STUDY IN JAPAN A GUIDE FOR U.S. STUDENTS

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Digital Version

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Study in Japan: A Guide for U.S. Students

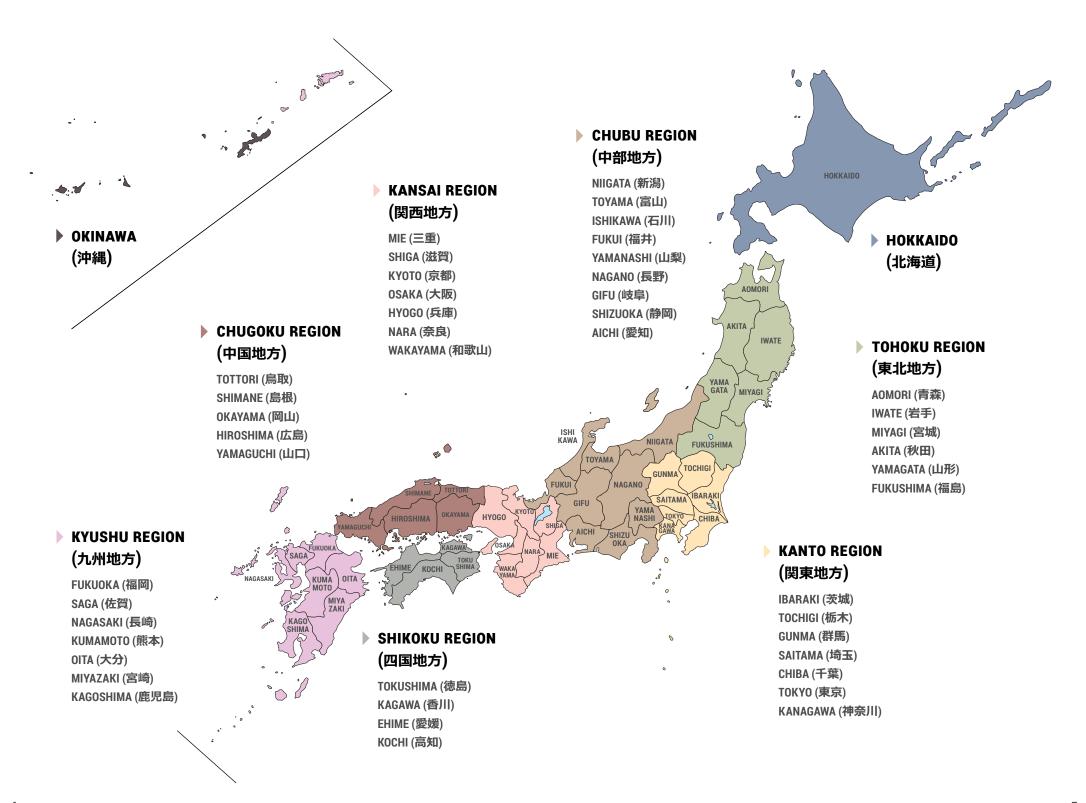
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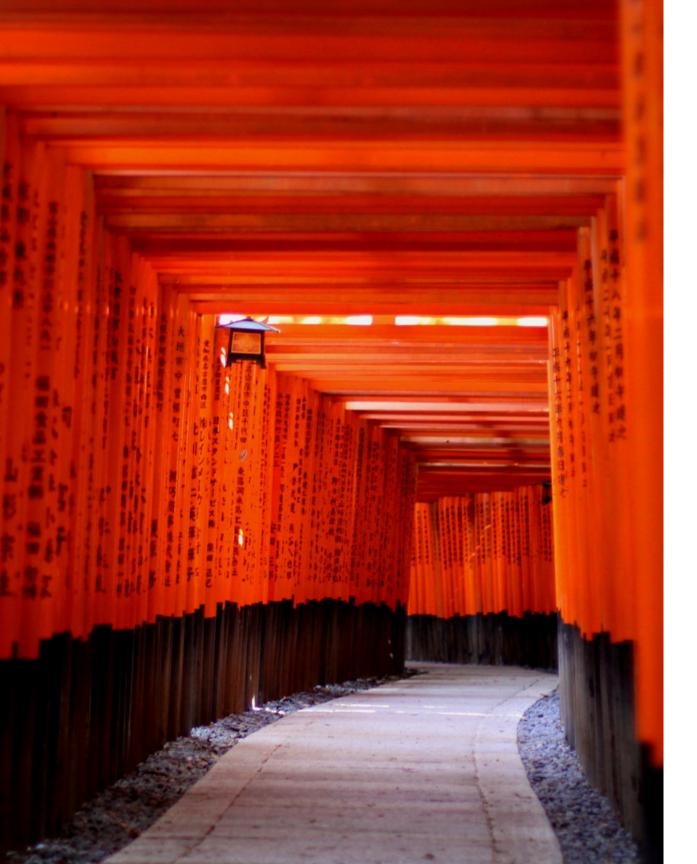
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Getting Started

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps as a child, you were interested in manga and anime. Maybe you read Japanese folktales or fell in love with expressive haiku poetry. Perhaps you are studying robotics, engineering, sustainable energy practices, or automobile manufacturing. Regardless of your first introduction to Japanese innovation and culture, when it comes to learning more, you will find that there is no substitute for the personal and professional growth provided by living and studying in Japan. According to the Open Doors Data, collected by the Institute of International Education, the number of U.S. students studying abroad in Japan had been increasing since 2011, reaching a pre-pandemic high of nearly 9,000 U.S. students in 2018-2019. Through this informational packet, the Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan hopes to answer a few of those pressing study abroad questions and to get you ready for your next adventure - Japan!

GENERAL OVERVIEW & REQUIREMENTS

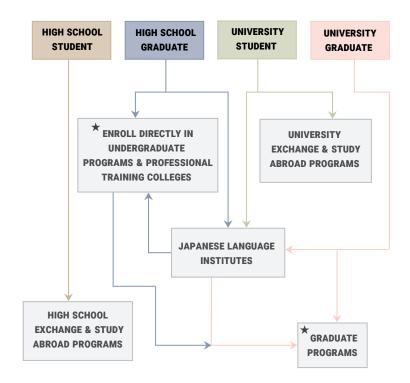
The Japanese school system begins with six years of elementary education, then three years of junior high school education, and finally three years of high school education. After high school, Japanese students may either enter the workforce or continue on to institutes of higher education. While Japanese schools typically begin in April and end in March, some universities may start in the fall and mimic the American academic year for international students studying abroad.

For U.S. students looking to study in Japan, there are U.S.-Japan exchange programs, private Japanese Language Institutes, and specialized programs for undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students. In order to attend an institute of higher education, applicants must generally be at least 18 years of age and have completed 12 years of schooling. Many higher education institutes conduct classes in Japanese, but more and more institutes have begun to offer courses and programs entirely in English. To take classes in Japanese, the applicant may be asked to complete a preparatory education course or show proficiency in Japanese.

