company, voluntary organization, individual, etc.		Private university, junior college
Purpose	1) Japanese language acquisition <sup>1</sup> 2) Japanese language acquisition for admission to a Japanese university	2) Japanese language acquisition for admission to a Japanese university	1) Japanese language acquisition 2) Japanese language acquisition for admission to a Japanese higher education institution
Admission qualifications	Person who has completed 12 years of secondary education	Person who has completed less than 12 years of secondary education <sup>2</sup>	Person who has completed 12 years of secondary education
No. of schools	564		60
Course length	One to two years (normally)		One to two years
Status of residence	Student <sup>3</sup>		Student
No. of enrolled students	93,515		Approx. 6,000

- There are also courses in which you can learn business Japanese and Japanese for daily life.
- If your home country's normal school education system (elementary school, junior high school and high school) requires less than twelve years, and if the last school you attended (and graduated from) is high school and you have not completed a designated curriculum, you will not be qualified for admission to a Japanese university, etc. However, if you complete a university preparatory course (*junbi kyouiku katei*) approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, you will acquire qualification for admission.  
In such preparatory courses you will study English, mathematics, social science, science and other basic subjects for entrance into universities in addition to the Japanese language.
- In the category of Japanese language institutes, only those officially approved via public notice by the Ministry of Justice are eligible to apply for the "Student" status of residence.
- Special courses established by private universities and junior colleges to teach the Japanese language to international students are called preparatory Japanese language programs (*ryugakusei bekka* or *nihongo bekka*). Students in these programs may study the Japanese language, Japanese culture, the current state of Japan and basic subjects necessary for entering a Japanese university. Students who wish to enter a Japanese university may use the admission-on-recommendation system to enter universities that offer preparatory Japanese language programs, if such are available, or enter another university of their choice. The advantage of such programs is access to a university's facilities and services.

## 2. Required application materials and enrollment periods

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

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



### 3. Application materials required

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

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.



#### 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

#### Key points to consider

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

#### A. Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges



##### List of preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private university and junior college (JASSO)

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

#### B. Japanese language institutes designated by the Ministry of Justice (student visa issued)



##### List of schools designated by the Ministry of Justice (Ministry of Justice)

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



##### Educational situation at schools designated by the Ministry of Justice (MEXT)

[http://www.mext.go.jp/a\\_menu/koutou/ryugaku/1382482.htm](http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/1382482.htm)



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

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



##### Japanese Language School Association (JaLSA)

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



##### University preparatory courses authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (JASSO):

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



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

There are more and more degree programs conducted in English (see page 17, Degree Programs in English).

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

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

#### C. Japanese language institutes not designated by the Ministry of Justice (no student visas issued)

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



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

## Number of schools using the EJU

Universities	451
Junior colleges	90
Graduate schools	67
Colleges of technology	51
Professional training colleges	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>805</b>

(As of December 2018)



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

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



List of schools using the EJU for screening

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

## 1. When?

First session: June  
Second session: November

## 2. Where?

Japan: 16 cities  
Outside Japan: 18 cities in 14 countries and regions  
Examination sites (outside Japan)  
India (New Delhi), Indonesia (Jakarta, Surabaya), South Korea (Seoul, Busan), Sri Lanka (Colombo), Singapore, Thailand (Bangkok, Chiang Mai), Taiwan (Taipei), the Philippines (Manila), Vietnam (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City), Hong Kong, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Myanmar (Yangon), Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar), Russia (Vladivostok)

## 3. What subjects?

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

Subjects	Purpose	Time	Score range	Selection of subjects	Examination language options
Japanese as a Foreign Language	Measurement of the Japanese language skills (academic Japanese) required for studying at Japanese universities.	125 minutes	Reading comprehension, listening comprehension, and listening-reading comprehension: 0-400 points Writing: 0-50 points		Japanese only
Basic academic abilities	Science 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	<b>Course 1</b> , which is for those who will study liberal arts or sciences that require relatively minor proficiency in mathematics, or <b>Course 2</b> , which is for those who will study areas that require a high level of proficiency in mathematics	

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 2019	
Faculty of Engineering			Course 2	○			Free choice of one more science subject English	To be implemented in June 2019	

## 4. Schedule

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

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

 **How to apply for the EJU**  
<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/procedure/application.html>

## 5. EJU merits

### 1) A reservation program for a scholarship

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

**Monthly stipend (FY2019):** JPY 48,000

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

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

 **Reservation Program for Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/scholarships/shoureihi/yoyakuseido/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/shoureihi/yoyakuseido/index.html)

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

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

### 3) Schools offering pre-arrival admission system

You can obtain admission before you arrive by taking the EJU.

 **List of schools offering pre-arrival admission using EJU (approximately 180 schools)**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/prearrival/uni\\_national.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/prearrival/uni_national.html)

## 6. Past EJU exams

 **Sample questions and answers**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/pastpaper\\_sample/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/pastpaper_sample/index.html)

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



Past year questions of EJU  
 Authored and edited: JASSO  
 Published: Bonjinsha Co., Ltd.  
 (sold in Japan and Republic of Korea)  
 Note: Available for browsing at Study in Japan Resource Facilities (see page 45)

## Contact

 **Taking EJU outside Japan** <https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/examinee/contact/index.html> (EJU Overseas Representatives)

 **Taking EJU in Japan** EJU Uketsuke-Center (Information Desk)  
 Tel: 0570-55-0585 Email: [ejusdcj.co.jp](mailto:ejusdcj.co.jp) Note: From overseas, please call +81-42-649-9571.

