Procedures for immigrating to Japan

Your country

The person who wants to study in Japan

- Apply for a visa
- Become a visa

Diplomatic establishment in Japan

Japan

The educational institution you plan to enter

- Send the certificate of eligibility

Regional Immigration Bureau

Apply for permanent residence

Airport office and other local offices of the Immigration Bureau

Travel to Japan

Apply for a visa

After a certificate of eligibility has been issued, apply for a visa at the Japanese embassy for your country or an equivalent office.

Documents required:
- Passport
- Photograph
- Certificate of eligibility
- *In addition to the above, other documents may be required.

Apply for the issuance of a certificate of eligibility

Application:
- The person who wants to study in Japan
- Agent (e.g., an employee of the institution accepting the student)*
  * In some cases, agents will handle the procedures.

Documents required:
- Application for the issuance of a certificate of eligibility
- Photograph
- Signed and sealed document
- Self-addressed envelope
- In addition to the above, the documents to be submitted may vary among institutions. Ask the institution you are applying to.

Students enter the professional training college and classes begin

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COLLEGE in JAPAN
GUIDE BOOK

Publisher: Association for Technical and Career Education
Japan: The easiest country to find a job in
Its combination of specialized skills and hospitality is drawing attention in Asia!

Welcome to a professional training college in Japan!

Message from the Office for the Promotion of Specialized Training College Education, Lifelong Learning
Promotion Division, Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

To everyone who wants to acquire vocational skills in Japan

Since the establishment of the professional training college system in 1976, professional training colleges in Japan have taken advantage of the characteristics of this flexible system and have become core institutions for practical education in response to changes in society. Today, nearly 590,000 students study at professional training colleges, which constitute an important part of the institutions of higher education in Japan.

Regarding vocational skills training, professional training colleges offer specialized and practical know-how in eight different fields, including Technology, Agriculture, Medical Care, Personal Care and Nutrition, Education and Welfare, Business, Fashion and Home Economics and Culture and General Education. These professional training colleges are training the human resources who will be supporting the industries that are expected to continue to grow in the global market, from manga, animation, games, fashion and the other pop culture categories that are drawing attention around the world today and are collectively referred to as “Cool Japan,” to environmental energy, IT and social infrastructure.

In Japan, professional training colleges are seen as producing important human resources that support society. Graduates from a professional training college are regarded, with great expectations, as having acquired specialized skills for a given workplace.

Regardless of economic trends, many graduates from professional training colleges have been successful in finding jobs. In particular, many Japanese companies that are expanding overseas want human resources who are capable of serving as a bridge between Japan and other countries, and have high expectations of foreign students who have learned specialized skills and Japanese culture at a professional training college.

After studying at a professional training college in Japan, you will be expected to expand the realm of your work worldwide as a professional who is practically equipped with vocational skills.

In recent years, Asian countries, including those in Southeast Asia, have enjoyed remarkable growth in their economies and industries. Some companies in these countries are already leading the global economy. Developing countries are no exception. They are drawing attention from around the world as hubs for outsourcing for many other countries in many different types of businesses, such as technology and infrastructure, manufacturing, food, fashion, beauty and media.

In many different areas of industry, Japan has leveraged its strength in technology, manners and hospitality, and has contributed to the growth of many other countries. The bedrock of its contribution lies in its professional training colleges.

Professional training colleges are official educational institutions authorized by the national government and enable students to acquire different certifications that can lead directly to an occupation. Every year, many foreign students come to Japan and enter the colleges. The number of these foreign students reaches nearly 59,000.

In addition to offering the opportunity to acquire specialized skills and qualifications, Japan is safe to live in, is easy for foreigners to find a job in, and is also attracting attention for its animation, food, nature and other cultural aspects.

You can acquire cultural knowledge and many different skills at a professional training college in Japan and be a step closer to finding a job at a Japanese company or a major corporation in your country.
Acquire advanced, specialized qualifications and skills

Professional training colleges in Japan

Professional training colleges in Japan are institutions of higher education and offer practical vocational training. Aimed at helping people acquire the knowledge, techniques and skills necessary for jobs and life, and to improve their general education, professional training colleges can be divided into many different fields, such as medical care, technology, cultural and general education, business, personal care and nutrition, education and welfare, fashion and home economics, and agriculture.