CHOOSING A PROGRAM

For U.S. students looking to study in Japan, there are five major types of study abroad programs, from high school to graduate programs. Determining which one is right for you is essential. This section describes these five major types of study abroad programs and contains resources to help you start on your journey.

Keep in mind that application timelines and program requirements vary from program to program. Make sure to research program requirements ahead of time so that your application is submitted in a timely manner.



★ JAPANESE LANGUAGE ABILITY MAY BE REQUIRED

HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE & STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

U.S. students are encouraged to participate in programs through their high school. Inquire with your school's guidance counselor or homeroom teacher to see if your school offers exchange programs.

If your high school does not offer study abroad or exchange programs to Japan, there are many private programs for high school students wishing to study in Japan. These programs are typically paired with a homestay, where students can live with a Japanese family to gain a better understanding of life in Japan. These kinds of immersive programs improve Japanese language ability and expose students to everyday life in Japan. Application timelines and program requirements vary. Research the different programs and requirements ahead of time to make sure your application is submitted in a timely manner.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF JAPANESE www.aatj.org/students/studyabroad/high-school-programs/

GOABROAD.COM www.goabroad.com/highschool-study-abroad/search/japan/ highschool-programs-abroad-1

GO OVERSEAS www.gooverseas.com/high-school-abroad/japan

UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE & STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

U.S. students are encouraged to participate in exchange programs through their home university. The length of study ranges from short-term and summer programs, to semester or year-long programs. These exchange programs may have credit and tuition exchanges, allowing peace of mind for students worried about the transfer of academic credit from an overseas institution. The home university may also offer support such as detailed instructions on visa procedures or choosing classes.

While the selection of classes that are available depends on the university, in addition to Japanese language classes, there may be classes on a variety of other topics conducted either in Japanese or in English. If your school does not offer an exchange program, the American Association of Teachers of Japanese provides a short list of university study abroad programs offered by U.S. and Japanese institutions and independent organizations that may admit non-affiliated or independent university students.

JAPAN STUDENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/search-shorttermprogram/ short_program_search.php?lang=en

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF JAPANESE www.aatj.org/students/studyabroad/college-university-programs/

JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTES

& PREPARATORY JAPANESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES & JUNIOR COLLEGES

There are over 600 official Japanese Language Institutes located throughout Japan. The institutes are specifically designed to improve a student's Japanese language proficiency through either a short-term or long-term program. Students can pick from numerous institutions located throughout Japan. Private universities and junior colleges may also offer competitive language courses for students wishing to improve their Japanese language ability, with the purpose of directly enrolling into a Japanese higher education institute.

JAPAN STUDENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/planning/search-school/nihongokyouiku/

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION www.nisshinkyo.org/search/index_e.html

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (JAPANESE) jalsa.tokyo/

JAPANESE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/highered/title02/detail02/sdetail02/ sdetail02/1383123.htm

IMMIGRATION SERVICES AGENCY OF JAPAN www.isa.go.jp/en/index.html

DIRECT ENROLL

TO UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COLLEGES IN JAPAN

U.S. students may apply directly to Japanese undergraduate universities and colleges. These two- or four-year programs are immersive, with students directly incorporated into the Japanese higher education system. In addition, students will receive a certificate or degree from the university. Many universities in Japan conduct classes in Japanese, but more and more universities are offering bilingual Japanese-English programs, as well as degree programs offered entirely in English. For programs in Japanese, you may need to prove your Japanese language proficiency. Most Japanese schools start their school year in April. However, many universities have begun implementing fall admission in September or October.

Check out Japan Study Support's list of universities with online applications (*www.jpss.jp/en/feature/pre-arrival-admissions/*) or request application documents from the university directly.

JAPAN STUDY SUPPORT www.jpss.jp/en/

JAPAN STUDENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/planning/search-school/

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COLLEGES JAPAN study-japan-ptc.jp/top_en.html

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS OF JAPAN (JAPANESE) www.zensenkaku.gr.jp/association/index.html

AVERAGE TUITION IN JAPAN AND THE U.S. FOR 1 YEAR



public universities (in-state) \$9,400	private universities \$36,700

*the standard tuition for national universities is set by the government

1 US Dollar \approx 140 Yen. Excluding medical, dental and pharmaceutical programs.

Source: Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) 2021 National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education (2019-2020) The Federal Reserve (Nov 2022)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Many universities offer one- or two-year graduate and post-graduate programs in various disciplines. Most graduate schools require the submission of a research proposal and, in many cases, you will also have to find your own thesis advisor. Depending on the school, you may have to find an advisor and get their approval before applying. Register on the website below to search for research advisors. In general, you must obtain a Master's degree before applying for a Doctoral program. Language requirements, cost, and areas of study vary with each program.

JAPAN STUDENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/search-school/school_search.php?lang=en

JAPAN STUDY SUPPORT www.jpss.jp/en/

RESEARCH MAP (FOR RESEARCHING RESEARCH ADVISORS) researchmap.jp/auth/login?lang=en

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

JAPANESE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PORTRAITS (JPCUP) *jpcup.niad.ac.jp/*

JPCUP is a free, public data portal where information on national, public and private universities and colleges is published.

JAPAN VIRTUAL CAMPUS (JV CAMPUS) www.jv-campus.org/en/user/



Through JV-Campus, over 300 courses are accessible to students from overseas. Courses for learning Japanese are categorized by level of language knowledge, and many of them are free. They can be used for students studying abroad to get a feel for classes before heading to Japan.

Besides Japanese language, courses on Japanese culture, careers in Japan, and other topics international students are interested in are constantly being developed and added.

JAPAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Many universities in Japan provide education that contributes to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Of the top 20 universities worldwide impacting SDG's, two are in Japan, and 76 Japanese universities are ranked overall⁽¹⁾.

(1) Source: Times Higher Education, Impact Rankings 2022

TIPS!