 **Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)**  <https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/index.html>

 **Comments from students who took the EJU** <https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/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.

#### 1) Administered 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)**  
<http://info.jees-jlpt.jp/>

#### 2) Administered 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.html>

### 2. The National Center Test

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

 **National Center for University Entrance Examinations**  
<https://www.dnc.ac.jp/>



### 3. Other examinations used for studying in Japan

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

TOEFL®, IELTS, TOEIC®, the Eiken Test in Practical English Proficiency

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

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



Most Japanese universities require prospective students to submit a certificate of proficiency in English when applying. Taking the applicable exam while you are studying at a Japanese-language institute is a good idea.



# Campus Diary (2)

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!



I want to leverage the knowledge and experience I've gained in Japan to help solve my country's urban problems.

## Ganzorig Luvsanjamts (Mongolia)

The University of Tokyo  
Department of Urban Engineering  
Doctoral Program

I went to work as a designer after studying architecture as an undergraduate. After five years in the real world, however, I wanted to do something with greater scale, so I decided to study in Japan. I came to Japan as a trainee and studied every day to prepare for the graduate school entrance exam. After six months of hard work, I was able to get into a master's program. Although I was very busy with my research after getting into the program, I was able to travel to places all over Japan thanks to suggestions and guidance from many different people.

Everyone walking around Tokyo is so busy. Osaka had nice people. Kyoto had amazing

history, temples and shrines. Hokkaido's vast nature reminded me of my home country. Shikoku has great respect for its own culture and nature. By seeing all these different cities, I was able to imagine what Mongolian cities could look like in the future. I want to leverage the knowledge and experience I've gained in Japan to someday help solve my country's urban problems.



## How I Spend a Day

**8:00 a.m. Wake up, gym, breakfast, commute**  
My dorm has a gym, so I try to work out there three times a week.

**10:00 a.m. Research**  
I read papers during my one-hour train commute to the campus. Once I get there, I begin my research.

**2:00 p.m. Lunch**  
I usually eat lunch at the school's cafeteria, but I occasionally eat at one of the diners near the campus. I always order a meat dish! After lunch, I go back to my research.

**5:00 p.m. Walk about town**  
This is the day I take my weekly walk about town. I mostly stroll through dense urban areas in Tokyo and observe the urban environment and the way the area is organized. I will occasionally interview local residents.

**7:00 p.m. Dinner**  
If I find an interesting restaurant while walking in town, I'll eat dinner there while I organize the photos and notes I took.

**10:00 p.m. Return home and time to relax**  
I leave the university around 9:00 p.m. and read or watch movies once I get home. Sometimes I talk with my friends.

**12:00 a.m. Go to bed**  
I'm able to sleep well at night if I exercised that morning.



The cultures of Japan and Europe are completely different, so I learn something new every day.

## Rod Adam (Czech Republic)

Rikkyo University  
Graduate Program in International Business

I decided to study in Japan because I'd been fascinated by many aspects of Japanese culture since high school. I was especially interested in Japanese martial arts and pop culture. I'd also had a lingering desire to live in Japan since the first time I visited the country, so the decision to study and live there was only natural.

When you start living in another country, you eventually stop seeing only its good aspects and start seeing the not-so-good facets. That is unavoidable. However, Tokyo is any easy place to live. I like Tokyo because of how

convenient it is, as well as because you can buy anything you want whenever you want it. Japan's mountains and other nature are beautiful. I often go on motorcycle trips with my wife to places near Tokyo. Finally, the cultures of Japan and Europe are completely different, so I learn something new every day. The question was how I like Japan, but I've actually never lived anywhere in Japan but Tokyo, so I do not really want to judge Japan based on Tokyo alone.



## How I Spend a Day

**9:00 a.m. Arrive at university**  
I get to campus at around nine in the morning. After that, I either have classes or do research.

**11:00 a.m. Studying Japanese**  
I study kanji almost every day. Kanji are hard for foreigners to remember, so I have to study them every day.