Position of professional training colleges in Japan

Professional training colleges are regarded as institutions of higher education, just like universities and two-year colleges, and offer vocational training in Japan at the stage of higher education. Currently, people who have completed a program such as studying for two or more years (i.e., at least 1,700 hours of classes) at a professional training college receive a Diploma, whereas those who have completed a program such as studying for four years or more (i.e., at least 3,400 hours of classes) receive an Advanced Diploma. Students with a Diploma are allowed to transfer to a university, and students with an Advanced Diploma may enroll in a graduate school.

Advantages of studying at a professional training college

The biggest advantage of studying at a Japanese professional training college is to take the direct path to a professional career. Professional training colleges are designed for students to acquire an advanced vocation in any field of interest. Today, they play an important role in higher educational institutions, just like universities do.

Very beneficial for finding a job, and also allow you to transfer to a university

The opportunity to learn specialized skills and knowledge that can be applied anywhere in the world

Excellent environments, facilities and equipment

Technical Skill

The opportunity to acquire an advanced specialty

Hospitality

The spirit of omotenashi unique to Japan

Academic degrees and titles in Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of educational institutions</th>
<th>Academic degree in Japan</th>
<th>Title in Japan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate School</td>
<td>Doctorate degree</td>
<td>Tittle in Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University/College</td>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior College</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>Professional Training College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Students who have graduated from a two-year or longer postsecondary course receive the title of Diploma, and students who have graduated from a four-year postsecondary course receive the title of Advanced Diploma.
**Specialized training and extensive job opportunities covering many job categories**

Why do professional training colleges offer such extensive job opportunities? Because their programs are customized to "specialties" in their respective field. Professional training colleges cover many different vocations, including medical care, welfare, childcare, teaching, cosmetics/makeup, cooking/restaurant/maintenance, hotel/restaurant/transport, sports/social welfare, pets/animals, clothing/fashion, music/instruments, mass media/entertainment/editing, programming/computers, games, voiceover/animation, design; calligraphy architecture/civil engineering/interior design, civil service/business, automobile mechanics/motor sports, electricity/electronics, the environment, biotechnology/life sciences/chemistry, aircraft mechanism/piloting, and many others. It is important that you choose the right college based on what you want to be.

---

**Requirements for entrance to a professional training college and a Diploma/Advanced Diploma**

**Entrance**  You must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

1. Have completed 12 years of education overseas.
2. Have passed an academic achievement test overseas or at a foreign national's school operated in Japan for foreign high school, and are at least 18 years old.
3. Have completed 12 years of education at an international baccalaureate degree, an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree, and are at least 18 years old.
4. Have completed more than 90 credits, including 30 credits in four areas: mathematics, science, social sciences, and languages.
5. Have completed 7 years of education at a foreign national's school located in Japan that is authorized by an international rating organization (WASC, CBI or ACIB), and are at least 18 years old; or
6. Have been deemed by a professional training college to have academic skills equivalent to a high school graduate based on a review of your enrollment eligibility, and are at least 18 years old.

---

**Japanese proficiency**  You must satisfy one of the following requirements:

1. Have received Japanese language training for six months or more at one of the teaching institutions included in the notification by the Ministry of Justice.
2. Have passed N1 or N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test provided by the Japan Educational Exchange Services and the Japan Foundation.
3. Have received a year or more of education at an elementary school, junior high school, or high school in Japan.
4. Have scored at least 200 points in the Japanese language (in the last score 40 points in listening/reading) on the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students provided by the Japan Student Services Organization.
5. Have scored at least 400 points on the TOEJ Business Japanese Proficiency Test provided by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Public Interest Foundation, etc.

---

**Ability to pay your school expenses**

You are required to be able to pay school expenses, living expenses and other expenses required to continue studying in Japan.