SISTER CITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Through the Sister Cities International program, there are over 450 sister cities between the United States and Japan. Sometimes these cities offer exchange programs for their citizens. You can check out the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations' website for more information on where sister cities are located, and what cities in Japan are looking to find a sister city.

www.clair.or.jp/e/exchange/index.html

SEARCHING FOR STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

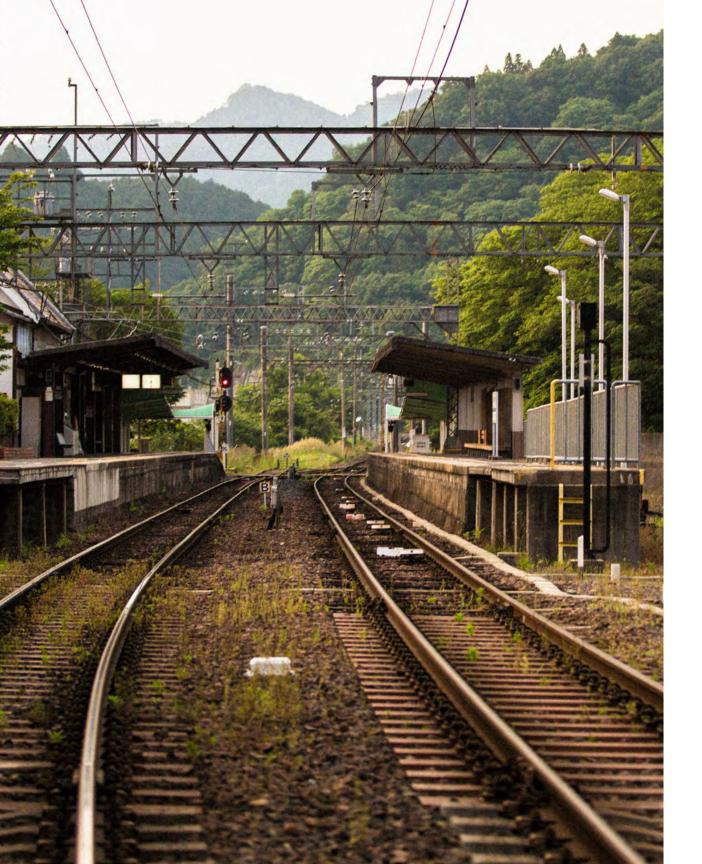
You can use the College Board to search for U.S. universities that have study abroad opportunities and majors in Japanese Language and other Japan-related fields. Japan-related majors such as "East Asian Studies," "East Asian Languages, Literature, and Linguistics," and "Japanese Studies," may include a Japanese language component, so make sure to check with the university. Note also that while many schools do not offer a Japanese major, they may offer a minor and study abroad opportunities.

bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

JAPAN STUDENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION'S STUDENT GUIDE TO JAPAN

www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/other/sgtj/

STUDY IN JAPAN COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE WEBSITE www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/



Application Process

INTRODUCTION

If you are applying to an exchange program through your U.S. university, much of the application process will be handled by your home institution. They will provide you with the requirements and cost of the program. If you are applying directly to a Japanese Language Institute or Japanese university, you will be responsible for completing your application and, if necessary, proving your Japanese language ability. You can request application documents directly from universities in Japan. Please keep in mind that application requirements and timelines vary, so be sure to start the process well in advance.

VISA APPLICATION

If you plan to study abroad in Japan, you most likely will need to apply for a visa. This also applies to those who are traveling to Japan with a grant such as the Fulbright Grant. In order to apply for a visa, we highly recommend that the sponsor (school, academic program, professor, etc.) apply for a "Certificate of Eligibility" on your behalf with the local Immigration Office in Japan. Obtaining this document can take up to three months but will streamline the visa application process and ultimately save you time. You can find detailed information about the "Certificate of Eligibility" application process on the Immigration Services Agency of Japan's website: *www.isa.go.jp/en/index.html*.

Once you receive the "Certificate of Eligibility," visit the Embassy of Japan or Consulate General of Japan that has jurisdiction over your area of residence. You can find the Embassy and consulate locations and their jurisdictions on the JICC website: *www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/consul-ate-guide.html*. You will need to submit a valid passport, a visa application form, one passport-style photograph (2"x2") attached to the application form, and an original and copy of the "Certificate of Eligibility." Please note that the Embassy or Consulate General of Japan may require additional documentation. Please check their website before applying for the visa. For more specific information, please visit the Embassy of Japan in the United States' website: *www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/travel_and_visa.html*.

PROVING LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Some programs and universities may require proof of language ability before enrollment. Please be sure to check with your desired program or university for their specific language requirements. Here are three tests commonly taken by students looking to enroll in a Japanese program.



► JAPANESE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST

Since 1984, the JLPT has been administered by the Japan Foundation and the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services to test the Japanese language proficiency of non-native speakers. The test is administered once a year in the United States in early December. There are 17 university test sites located near the following U.S. cities: Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Boston, Boulder, Chicago, Fayetteville, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Monterey, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. Please see the link below for information regarding cost, registration, and preparation: *www.jlpt.jp/e/*



EXAMINATION FOR JAPANESE UNIVERSITY ADMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The EJU was established in 2002 and is used to evaluate the Japanese language skills and other basic academic abilities needed to study in higher education institutions throughout Japan. To see which universities base their admission of international students on the results of the EJU, please check the JASSO website. The test is administered twice a year, once in June and once in November, but there are no testing sites in the United States. Please visit the website below for more information: *www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/index. html.*



BUSINESS JAPANESE TEST

The BJT is a proficiency test that has been measuring communicative Japanese business language skills since its development in 1996. Many Japanese businesses and schools use BJT results as part of their evaluation of international students. An account must be created in order to register for an exam and to choose a date and testing location. There are three sites in the following U.S. cities: New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Please follow the link below for more information on cost, testing sites, and registration information: *www.kanken.or.jp/bjt/english/.*

SCHOLARSHIPS

Typically, students will be responsible for airfare to and from Japan, housing costs, and daily expenses. However, there are many scholarships available for U.S. students interested in studying in Japan. In this packet, we will provide information on Japan- and U.S.-government sponsored scholarships. For more information on other scholarships available to U.S. students, see the Tips at the end of this section.

U.S. GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP BOREN AWARDS FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM JAPAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS **JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP** MONBUKAGAKUSHO HONORS SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT EXCHANGE SUPPORT PROGRAM **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR RESEARCH IN JAPAN**

U.S. GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



• **BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP** U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Institute of International Education

The Gilman Scholarship is a grant program that provides students with limited financial means the resources needed to study or intern abroad. Award amounts will vary depending on the length of the programs, but can be up to \$8,000 if paired with a critical need language such as Japanese. Please see the link below to learn more about the program: *www.gilmanscholarship.org.*



CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP
U.S. Department of State and American Councils for International Education

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion for U.S. students studying languages deemed critical to national security and economic prosperity. This fully funded 8–10 week program provides intensive language instruction and cultural enrichment activities to students enrolled at U.S. universities or colleges. CLS only offers Japanese at the intermediate and advanced levels. See the link below to learn more about eligibility and requirements: *clscholarship.org*.