**1:00 p.m. Lunch**  
I buy a healthy Japanese meal at a bento shop near my university.

**2:00 p.m. Research**  
I read specialized books, take notes, and write reports.

**7:00 p.m. Return home**  
I make dinner after I get home.

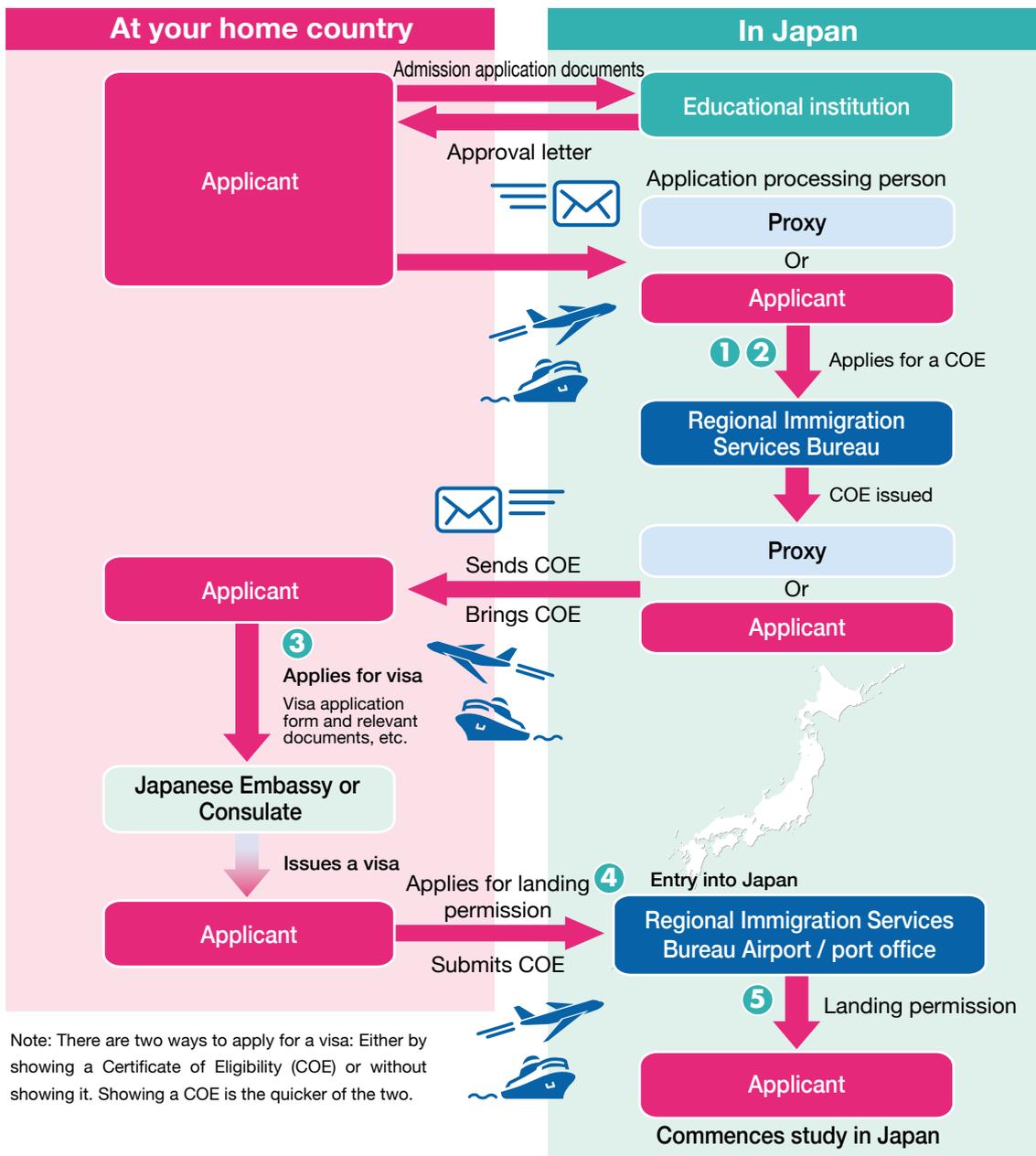
**12:00 p.m. Free time**  
I read and then go to bed.

# Immigration Procedures

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

## Visa and status of residence

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



## 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.

**Required documents:**

- 1) Passport
- 2) Visa application form
- 3) Photographs
- 4) COE
- 5) Documents other than the above

## 4. Entry to Japan

When entering Japan, the following documents are required.

**Required documents:**

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

## 5. Residence card

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

**Issue of residence card:**

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

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

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

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



Residence card

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

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

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

- When completing procedures at the municipal office (such as for National Health Insurance)
- When starting part-time work
- When receiving money from a foreign country at the bank



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 consulate 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: If you are a national of a country under the Visa Exemption Arrangements, as a rule, you must return to your home country after passing the exam to obtain a “Student” status of residence.

## 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 38).

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, nationality/region or school, or if your residence card is lost or damaged, etc.

- **Municipal office**

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

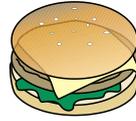
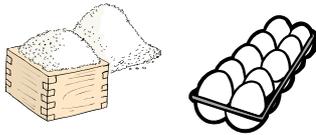


# Living Cost and Price

## 1. Price of goods

### Prices of major products in Japan

Rice (5 kg)	JPY 2,137	(US\$19)
Bread (1 kg)	JPY 435	(US\$4)
Milk (1,000 ml)	JPY 223	(US\$2)
Eggs (10 eggs)	JPY 248	(US\$2)
Apples (1 kg)	JPY 497	(US\$4)
Cabbage (1 kg)	JPY 244	(US\$2)