---

**Requirements for conferral of Diploma/Advanced Diploma titles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Diploma</th>
<th>Advanced Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entrance date</td>
<td>April 1st (in October)</td>
<td>April 1st (in October)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years at college</td>
<td>2 years or more</td>
<td>3 years or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours spent in class</td>
<td>1,760 hours or more</td>
<td>3,460 hours or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Certificate of graduation | A seal and/or a signature will be placed and the results will be released before the completion of the course and course.
| Course        | The course will be systematically organized, |
|              | The course will be systematically organized, |

---

**Documents required for application**

The following documents are generally required, although there are some differences among professional training colleges. For details, contact the college you wish to apply to.

1. Completed application form specified by the college.
2. High school graduation certificate.
3. Academic transcript from your last school.
4. Any document proving your ability to pay your school expenses (e.g., a bank statement from you or your guarantor).

---

**Entrance examination**

This entrance examination focuses on whether you have a clear sense of purpose (at least 1 points), whether your proficiency in Japanese and academic skills are sufficient to understand what is taught in the classes, and whether you have sufficiently mastered it.
Many different ways to enroll and expand your career options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directly from your country</th>
<th>From a Japanese language teaching institution in Japan</th>
<th>From a university or two-year college in Japan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate from an educational institution in your country</td>
<td>Graduated from a Japanese language teaching institution in Japan</td>
<td>Graduated from a university or two-year college in Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional training college

Find a job in Japan

Find a job or start a business outside of Japan

Transfer to a Japanese university

By working at a trading company, I plan to extend the scope of my activities to a broader global sphere.

Japanese College of Foreign Languages
Corto Alexandre
(Portugal)

When I was in my first year of high school, I started teaching myself Japanese. Since my country is a very small island, I wanted to extend the scope of my activities to a broader global sphere. I decided to go to Japan to study because of the country's rich culture and history. After graduation, I plan to continue my studies here in Japan, which is known for its technological advancements and business-oriented mindset.

In addition to specialized knowledge, I learned the importance of self-discipline.

Japan Electronics College
Kenyrov Andrey
(Kazakhstan)

When I was in university, I became interested in Japanese electronics, represented by such businesses as Sony, Hitachi, and Toshiba. Therefore, I decided to apply to this college in order to gain specialized knowledge in the field of electronics and develop my skills here.

Expanding your vocabulary is very important to facilitate your daily life.

Japanese Language & Tourism College
Petrov Alexander
(Russia)

I have been interested in Japanese culture since childhood. I decided to go to Japan to improve my Japanese language skills and experience Japanese culture. Before coming to Japan, I studied the language but I was still interested in learning more about the culture. Now that I am here, I have become more interested in the culture and I enjoy experiencing it firsthand.

In order to become an architect, I am studying in Japan, where the latest architectural technologies are taught.

Seikei Technical College
Eng Hasegawa
(Indonesia)

Despite Japan's frequent earthquakes, there are many high-rise buildings in the major cities, which are very beautiful. In my opinion, Japan's outstanding architectural technologies is very unique. I knew that I wanted to study architecture and I decided to apply to this college in order to gain specialized knowledge in the field of architecture and develop my skills here.

Learning about Japanese culture helped me find a job.

The Jao Group of Colleges
Graduate of Osaka Communication Arts College
Johannes Sundlov
(Estonia)

I love Japanese gardens and aesthetics. As I became interested in Japan, I decided to go to the country, as it had always wanted to work at a Japanese garden company. Thankfully to do, I applied ISC in college. Furthermore, studying with my Japanese friends every day deepened my understanding of Japanese culture. In fact, this was very helpful for joining a Japanese company as a Garden Designer. As the gardening industry still continues to improve in USD terms and become a leading designer.

I plan to learn my own brand by utilizing Japan's advanced technologies.

Graduate of Bunka Fashion College
Veselova Viktoriya
(Estonia)

I came to Japan because I was inspired by Japanese culture, such as its art and architecture. At University I am studying sewing and design in addition to the language. I am trying to gain as much experience as possible in order to improve my expression, and am also learning how to start a business. All my ideas are practical, and I am learning and am hoping to expand the possibilities of my designs. My goal is to launch my own brand by utilizing Japan’s advanced technologies, and successfully study abroad, in such a place, so you can continuously learn about beauty, Tokyo, Japan, and enjoy the way to success. I feel grateful and aim to achieve it.
Japan welcomes foreign students

In Japan, professional training colleges as well as the government, educational institutions, private enterprises and many other institutions are willing to accept foreign students. A high level of security ensures that you always feel safe. Japanese traditional culture has attracted attention internationally. Japan also has modern cities and nature-rich environments. Here, you have everything you need to ensure that you will be very satisfied when studying abroad.