BOREN AWARDS National Security Education Program

The Boren Awards aim to provide opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students to study languages from world regions critical to U.S. interests. There are two types of funding: the scholarship which provides up to \$25,000 of funding for short- to long-term study for undergraduates, and the fellowship which provides up to \$30,000 for overseas study and domestic language learning for graduate students. After graduation, recipients are expected to work in the federal government for at least one year. Please see the link below for more information about program requirements: *borenawards.org.*



FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

The Fulbright Program is the oldest and largest international educational exchange program of the ECA. It provides recent graduates and graduate students with awards to study, teach, or research in more than 140 countries. Currently, Fulbright offers Open Study/Research Awards in Japan to graduating seniors for 10 months and to graduate/PhD students for 12 months. These awards require an intermediate level of Japanese. To learn more about the program and requirements, see the link below: *us.fulbrightonline.org.*

JAPAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

The Japanese Government has offered four types of MEXT Scholarships each year to assist U.S. students interested in enrolling in Japanese universities. Applications must be submitted to the Embassy of Japan or the Consulate General of Japan responsible for your jurisdiction. Please see the link below for more information: *www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/ mext-scholarship-info.html*



MONBUKAGAKUSHO HONORS SCHOLARSHIP Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students

A scholarship program for international students with excellent academic records who are enrolling in schools or universities in Japan, and are facing financial difficulties: *www. jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/scholarship_j/shoreihi/about.html* Japan Student Services Organization

STUDENT EXCHANGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

The Student Exchange Support Program provides scholarships to qualified international students who are accepted into a short-term study abroad program at a Japanese university, graduate school, junior college, college of technology, or professional training college. A study abroad arrangement must be made between the Japanese university and a non-Japanese university, and the program cannot be more than one year long. For more information on the application process and guidelines for eligibility, please visit: *www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/scholarship_j/ukeire.html*



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCHERS IN JAPAN

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

A postdoctoral fellowship program for highly qualified researchers from around the world to conduct joint research activities with colleagues at Japanese universities and research institutes.: *www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/*

STUDY ABROAD STORIES

Learn about the real-life experiences of studying in Japan by using the Instagram hashtag #USJapanStudyAbroad to search for stories of students who have studied abroad before – or use it to share your own experience someday!





Hitotsubashi University Business School



Shibaura Institute of Technology



Nihon Kogakuin College



Osaka University



JAPAN STUDY SUPPORT'S LIST OF UNIVERSITIES WITH ONLINE APPLICATIONS

www.jpss.jp/en/feature/webapplication/

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF JAPANESE www.aatj.org/students/studyabroad/

JASSO'S LIST OF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOV-ERNMENTS, & PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/planning/by-style/pamphlet/



Living in Japan

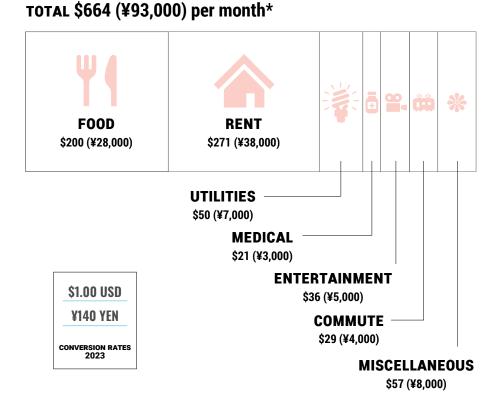
INTRODUCTION

From eating fresh *onigiri* (rice balls) at your local *konbini* (convenience store) to taking the subway line on your way to experience the incredible view from the top of Tokyo Skytree, you will always have something to do in Japan. Whether you choose to live in an apartment, with a host family, or in a dormitory, you will begin to understand why Japanese culture attracts over 3.5 million U.S. visitors each year.

The more you get involved in the community, the more Japan will start to feel like home. A great way of doing this is by participating in student organizations known as "circles," engaging in language exchange with other students or community members, and volunteering at schools or with nonprofit organizations. There you can make friends and meet local Japanese people who will ease the transition into this new chapter of your life. This next section will focus on answering some of your questions about living in Japan.

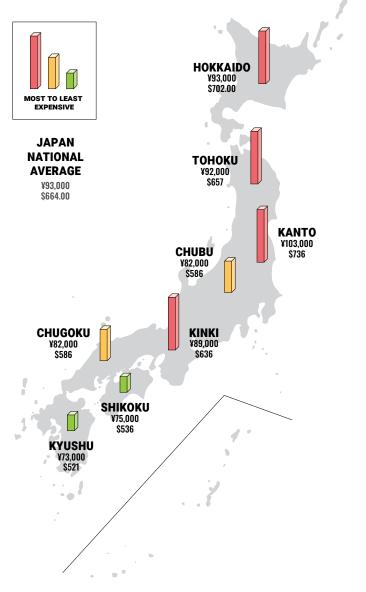
COST OF LIVING

The average monthly cost of living for international students in Japan is JPY ¥93,000 or USD \$664. You may be surprised to find that eating out is less expensive than in the U.S. Historically, Japan has been a cash-based economy but now cards and payment apps are commonly accepted. You can withdraw cash from international ATMs located at most major convenience stores, or, if you are staying long term, you can set up a Japanese bank account to withdraw from a major banking institution or post office in Japan. Please keep in mind that many Japanese bank affiliated ATMs are not open 24 hours and are generally closed on national holidays.



AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES

The infographic below shows the average monthly expenses of an international student per region.



Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students, 2021 (JASSO)

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

RESIDENCE CARD AND "MY NUMBER"

The Residence Card (在留力一ド, *zairyu kado*) serves as your primary form of identification while in Japan and should be carried at all times. Please present your valid passport with visa and enrollment documents to immigration upon arrival at the port of entry and they will issue your Residence Card or a stamp notifying authorities that you will receive your Residence Card later. After arriving, please notify the municipal office (市役所, *shiyakusho*) of your Japanese address within 14 days. They will update your Residence Card with your new address.



After registering with your local municipal office, you will be sent a notice with a 12-digit Individual Number, or "My Number" ($\neg (\neg /))$, mai namba). Like a social security number, this number should be kept secret and may be required for official paperwork like applications for, and receipt of, scholarships. Consult your municipal office if you do not receive your Individual Number Notice after registering your address. It's important to note that this notice serves only to inform you of your Individual Number and cannot be used as general identification. You will receive an Individual Number Application Form to apply for issuance of your Individual Number Card which will be an official identification.

If your My Number Card is lost or stolen, please notify the police and ask your municipal office to reissue the My Number Card. If you change your

residence, please submit the proper paperwork with your Residence Card and My Number to both your previous municipal office and the municipal office of your new residence within 14 days of moving.