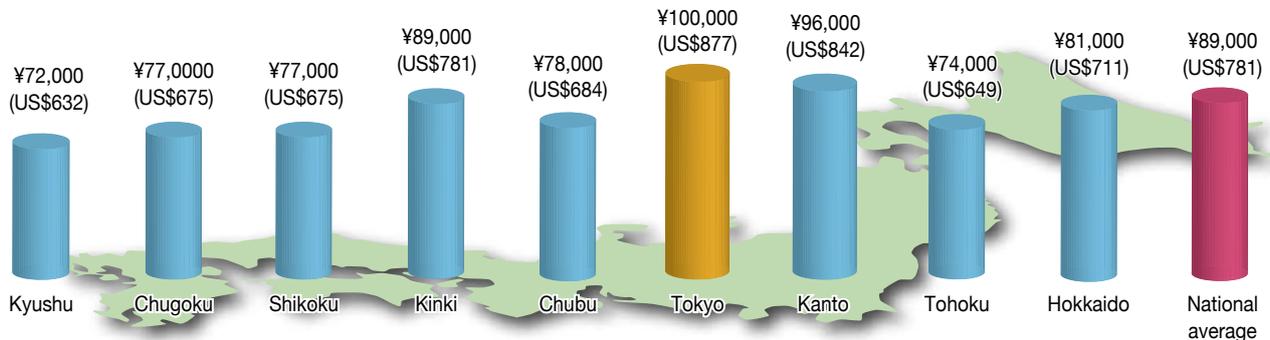


(Non-alcohol) beverage (500 ml plastic bottle)	JPY 97	(US\$1)
Hamburger	JPY 174	(US\$2)
Gasoline (1 liter)	JPY 132	(US\$1)
Toilet paper (12 rolls)	JPY 279	(US\$2)
Movie ticket	JPY 1,800	(US\$16)
Taxi (4 km)	JPY 1,450	(US\$13)

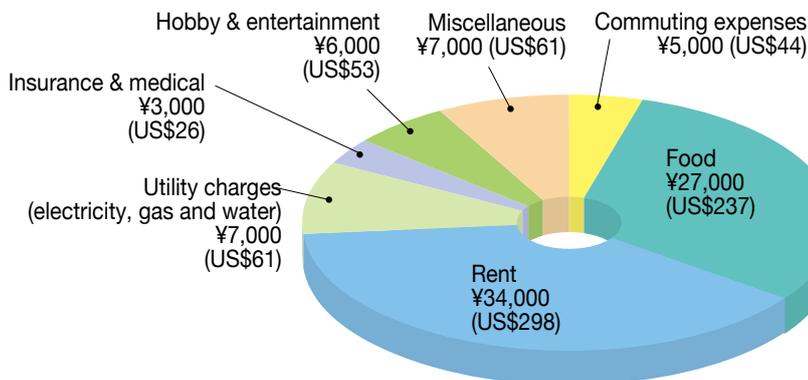
Source: Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan  
Calculated at US\$1 = ¥114

## 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.



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



### Average rent by area

Note: Calculated at US\$1 = ¥114

	JPY	US\$
National average	34,000	298
Hokkaido	31,000	272
Tohoku	25,000	219
Kanto	39,000	342
Tokyo	43,000	377
Chubu	26,000	228
Kinki	35,000	307
Chugoku	24,000	211
Shikoku	23,000	202
Kyushu	24,000	211

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2017 (JASSO)

# Academic Fees

**Academic fees in Japan are not as high as those in the United States and the United Kingdom.** The admission and tuition fees, etc. for the first year in an undergraduate program in Japan total around ¥820,000 (US\$7,200)\* at a national university, ¥930,000 (US\$8,200) at a local public university, and ¥1,100,000 (US\$9,700) to ¥1,640,000 (US\$14,400) at a private university (excluding medical, dental and pharmaceutical schools).

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

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

\* 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 = ¥114)

## ● 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	7,174	1,353,600	11,874	
Local public (Master's program)	364,727	537,878	902,605	7,918	1,440,483	12,636	
Private (Master's program)	Arts	222,861	1,218,547	1,441,408	12,644	2,659,955	23,333
	Engineering	208,111	951,607	1,159,718	10,173	2,111,325	18,520
	Health care	246,845	853,128	1,099,973	9,649	1,953,101	17,132
	Science	199,244	886,464	1,085,708	9,524	1,972,172	17,300
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	218,358	802,136	1,020,494	8,952	1,822,630	15,988
	Pharmacy	185,250	834,025	1,019,275	8,941	1,853,300	16,257
	Home economics	239,091	718,855	957,946	8,403	1,676,801	14,709
	Liberal arts	202,894	735,827	938,721	8,234	1,674,548	14,689
	Social science	211,083	686,458	897,541	7,873	1,583,999	13,895
	Medicine	189,725	699,422	889,147	7,800	1,588,569	13,935
Humanities	203,895	645,808	849,703	7,454	1,495,511	13,119	
National (doctoral program)	282,000	535,800	817,800	7,174	1,889,400	16,574	
Local public (doctoral program)	364,727	537,878	902,605	7,918	1,978,361	17,354	
Private (Doctorate program)	Arts	233,986	1,100,426	1,334,412	11,705	3,535,264	31,011
	Health care	258,951	799,934	1,058,885	9,288	2,658,753	23,322
	Science	204,346	792,232	996,578	8,742	2,581,042	22,641
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	218,483	802,160	1,020,643	8,953	2,624,963	23,026
	Engineering	189,363	797,539	986,902	8,657	2,581,980	22,649
	Home economics	236,928	718,085	955,013	8,377	2,391,183	20,975
	Pharmacy	179,545	716,022	895,567	7,856	2,327,611	20,418
	Liberal arts	225,912	690,116	916,028	8,035	2,296,260	20,143
	Dentistry	232,075	642,666	874,741	7,673	2,160,073	18,948
	Social science	202,430	612,401	814,831	7,148	2,039,633	17,892
	Humanities	206,800	583,535	790,335	6,933	1,957,405	17,170
	Medicine	174,718	533,549	708,267	6,213	1,775,365	15,573