Advantages of studying in Japan

1. The highest level of security in the world
   You can always feel secure about studying in Japan, one of the safest countries in the world. You will also experience the globalized and local character of the Japanese people in many situations.

2. Wide availability of dormitories and apartments
   Many professional training colleges partner with or have dormitories or apartments to accommodate foreign students. You will definitely find a place that is comfortable and convenient for commuting.

3. Exposure to Japanese traditions and culture
   Japan has modern cities, abundant nature and a unique culture of animation and fashion that has drawn attention from around the world. Every day you will discover many new things.

4. Japan ensures that foreign students are very satisfied
   According to one survey, many foreign students who have studied in Japan are satisfied with their experience in the country. The friendliness of its people, the quality of its education, and the ease of studying and working part-time will enrich your life and studies in Japan. This is something you can’t experience in any other country.

5. Professional training colleges expand future prospects
   In Japan, professional training colleges are recognized as institutions to develop important human resources with specialized knowledge and skills. Graduates of the colleges are active in many different areas. The Cool Japan strategy for expanding the attractiveness of Japan is underway and Japanese content is gaining more attention from around the world. These facts led to the clarification of standards for a resident status for foreign students who are pursuing careers in animation, fashion, design, food and other areas relating to Cool Japan. The Japanese national government has shown its willingness to employ foreign students in the industry of nursing care. For example, some foreign students of Japanese professional training colleges with a care worker’s certification have been allowed to acquire a working visa in Japan. One of the reasons for the increased employment of graduates from professional training colleges has remained at a high level irrespective of economic trends.

School expenses (amount paid in the first year)

The practical training fee and textbook fee must be paid in addition to the money payable in the first year—namely, the admission fee and tuition. Fees differ among fields and colleges. The following should be considered as a rough standard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (yen)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition, etc. (colleges)</td>
<td>471,000 – 1,109,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission fee (yen)</td>
<td>96,000 – 403,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (yen)</td>
<td>814,000 – 1,512,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (dollars)</td>
<td>8,140 – 17,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Calculated on the assumption that 1 US dollar equals 109 yen.
* Average annual for daytime classes (data provided by the Metropolitan Tokyo Professional Institutions Association)
* The above expenses may vary among fields.

Part-time jobs

According to a survey by JASSO, nearly 63% of foreign students of professional training colleges have a part-time job. Restaurant-related jobs are the most common, followed by sales, teaching/research assistant and building staff positions among others. The hourly wage ranges from 400 yen to 1,200 yen for a restaurant job, with some difference between jobs and regions. If you work 28 hours a week, the maximum weekly working hours provided by the law, you will make almost 80,000 to 120,000 yen a month. To work part-time, you must obtain from the nearest Immigration Bureau or equivalent permission to engage in activities other than those permitted, and attest to the following:

1. That the part-time job will not hinder your studies.
2. That the part-time job is to supplement your school expenses and/or other necessary expenses, and is not for savings or for sending money home.
3. That the part-time job does not involve the sex industry.
4. That you will not work more than 28 hours a week.
5. That the part-time job is allowed only during the period of your enrollment in the training institution.

After July 9, 2012, an application for permission to engage in activities other than those permitted may be made at the airport that issues your residence card when permission to land is given (as of the abovementioned date, only Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Central Japan International Airport and Kansai International Airport were issuing residence cards).

If you work without permission or beyond the time of scope permitted, you may be punished or forced to leave the country.

Institutions such as professional training colleges and public employment agencies around the country, known as Miraikan Work, offer foreign students part-time jobs.

Common example of income and expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A survey by JASSO

Guidebook on Professional Training Colleges

Guidebook on Professional Training Colleges

Guidebook on Professional Training Colleges

Guidebook on Professional Training Colleges