HEALTH INSURANCE

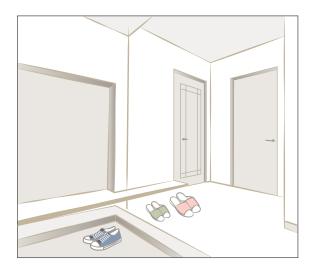
If you are participating in a study program of three months or longer, you must register with the National Healthcare system at your local municipal office (市役所, *shiyakusho*). Generally, insurance through the national plan will cover 70% of medical bills (barring private medical treatment) and will cost about USD \$40 per month. However, this cost can vary depending on income earned, so be sure to provide the necessary documentation (i.e. Residence Card, student ID, enrollment letter, income information). Some institutions have their own plans which may cover more than the national insurance plan. The International Student Insurance website covers various health insurance choices and some information on application requirements: *www. internationalstudentinsurance.com/japan-student-insurance/.*

PART-TIME WORK – PERMIT APPLICATION

Some students may want to improve their Japanese language skills by immersing themselves in the Japanese workforce or help with living expenses by working part-time. However, there are circumstances where this is not possible. Those with only the residence status of "student" are ineligible for part-time employment in Japan. Those students who are interested in working may apply for permission to engage in an activity other than that permitted under the previously granted residence status immediately upon arrival in Japan or submit the *shikakugai katsudo kyoka* (資格 外活動許可, Permission to Engage in Activity other than that Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted) at their local immigration office (地方出入国在留管理局, *chiho shutsunyukoku zairyu kanrikyoku*; 出張所, *shucchojo*). For more details, please check the Immigration Service Agency of Japan's website: *www.isa.go.jp/en/applications/guide/nyuukoku-kanri07_00045.html*.

HOUSING

Most programs in Japan will offer different options for living arrangements. Some can place you with a homestay family, where you will be given a room in a local family's house and live as a member of that family. Some will have dormitory living, either in dorms alongside Japanese students at that institution or in separate halls for international students. Some programs may allow you to live in your own apartment. Apartments in Japan can be expensive, requiring a guarantor, a security deposit, and sometimes a fee known as "key money." Some schools allow school officials to act as a guarantor for students who wish to rent their own apartment by joining the "Comprehensive Renters' Insurance for Foreign Students Study in Japan."

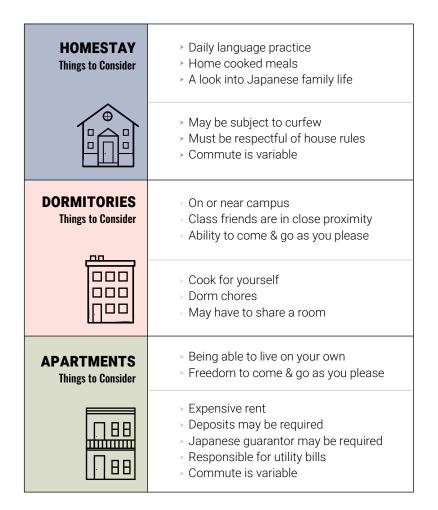


GENKAN (玄関)

The *genkan* is a traditional Japanese entryway to a house, apartment, or building. One must remove one's shoes here and change into slippers before entering the home.

CHOOSING A HOUSING OPTION

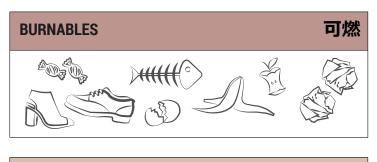
The table below lists some things to consider when deciding the housing options of homestay, dormitories, or apartments in Japan.



GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Japan has many categories for recycling. Though the specifics may vary from city to city. Basic categories include Burnables, Non-burnables, Plastics, Hazardous, Oversized, Cans and Bottles, and Paper and Cardboard. Each city provides its residents with a garbage collection calendar and may require the use of specific disposal areas and garbage bags that can be bought at the local supermarket. Please be advised that if you do not sort your garbage properly or place it in the correct location at the correct time, your garbage may be returned to you.

GENERAL GUIDE TO GARBAGE & RECYCLING SORTING IN JAPAN







TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

TRAVEL WITHIN JAPAN - PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

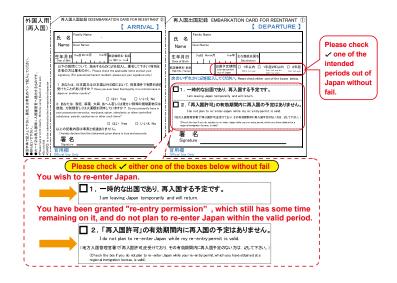
According to the Statistical Handbook of Japan 2022 (*www. stat.go.jp/english/data/handbook/*), Japan continues to shift away from private automobiles, with about 73% of all passenger transport being carried out by railway. This is both an effort to combat global warming and a necessity for moving large volumes of people throughout a country with limited space. Japan boasts one of the safest and most extensive public transportation systems in the world. Using the high-speed *shinkansen* trains that can go up to 200 mph, passengers can travel between major cities in just a few hours. If you are traveling on a budget, book a seat on a highway bus and travel overnight to your destination of choice.

The use of IC cards makes entering onto train platforms simple and quick. The IC cards can often be used on both private and public trains, buses, and metro lines, as well as to buy goods at supporting convenience stores and vending machines. They can be refilled at the ticket vending machines located in the train station. You can also use your cell phone as an IC card by downloading the app.

If undergraduate or graduate students travel 101 km or more, they are eligible to take advantage of student discount (学割, *gaku wari*) boarding passes, which allow for discounts of as much as 20% of the regular fare. Please note that non-full-time students are ineligible for this program.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF JAPAN – SPECIAL RE-ENTRY PERMITTION

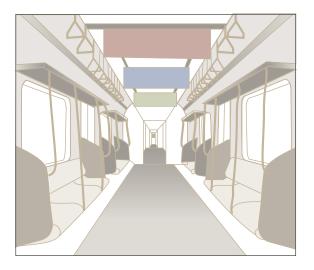
If you plan to travel outside of Japan, you will need to show your passport, Resident Card, and the Embarkation Card (available at the airport) with a checked box on "I am leaving Japan temporarily and will return." to the immigration officer at the port of exit of Japan when you depart.



The Special Re-entry Permission is valid for up to a year from the day of departure or until the expiration of your stay, whichever expires sooner. If you depart from Japan on a Special ReEntry Permit, you will not be able to extend that permit while abroad. Please note that you will lose your resident status if you fail to re-enter Japan within one year of your departure. Please see the Immigration Services Agency of Japan's website for details:*www.isa.go.jp/en/applications/ guide/minashisainyukoku.html.*

EXTENDED STAY

Students can apply to extend their stay by submitting the application form, a photograph, passport, Resident Card, documents certifying enrollment, and proof of funds to the local immigration office three months before the end of the Period of Stay listed on their Resident Card. For more information on re-entry permits and extension of stay, please see the Study in Japan Guide: *www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/life/zairyuinjapan/.*



TRAIN ETIQUETTE (電車マナー)

Please be mindful of others when riding public transportation. Eating, playing music without headphones, and talking loudly while inside the train are considered rude in Japan.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones have become an integral part of our everyday lives. Cell phone networks and SIM plans are different in Japan than they are in the U.S. Many newer phones are compatible with Japanese networks and can be used in Japan. Check with your provider to ensure that your phone is compatible. Please note, Japan does not have a GSM network; therefore, any phones that are GSM-only will not work in Japan. If your phone network is GSM-only, it is possible to rent a phone once you arrive in Japan. Some companies have kiosks at the airport where you can complete the transaction.