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

## ● University undergraduate programs

University undergraduate programs	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	7,174	2,425,200	21,274	
Local public	393,618	538,633	932,251	8,178	2,548,150	22,352	
Private	Medicine	1,325,507	3,717,720	5,043,227	44,239	23,631,827	207,297
	Dentistry	563,403	3,725,836	4,289,239	37,625	22,918,419	201,039
	Pharmacy	341,541	1,741,001	2,082,542	18,268	10,787,547	94,628
	Arts	259,312	1,376,891	1,636,203	14,353	5,766,876	50,587
	Health care	272,467	1,228,341	1,500,808	13,165	5,185,831	45,490
	Science & Engineering	242,670	1,231,676	1,474,346	12,933	5,169,374	45,345
	Agriculture & Veterinary science	246,282	1,166,879	1,413,161	12,396	4,913,798	43,103
	Physical education	258,265	1,035,887	1,294,152	11,352	4,401,813	38,612
	Home economics	255,704	997,399	1,253,103	10,992	4,245,300	37,239
	Literature & Education	233,136	952,976	1,186,112	10,404	4,045,040	35,483
	Social welfare	214,439	930,751	1,145,190	10,046	3,937,443	34,539
	Law, Commerce & Economics	232,284	920,231	1,152,515	10,110	3,913,208	34,326
	Theology & Buddhism	214,288	888,940	1,103,228	9,677	3,770,048	33,071

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

## ● Junior colleges

Junior colleges		Admission fee (first year only)	Tuition fees, etc.	First-year total		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	JPY	JPY	USD	JPY	USD
Private	Arts	251,226	1,181,574	1,432,800	12,568	2,614,374	22,933
	Engineering	209,388	1,051,438	1,260,826	11,060	2,312,264	20,283
	Science & Agriculture	194,615	910,962	1,105,577	9,698	2,016,539	17,689
	Humanities	242,942	868,122	1,111,064	9,746	1,979,186	17,361
	Education & Childcare	250,742	852,536	1,103,278	9,678	1,955,814	17,156
	Home economics	245,642	861,628	1,107,270	9,713	1,968,898	17,271
	Law, Commerce, Economics & Social science	233,823	845,376	1,079,199	9,467	1,924,575	16,882
Physical education	238,571	816,286	1,054,857	9,253	1,871,143	16,414	

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

## ● 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	2,800	788,400	6,916

\*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	Hygiene	165,500	1,345,750	1,511,250	13,257	2,857,000	25,061
	Medical care	249,000	1,166,714	1,415,714	12,419	2,582,428	22,653
	Technology	213,333	1,096,500	1,309,833	11,490	2,406,333	21,108
	Agriculture	180,000	1,107,000	1,287,000	11,289	2,394,000	21,000
	Education & Social welfare	145,750	933,500	1,079,250	9,467	2,012,750	17,656
	Business	133,750	982,250	1,116,000	9,789	2,098,250	18,406
	Culture & General education	153,000	1,019,000	1,172,000	10,281	2,191,000	19,219
Fashion & Home economics	183,000	902,000	1,085,000	9,518	1,987,000	17,430	

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

## ● Japanese language institutes

Preparatory Japanese language programs offered at private universities and junior colleges	Tuition fees, etc.	
	JPY	USD
1-year course	400,000 to 755,000	3,509 to 6,623
18-month course	642,000 to 1,100,000	5,632 to 9,649
2-year course	1,070,000 to 1,420,000	9,386 to 12,456

Source: Japan Student Services Organization research

Japanese language institutes	Tuition fees, etc.	
	JPY	USD
1-year course	600,000 to 997,400	5,263 to 8,749
18-month course	772,000 to 1,530,000	6,772 to 13,421
2-year course	1,006,000 to 2,000,000	8,825 to 17,544

Source: Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education research

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

		One year		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	USD	JPY	USD
US	Local public four-year university	2,920,680	25,620	11,682,720	102,480
	Private four-year university	3,960,360	34,740	15,841,440	138,960

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

Source: Guidebook for the students studying in the U.S. 2019 (*Amerika Ryugaku Guide 2019*), Keibunsha

		One year		Total up to graduation*	
		JPY	GBP	JPY	GBP
UK	Liberal arts program	1,500,000 to 2,400,000	10,000 to 16,000	4,500,000 to 7,200,000	30,000 to 48,000
	Science program	1,800,000 to 3,750,000	12,000 to 25,000	5,400,000 to 11,250,000	36,000 to 75,000
	Medical course	3,300,000 to 6,000,000	22,000 to 40,000	9,900,000 to 18,000,000	66,000 to 120,000

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

Source: Guidebook for the students studying in the U.K. 2018 (*Eikoku Ryugaku Guidebook 2018*), British Council

Calculated at 1 GBP = 150 JPY

# Scholarships

In Japan, only a few scholarships cover all the costs of study; most aim to cover just a portion of the student's living expenses and tuition fees. 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 financial assistance available

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

## When to apply

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

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

	Eligibility	Apply before coming to Japan		Apply after coming to Japan
		Japanese government	Local government, private, etc.	Local government, private, etc.
1	College of technology students	○	1	21
2	Specialized training college postsecondary course students	○	2	17
3	University/junior college preparatory Japanese language program students	○	1	5
4	Students at Japanese language institutes other than those in 3 above		3	8
5	Junior college students		3	35
6	University undergraduate audit students		0	3
7	University undergraduate students	○ (Japanese studies students)	9	88
8	Graduate school-level research students	○ (Teacher training students)	3	23
9	Master's program students	○ (Young Leaders' Program (YLP) students)	16	114
10	Doctoral program students	○	14	114
11	Professional degree program students	○	1	3

Reference: *Scholarships for International Students in Japan 2018–2019*, JASSO



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

## Application requirements

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



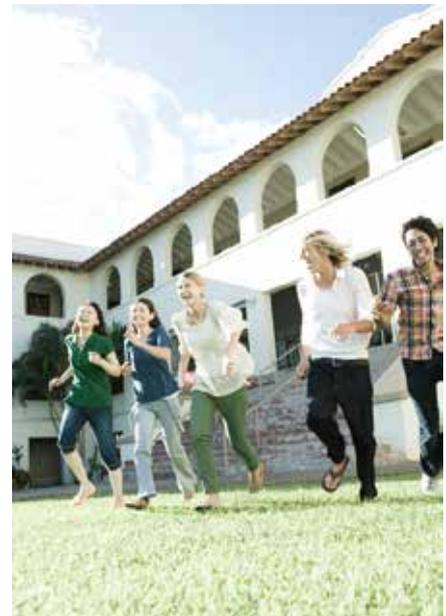
In many cases, you will need to have the "Student" status of residence to apply for scholarships for international students.

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	Young Leaders' Program (YLP) Students	242,000	2,123	The Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country Current school in home country <sup>2</sup>
	Research students (Non-degree students)	143,000	1,254	
	Research students (Master's course)	144,000	1,263	
	Research students (Doctoral course)	145,000	1,272	
	Teacher training students	143,000	1,254	
	Undergraduate students/college of technology students/specialized training college students/Japanese studies students	117,000	1,026	
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	421	JASSO <sup>3</sup>
Local governments and private organization scholarships	17 organizations	60,000 to 200,000	526 to 1,754	Local governments, private organizations, etc. <sup>4</sup>
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/study\\_j/scholarships/shoureihi/yoyakuseido/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/shoureihi/yoyakuseido/index.html)
- Confirm with each organization whether acceptance will be decided before coming to Japan.  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/scholarships/brochure.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/brochure.html)

US\$ 1 = JPY 114

## 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 under the inter-university exchange program agreement, etc. on a short-term basis from eight days to one year	80,000	702	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	421	Current school (in Japan)
	Japanese language institute students	30,000	263	
Local governments and private organization scholarships	132 organizations	20,000 to 310,000	526 to 1,754	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.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/scholarships/brochure.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/scholarships/brochure.html)

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

 **Search for on-campus scholarships and tuition fee reduction/exemption system (JASSO)**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/search/daigakukensaku.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/daigakukensaku.html)

 **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.

## Part-time Work

Approximately 76% of privately financed international students in Japan are working part-time. They earn about JPY 59,000 (US\$518) 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	41.9%
2	Sales and marketing	28.9%
3	Teaching / Research assistant	7.3%
4	Translation / Interpretation	6.7%
5	Language instructor	6.2%
6	Cleaning	5.5%
7	Hotel receptionist / Service staff	5.3%
8	General clerical work	4.7%

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2017 (JASSO)

### Hourly rate for part-time job

Hourly rate	Ratio
Less than JPY 800	5.4%
JPY 800 to less than JPY 1,000	42.4%
JPY 1,000 to less than JPY 1,200	39.4%
JPY 1,200 to less than JPY 1,400	6.9%
JPY 1,400 or more	4.8%
Unknown	1.0%



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

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

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



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

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



✗ **This is not possible. (The average is around JPY 59,000 [US\$518].)**

Calculated at US\$1 = ¥114

# Accommodation

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

## Student dormitory

### Advantages

- Lower expenses 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

### 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

**Student dormitory: JPY 28,000**

(For the JASSO Tokyo Japanese Language Education Center)

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

### 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.

<http://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/english/index.html>



# 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.

## ■ 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.”

## METI Japan Internship Program

(only for foreign university students and graduates)

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

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

## Employment Service Centers for Foreigners (Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka)

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/e-toppage.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.

The Japanese government has established the portal site **Open for Professionals** within the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to support international students who wish to work at Japanese companies. The site provides the following information:

- Job fairs and internships offered by public agencies (you can register to participate on the site)
- Companies where former international students are active
- Information about status of residence and public insurance systems in Japan
- Consultation windows for assistance with labor issues

To assist you in your job-seeking activities, the site also provides information and contacts for Japanese companies that are actively accepting foreign employees. Check out the site if you are interested in working in Japan.