If you want to use a Japanese SIM card, you will need to make sure your phone is unlocked. These SIM cards only work for a specified time period or a specified amount of data. Most SIM cards only offer data to short-term residents, though some major companies may offer cards with voice calling. Some subscription plans require a two-year contract, and are not available to those who will be in Japan for a short period.

Another option that provides voice calls and data is through MVNOs, or mobile virtual network operators, who sell both voice and data SIMs without requiring a contract. Please be aware that some of these companies will only accept a Japanese credit card for payment.

Many MVNOs offer a prepaid SIM service that can be a better long-term option. However, users need to be 18 years or older to be able to open a line with a prepaid phone.

POCKET WI-FI

If you are not looking to rent a phone or purchase a SIM card but still want to be connected, there are a number of portable Wi-Fi options. Known as Pocket Wi-Fi, the cost of these small portable devices vary depending on how much data you sign up for. Some Pocket Wi-Fi providers give you the option of picking up the device at the airport or having it be delivered to your accommodation.

Free Wi-Fi is becoming more readily available in Japan. Many big cities like Tokyo have free public Wi-Fi in major train stations, department stores, museums, and other popular tourist spots. Another option is to stop by an internet café ($\neg \neg \land$ $\neg \neg \neg \bot$, *netto café*) to pay for internet service in 15-minute increments, by the hour, or multiple hours depending on the establishment. These cafes are equipped with food, drinks, restrooms, and private rooms.

TIPS!

IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

Please check the Immigration Services Agency of Japan's page for immigration procedures and information regarding your Resident Card.

www.isa.go.jp/en/applications/guide/tetuduki_index2.html

The Immigration Services Agency of Japan also provides a list of branch locations:

www.isa.go.jp/en/about/organization/organization.html

REGISTERING AT LOCAL MUNICIPAL OFFICE

It is the student's responsibility to register at their local municipal office (市役所, *shiyakusho*) within two weeks of taking up residence in Japan. At the time of registration, your new address will be written on your Resident Card.

LIVING IN JAPAN

For more information about living in Japan, the Immigration Services Agency in Japan has published a guide to living in Japan:

www.moj.go.jp/content/001297615.pdf

TEXTING AND CALLING APPS

There are apps that can be used for texting and calling. Some of these apps can provide a local number for a fee and do not require data, only an internet connection. You can also check with your current phone company. Some providers offer overseas plans.



Health & Safety

INTRODUCTION

Out of 194 member countries providing data for the World Health Statistics Report 2022, Japan has the longest average life expectancy at birth at 83.4 years. This longevity is not possible without a governmental commitment to public health and safety. At a young age, Japanese people are educated on the importance of a natural, varied diet and proper exercise. In addition to an extensive public transportation system, which encourages people to walk to and from stations, and the naturally low-calorie diet based on fresh, seasonal foods, the government mandates enrollment in the National Health Insurance system for anyone residing in Japan for three months or more.

Japan is considered a safe country, and it is not uncommon to see elementary students riding on the trains by themselves. There are many *koban*, or Japanese police boxes, located throughout cities as well. These koban are equipped with boards and pictures to help facilitate communication between authorities and those with rudimentary Japanese ability. In Japan, gun ownership is prohibited with few exceptions. If you need to report a crime or accident, the police station can be reached by dialing 110. If you are in need of fire rescue or an ambulance, dial 119. The fire and police stations can be reached 24 hours a day, free of charge.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

110POLICE119FIRE & AMBULANCE

Open 24 hours a day. Free of charge.

Remember, you can always talk with your school or institute in Japan for help in a difficult situation. For more information on current statistics and safety measures, please visit Japan's National Police Agency website: *www.npa.go.jp/english/index.html*. The Better Life Index by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development also provides safety statistics by country: *www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/safety*.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Although Japanese food is considered some of the healthiest in the world, it can be difficult to find appropriate foods if you have dietary restrictions. Many major restaurants now include pictograms on their menus to help, but smaller restaurants may not have them.

GLUTEN FREE

If you are gluten-free, Legal Nomads and Celiac Travel provide a gluten-free card in Japanese on their websites.

LEGAL NOMADS www.legalnomads.com/gluten-free/japan#card

CELIAC TRAVEL celiactravel.com/cards/japanese

VEGAN & VEGETARIAN

For vegans and vegetarians, HappyCow and Japan Vegan both have resources to help you find accommodating restaurants. Additionally, Is it Vegan? Japan offers help with reading packaging.

HAPPYCOW happycow.net/asia/japan

JAPAN VEGAN japanvegan.blogspot.com

IS IT VEGAN? JAPAN isitveganjapan.com

► HALAL

For those with halal food restrictions, JNTO provides a guide to Muslim friendly food stores as well as a travel guide.

JNTO WELCOME GUIDE FOR MUSLIM VISITORS https://muslimguide.jnto.go.jp/eng/

FOOD ALLERGIES

If you have food allergies, be aware that any products containing eggs (卵, *tamago*), milk (牛乳, *gyunyu*; 乳製品, *nyuseihin*), wheat (小麦粉, *komugiko*), buckwheat (蕎麦, *soba*), peanuts (ピーナツ, *piinatsu*), shrimp (海老, *ebi*; エビ, *ebi*), and crab (蟹、*kani*; カニ, *kani*) will be labeled by law. The JNTO's English Tourist's Language Handbook includes information on how to indicate what you are allergic to.

JNTO'S ENGLISH TOURIST'S LANGUAGE HANDBOOK www.jnto.go.jp/eng/touristhandbook/eng.pdf



ALCOHOL & SMOKING

The drinking age in Japan is 20. This means many college and university students may be able to drink in Japan before they have come of age in the U.S. There are no open container laws in Japan, but please be mindful that it is rude to walk and drink, or walk and eat in Japan outside of parks and festival areas. Japan has a zero-tolerance rule against drinking and driving, which includes cars, motorcycles, and bicycles. If you are planning to drink and need to move to another location, please use public transportation, taxi cabs, or services, such as *daiko*, where two people will be sent to transport you and your vehicle to your desired location.

The National Police Agency created a PDF that describes the penalties for drinking and driving in Japan: www.npa.go.jp/english/bureau/traffic/document/01_ EradicationofDrinkingandDriving.pdf.

Despite many restaurants and bars allowing smoking indoors, smoking outdoors is strictly prohibited outside of designated smoking areas. In addition, you must be 20 years old to buy cigarettes in Japan. Please note that while medical and recreational marijuana has been decriminalized in some locales in the U.S., the possession of marijuana in any form in Japan is illegal. Those caught in possession may be denied permission to land in Japan and could face deportation from Japan.



HEALTHCARE & MEDICINE

There is always a possibility that you may get sick or injured while in Japan, so it is important to understand some aspects of the Japanese health care system. Clinics and hospitals in Japan can provide general care during office hours. However, many of these institutions do not accept debit or credit cards. For emergencies, call an ambulance (119) or visit an emergency center. The Japan National Tourism Organization provides a search for medical institutions that can accommodate speakers of English or those with different cultural or religious needs: *www.jnto.go.jp/emergency/eng/mi_guide.html*.

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION

Some common over-the-counter drugs in the U.S. may not be available in Japan and dosages for available drugs may be less than you are accustomed to. Visit a drug store for common items like makeup, cleaning supplies, and cold and headache medicines. For prescriptions and stronger medicines, visit a pharmacy during daytime office hours when a practicing pharmacist is available. Cold medicine and vitamin-rich supplements and drinks are available at some convenience stores.

IMPORTING PRESCRIPTION & NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Japan has a zero-tolerance policy against illegal drug use and some over-the-counter drugs from the U.S., particularly those containing more than 10% of stimulant raw material, are prohibited. Narcotics and psychotropic medications are specially regulated. Depending on the type and amount of medication you bring to Japan, you may need to obtain a yunyu kakuninsho (輸入確認書, import certificate) and present it to the customs officer upon arrival. The application documents for the yunyu kakuninsho must be submitted to the Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare closest to the arrival airport in Japan before your trip. Please check the following page for more information: www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/ itpr_en/bringing-medications-to-japan.html.

For questions about specific medications, please refer to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: *www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health-medical/pharmaceuticals/01.html*. The Narcotics Control Department also has useful information on the import and export of over-the-counter drugs and medicine: *www.ncd.mhlw.go.jp/en/application.html*.

PRESCRIPTIONS IN JAPAN

Prescriptions written in the United States may not be available in Japan. Therefore, it is best to see a Japanese doctor if you need to refill or obtain a prescription while in Japan. After receiving a prescription, the doctor can inform you of nearby pharmacies that will fill your prescription. Prescriptions cannot be filled at drug stores.



NATURAL DISASTERS

Because it is located on the Ring of Fire, Japan experiences many earthquakes and tsunamis, and is prone to typhoons. This means residents must be prepared in case of a natural disaster. Residents are encouraged to keep bottled water, nonperishable food items, and an evacuation bag stocked in case of emergency. Each city has designated evacuation shelters, many of which are located at nearby schools or community centers above sea level. The most common cause of damage after an earthquake is fire, so be sure to turn off all stoves and heaters.

Earthquakes, typhoons, and tsunamis are all potential emergency situations in Japan.



EARTHQUAKE

Crouch beneath a hard surface to avoid falling objects. Do not move from your surroundings unless you are in immediate danger.



TSUNAMI

As soon as a warning is emitted, please seek higher ground.



TYPHOON / MONSOON

Stock up before the storm hits and stay inside.

TIPS!

JNTO'S GUIDE FOR WHEN YOU ARE FEELING ILL

JNTO's useful Guide For When You Are Feeling III lists resources for finding a medical institution for non-Japanese speakers, as well as pictograms that you can point to when describing your condition to a doctor or pharmacist:

www.jnto.go.jp/emergency/eng/mi_guide.html

RESOURCES REGARDING SAFETY IN YOUR AREA

Check with your school or institute in Japan for valuable resources regarding safety and life in your area. The JNTO's Safety Tips for Travelers also provides general safety tips and information:

www.jnto.go.jp/safety-tips/eng/index.html

SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

The U.S. State Department also offers the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), a free service that allows U.S. citizens traveling or living abroad to enroll with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate:

step.state.gov/step/

WEATHER UPDATES

For updated information on earthquakes and severe weather, please see the Japan Meteorological Agency website:

www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.htm



Additional Resources

- STUDY IN JAPAN COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/
- JAPAN STUDENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION -STUDENT GUIDE TO JAPAN

www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/other/sgtj/

- JAPAN STUDY SUPPORT www.jpss.jp/en/
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF JAPANESE www.aatj.org/students/studyabroad/
- JAPAN GUIDE www.japan-guide.com/e/e2232.html
- ► JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION www.japan.travel/en/us/
- CULCON https://culcon.jusfc.gov/resources/
- IIE PASSPORT STUDY ABROAD https://iiepassport.org



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HIRAGANA CHART



Hiragana is a syllabary composed of 46 characters, and is characterized by the use of curved lines and round strokes. It is one of the three Japanese writing systems, along with katakana and kanji. Hiragana are used together with kanji to write word endings and other ordinary Japanese words which are not normally written with kanji, such as adverbs, and some nouns and adjectives.

きや KYA	きゆ	きよ ĸyo	
しや SHA	しゆ SHU	しよ _{SHO}	
ちや CHA	ちゆ CHU	ちよ ^{CHO}	7
(こや NYA	(こゆ NYU		
びや НҮА	ひゆ нүџ	ひよ	5
みや MYA	みゆ ^{МҮՍ}	みよ ^{MYO}	が
りや RYA	りゅ _{RYU}	りよ RYO	な
			-

ふあ FA	ふい FI	ふえ	ふお F0
うあ	うい	うえ	うお
ゔぁ	ゔぃ	ゔぇ	ゔぉ

KATAKANA CHART

	1	- 1	_	
	I	ウ	Т _Е	7
カ _{KA} :	キ_{кі}	ク _{KU}	ケ	Гко
ガ _{GA} :	₽ _{GI}	グ _{GU}	ゲ _{GE}	⊐̈́ _{GO}
サ _{SA} :	シ SHI	ス _{su}	セ SE	ソ _{s0}
ザ	ジ ,,	ズ	ゼ	ソ _{zo}
タ _{TA} ・	₹ _{CHI}	ツ _{TSU}	テ	Ь _{то}
タ _{DA} ・	ヂ _{IJ}	ッ	デ _{DE}	۲
- -	— NI	え マ FU	^{レー}	ノ NO
		フ _{FU}	HE	木 HO
パ BA	ビ BI	ブ	مر BE	ボ
パ PA	ピ _{PI}	フ _{pu}	∧° PE	ポ
	E	Ь	× ME	E _{MO}
5	ש _{RI}	ル RU		RO
RA T YA		ユ YU		B YO
ワ wA				J wo
		ンN		

Katakana is a syllabary composed of 46 characters, and is characterized by the use of straight lines and sharp corners. It is one of the three Japanese writing systems, along with hiragana and kanji. Katakana are used mainly to write loan words (words borrowed from other languages) and non-Japanese names, as well as to denote the various sounds and cries of animals.