**Job Hunting Guide for International Students (JASSO)**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/job/guide.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/job/guide.html)

**Japan Alumni eNews (JASSO)**  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study\\_j/enews/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/enews/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

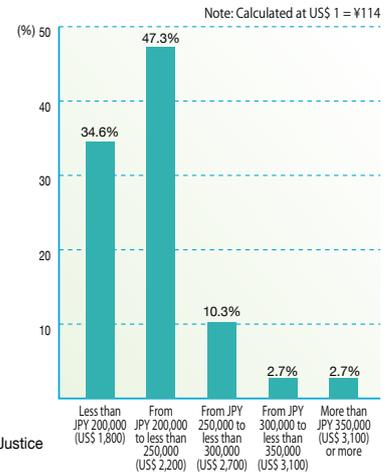


Reference: The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies in 2017 by Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice

■ Composition ratio by type of business (Top 10)

No. 1	Commerce and trading	9.5%
No. 2	IT service	7.7%
No. 3	Food service	5.2%
No. 4	Education	5.0%
No. 5	Hotels and inns	3.8%
No. 6	Machinery	3.1%
No. 7	Electrical appliances	3.1%
No. 8	Foods	2.7%
No. 9	Construction	2.7%
No. 10	Transportation	2.2%

■ Starting salary (monthly)



### ■ 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 university<sup>1</sup> or professional training college<sup>2</sup>, you can still continue to engage in job-seeking activities in Japan for one more year after graduation by changing your status of residence from “Student” to “Designated Activities.” The period of stay of “Designated Activities” is six months, and as a rule, only one additional six-month extension is allowed<sup>3,4</sup>.

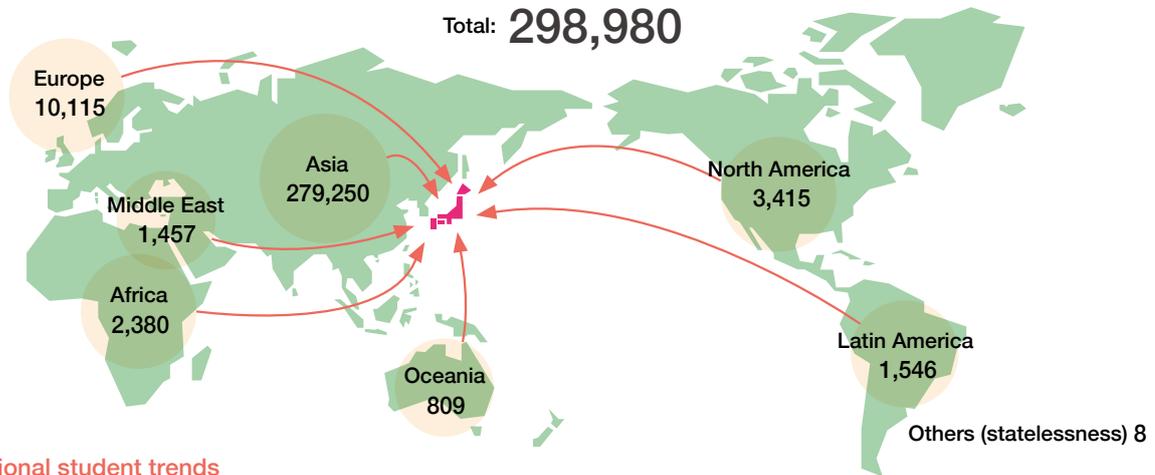
1) Academic background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduates of universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology.</li> <li>• Graduates of professional training colleges in Japan who have obtained the academic title of “diploma.”</li> </ul>
2) Types of job to be engaged in	Emphasis is placed on whether the jobs are related to their majors. For instance, a person who is a fashion design graduate but opts to work as a computer programmer will have difficulty changing his/her status of residence.
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.

1. Includes junior colleges and graduate schools. However, this does not include preparatory Japanese language program students, audit students, credit-earning students and research students.
2. Limited to those who have acquired a diploma.
3. You need a recommendation from the school.
4. 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.