キヤ KYA キユ KYU KYO	
シャ SHA シュ SHU ショ SHU	
チャ チュ チョ	力
	タ
ET EI EI MYA MYU MYO	カ
	ナ

ファ	フィ		フォ
ウァ	ウィ	ウェ	ウォ
ヴァ	ヴィ ^{VI}	ヴェ	ヴォ

APPLICATION PROCES

日本語	English
日本語 (かな)	romaji
申請	Application
しんせい	shinsei
入学願書	Enrollment Application
にゅうがくがんしょ	nyūgaku gansho
入寮申込書	Dormitory Application
にゅうりょうもうしこみしょ	nyūryō mōshikomisho
出入国在留管理局	Immigration Services
しゅつにゅうこくざいりゅう	Agency
かんりきょく	shutsunyūkoku zairyū kanrikyoku
大使館	Embassy
たいしかん	taishikan
領事館	Consular or Visa Section
りょうじかん	ryōjikan
旅券	Passport
りょけん	ryoken
推薦書	Recommendation
すいせんしょ	suisensho
在留資格認定証明書 ざいりゅうしかくにんてい しょうめいしょ	Certificate of Eligibility zairyū shikaku nintei shōmeisho

日本語 日本語 (かな)	English romaji
入学許可書 にゅうがくきょかしょ	Proof of Acceptance/ Enrollment Issued by the Institution nyūgaku kyokasho
就学理由書 しゅうがくりゆうしょ	Statement of Purpose for Entering the Institution shūgaku riyūsho
志願理由書 しがんりゆうしょ	Statement of Purpose shigan riyūsho
履歴書 りれきしょ	Resume or CV rirekisho
卒業証書 そつぎょうしょうしょ	Diploma or Documents Certifying Graduation sotsugyō shōsho
成績証明書 せいせきしょうめいしょ	Transcript seiseki shōmeisho
日本語学習証明書 にほんごがくしゅうしょう めいしょ	Documents Certifying Completion of Work at a Japanese Language School nihongo gakushū shōmeisho
銀行残高証明書 ぎんこうざんだかしょう めいしょ	Proof of Funds ginkō zandaka shōmeisho

DAILY LIFE IN JAPAN

日本語	English
日本語 (かな)	romaji
割り勘	Splitting the check evenly
わりかん	wari-kan
別々 べつべつ	Split the check by what each person ordered betsubetsu
頂きます いただきます	I humbly receive this food / Let's eat itadakimasu
ご 馳走様でした	Thank you for the meal
ごちそうさまでした	go-chisōsama deshita
サービス	On the house; free
さーびす	saabisu
持ち帰り	Take out; take home
もちかえり	mochi kaeri
お冷・お湯	Cold Water / Hot Water
^{おひや・おゆ}	o-hiya / o-yu
お会計	Bill or Check
おかいけい	o-kaikei
取り皿	Small plate for sharing
とりざら	torizara

日本語	English
日本語 (かな)	romaji
試食・試着はできま	Can I try this food /
すか?	clothing?
ししょく・しちゃくはできま	shishoku / shichaku wa
すか?	dekimasu ka?
割引	Discount
わりびき	wari-biki
すみません	I'm sorry; excuse me
すみません	sumimasen
失礼します	Excuse me
しつれいします	shitsurei shimasu
お邪魔します おじゃまします	Excuse me for intruding/ interrupting/disturbing (someone else's space) o-jama shimasu
ゴミ分別	Trash Sorting
ごみぶんべつ	gomi bunbetsu
コンセント	Wall Outlet
こんせんと	konsento
ペットボトル	Plastic Bottle
ペっとぼとる	petto botoru
ガスレンジ	Gas Stove
がすれんじ	gasu-renji

DAILY LIFE IN JAPAN [CONT.]

日本語	English
日本語 (かな)	romaji
新幹線	Bullet Train
しんかんせん	shinkansen
特急 とっきゅう	Limited Express (only major stops) tokkyū
急行	Express (some stops)
きゅうこう	kyūkō
各停・ローカル	Local Train (every stop)
かくてい・ろーかる	kakutei / rookaru
優先席	Priority Seating
ゆうせんせき	yūsenseki
改札	Ticket Gate
かいさつ	kaisatsu
乗り換え	Change Trains
のりかえ	norikae
学割	Student Discount
がくわり	gaku-wari
市役所	Local Municipal Office
しやくしょ	shiyakusho

日本語 日本語 (かな)	English romaji
出入国在留管理局 しゅつにゅうこくざいりゅう かんりきょく	Immigration Services Agency shutsunyūkoku zairyū kanrikyoku
出張所 しゅっちょうじょ	Branch Office or Agency (Immigration) Shucchōjo

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

日本語	English
日本語 (かな)	romaji
救急車を呼んでくだ さい。 きゅうきゅうしゃをよんでく ださい。	Please call an ambulance! Kyūkyūsha wo yonde kudasai.
頭・お腹・胸 が痛い	My head / stomach / chest
です。	hurts.
あたま・おなか・むねがいた	Atama / o-naka / mune ga itai
いです。	desu.
熱があります。	l have a fever.
ねつがあります。	Netsu ga arimasu.
(交通事故で)怪我を	l was injured (in a traffic
しました。	accident).
(こうつうじこで)けがをしま	(Kōtsūjiko de) kega wo
した。	shimashita.
やけどをしました。	I burned myself.
やけどをしました。	Yakedo wo shimashita.
風邪を引きました。	I have a cold.
かぜをひきました。	Kaze wo hikimashita.

LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES

NHK WORLD RADIO - EASY JAPANESE www.nhk.or.jp/lesson/

ERIN'S CHALLENGE www.erin.jpf.go.jp/en/

EPALS ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITY www.epals.com/#/connections

JAPANESE IN ANIME & MANGA anime-manga.jp/en/

KIDS WEB JAPAN - LANGUAGE web-japan.org/kidsweb/language/index.html

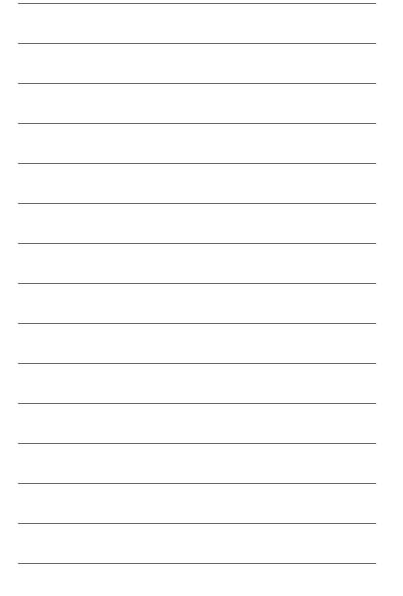
MINATO ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM minato-jf.jp

JAPAN FOUNDATION - LEARNING MATERIALS www.jpf.go.jp/e/project/japanese/education/resource/index.html

JAPAN FOUNDATION LOS ANGELES www.jflalc.org/jle-learners-new









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