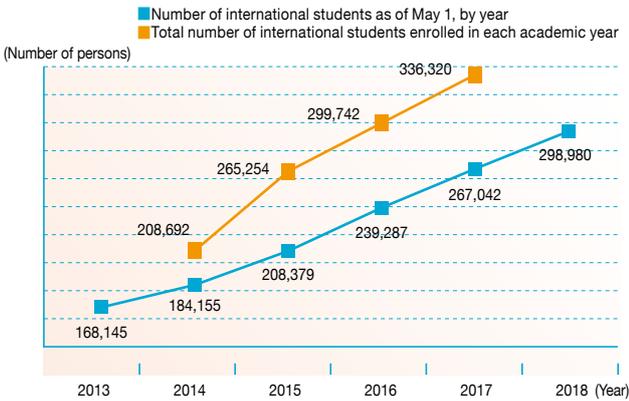
# Statistics

## Number of international students in Japan

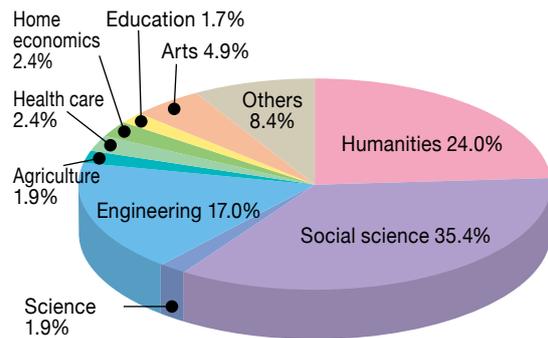
As of May 1, 2018



## International student trends



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



## Number of international students by academic level

		(Number of persons)			
		National	Local public	Private	Total
Academic Level	Graduate school	31,715	2,043	16,426	50,184
	University (undergraduate)	12,554	1,855	70,448	84,857
	Junior college	0	19	2,420	2,439
	College of technology	467	0	43	510
	Professional training college	0	19	67,456	67,475
	University preparatory course			3,436	3,436
	Japanese language institute		58	90,021	90,079
	<b>Total</b>		<b>44,736</b>	<b>3,994</b>	<b>250,250</b>

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

(Number of persons)		
	Country (region)	No. of students
No. 1	China	114,950
No. 2	Vietnam	72,354
No. 3	Nepal	24,331
No. 4	South Korea	17,012
No. 5	Taiwan	9,524
No. 6	Sri Lanka	8,329
No. 7	Indonesia	6,277
No. 8	Myanmar	5,928
No. 9	Thailand	3,962
No. 10	Bangladesh	3,640

Source: Results of an Annual Survey of International Students in Japan 2018 (JASSO)  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/about/statistics/intl\\_student\\_e/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/about/statistics/intl_student_e/index.html)

## Number of higher education institutions

(Number of schools)				
	National	Local public	Private	Total in schools
Graduate schools	86	83	467	636
Universities (undergraduate)	82	91	583	756
Junior colleges	0	17	314	331
College of technology	51	3	3	57
Professional training colleges	9	186	2,611	2,806

Note: The Open University of Japan is included as a private university.  
 Source: FY2018, School Basic Survey, MEXT  
 Note: As of May 1, 2018

## 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.

## Study in Japan Global Network Project

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

<b>Yangon, Myanmar</b>
Okayama University
<a href="http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/myanmar/index.html">http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/myanmar/index.html</a>


<b>Lusaka, Zambia</b>
Hokkaido University
<a href="https://www.hokkaido-university-lusakaoffice-zm.com/">https://www.hokkaido-university-lusakaoffice-zm.com/</a>


<b>New Delhi, India</b>
University of Tokyo
<a href="https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/adm/utindia/en/index.html">https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/adm/utindia/en/index.html</a>


<b>São Paulo, Brazil</b>
University of Tsukuba
<a href="http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/overseas/s%C3%A3o-paulo?language=en">http://www.global.tsukuba.ac.jp/overseas/s%C3%A3o-paulo?language=en</a>


<b>Russia and CIS</b>
Hokkaido University, University of Tsukuba, Niigata University
Coming soon


<b>Middle East and northern Africa</b>
Kyushu University
<a href="https://jmena.jp/en/">https://jmena.jp/en/</a>


# Useful Information

## Basic information



### JASSO website

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

- Search for schools
- Scholarships
- Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
- Study in Japan Fairs and other events organized by JASSO

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



### Study in Japan Resource Facilities

Brochures of educational institutions in Japan and books on study in Japan are available for browsing.

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



In Japanese



In English



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

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

- Information on study in Japan
- Japanese Government scholarships

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



### "Study in Japan" Website

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

- Planning your studies in Japan
- Life in Japan
- Job and career 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.



Independent Administrative Institution

**Japan Student Services Organization**

Tel: +81-3-5520-6111 Fax: +81-3-5520-6121  
2-2-1 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-8630 Japan

[infoja@jasso.go.jp](mailto:infoja@jasso.go.jp)

## Overseas Representative Offices

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

**JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Jakarta**

Summitmas Tower I, 2nd Floor, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman

KAV 61-62 Jakarta 12190 INDONESIA

[info@jasso.or.id](mailto:info@jasso.or.id)

<http://www.jasso.or.id/>

<https://www.facebook.com/jasso.indonesia>

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

**JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Bangkok**

10F Serm-mit Tower, 159 Asok-Montri Rd., Klongtoey-Nua,

Wattana, Bangkok 10110 THAILAND

[info@jeic-bangkok.org](mailto:info@jeic-bangkok.org)

<https://www.jeic-bangkok.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Thailand>

 **Vietnam** Tel: +84-24-3710-0226

**JASSO Vietnam Office**

4th Floor of CornerStone Building, 16 Phan Chu Trinh,

Hoan Kiem, Hanoi, VIETNAM

[info@jasso.org.vn](mailto:info@jasso.org.vn)

<https://www.jasso.org.vn/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Vietnam>

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

**JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Seoul**

#702 Garden Tower, 84 Yulgok-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul 03131,

KOREA

[jasso@jasso.or.kr](mailto:jasso@jasso.or.kr)

<http://www.jasso.or.kr/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Korea>

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

**JASSO Japan Educational Information Center, Kuala Lumpur**

A-7-5, Northpoint Offices, Mid Valley City,

No.1, Medan Syed Putra Utara, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

[enquiry@studyinjapan.org.my](mailto:enquiry@studyinjapan.org.my)

<http://www.studyinjapan.org.my/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JASSO.Malaysia>

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.jasso.go.jp/en/toiawase/index.html>