

Living in Japan Guide

Your Complete Guide to Japanese Visas and Immigration

Prepared by JP Supports

Welcome to Japan

Congratulations on taking the first step toward your journey to Japan. Whether you are planning to study, work, start a new career, or experience Japanese culture, understanding the visa process is one of the most important parts of your relocation.

A visa is more than just permission to enter Japan—it defines your legal status, what activities you may perform, how long you can stay, and your responsibilities while living in the country. Understanding these requirements will help you avoid legal issues and ensure that your transition to Japan is smooth and successful.

This guide has been prepared by **JP Supports** to provide an easy-to-understand overview of Japanese visas, immigration procedures, residence registration, legal responsibilities, and helpful advice for newcomers.

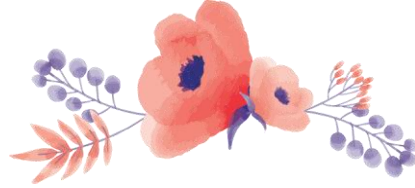
What Is a Japanese Visa?

A Japanese visa is an official authorization issued by the Government of Japan that allows foreign nationals to enter Japan for a specific purpose. Once you arrive, your immigration status is determined by your **Status of Residence**, which specifies the activities you are legally permitted to undertake.

Every foreign resident must comply with the conditions attached to their visa throughout their stay in Japan.

Your visa does **not** automatically allow you to perform any type of work or activity. The activities you engage in must match your approved visa category.





Living in Japan Guide

Common Types of Japanese Visas

Before Traveling to Japan

Before departing for Japan, ensure you have prepared the following documents:

- Valid Passport
- Japanese Visa
- Certificate of Eligibility (if applicable)
- Flight Tickets
- Accommodation Details
- Employment Contract or School Admission Letter
- Emergency Contact Information
- Copies of Important Documents

Store digital copies securely online and carry printed copies separately from the originals.

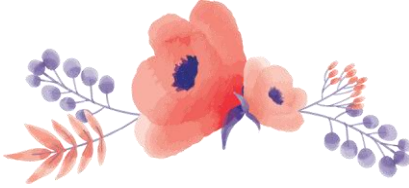
Arrival in Japan

Upon arrival, immigration officers will inspect your documents.

Depending on your airport of entry, you may receive your **Residence Card (Zairyu Card)** immediately.

Keep all immigration documents in a safe place.





Living in Japan Guide

Your Residence Card (Zairyu Card)

The Residence Card is one of the most important documents you will possess while living in Japan.

It contains:

- Full Name
- Nationality
- Date of Birth
- Visa Status
- Period of Stay
- Residence Card Number
- Current Address

Japanese law requires foreign residents to carry their Residence Card at all times.

Failure to present it when requested by authorities may result in penalties.

If your card is lost or stolen:

- Report it to the nearest police station.
- Obtain a police report.
- Apply for a replacement at the Immigration Office as soon as possible.

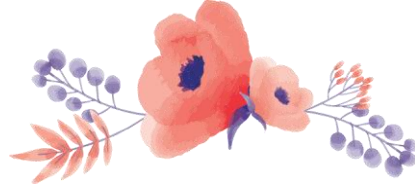
Registering Your Address

After moving into your accommodation, you must register your address within **14 days** at your local City Hall or Ward Office.

Bring:

- Residence Card
- Passport
- Rental Agreement (if available)





Living in Japan Guide

After registration, your address will be printed on your Residence Card.

Whenever you move, your address must be updated again within 14 days.

My Number Card

After registering your address, you may receive information about the **My Number** system.

This is Japan's national identification number used for:

- Taxation
- Employment
- Social Security
- Government Services

Keep your My Number confidential and secure.

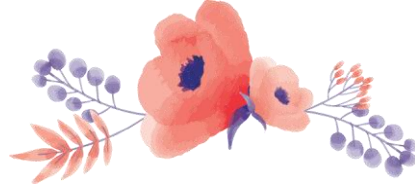
National Health Insurance

Residents staying for an extended period are generally required to enroll in Japan's National Health Insurance unless covered by an employer's insurance.

Benefits include:

- Reduced medical expenses
- Hospital treatment
- Specialist consultations
- Prescription medication support





Living in Japan Guide

Always carry your insurance card when visiting medical facilities.

Working While Living in Japan

Before accepting employment, ensure your visa permits the intended work.

Student visa holders must obtain **Permission to Engage in Activity Other Than That Permitted** before taking part-time employment.

Violating work restrictions may result in:

- Visa cancellation
- Fines
- Deportation
- Restrictions on future visas

Always consult your employer or immigration office if you are uncertain.

Renewing Your Visa

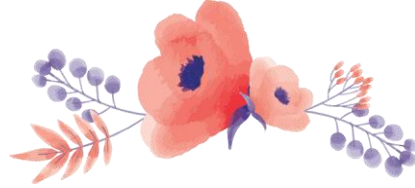
Your visa must be renewed before it expires.

It is recommended to begin the renewal process **2–3 months before expiration**.

Typical required documents include:

- Passport
 - Residence Card
 - Visa Renewal Application
 - Employment Certificate or School Enrollment Letter
 - Proof of Income (if required)
 - Supporting Documents requested by Immigration
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Living in Japan Guide

Processing times vary depending on the visa category.

Never allow your visa to expire while waiting to apply.

Changing Employers or Schools

If you change employers or educational institutions, you may need to notify the Immigration Services Agency.

Some changes require additional documentation.

Always inform the relevant authorities promptly to maintain your legal status.

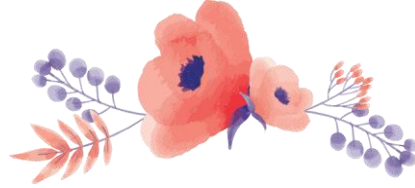
Your Responsibilities in Japan

As a foreign resident, you should:

- Carry your Residence Card at all times.
- Keep your address updated.
- Renew your visa before expiration.
- Pay taxes if applicable.
- Pay health insurance premiums.
- Respect Japanese laws.
- Follow local community rules.
- Maintain accurate immigration records.

Being a responsible resident helps create positive relationships within Japanese society.





Living in Japan Guide

Important Immigration Rules

Never:

- Overstay your visa.
- Work illegally.
- Submit false documents.
- Ignore immigration notices.
- Use someone else's Residence Card.

Serious immigration violations can result in deportation and future entry bans.

Emergency Contacts

Keep copies of:

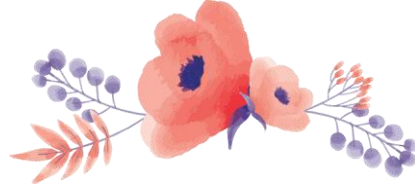
- Passport
- Residence Card
- Visa Documents
- Employer Contact Information
- School Contact Information
- Embassy or Consulate Details
- Emergency Family Contacts

Save electronic copies in secure cloud storage whenever possible.

Tips for a Successful Stay in Japan

- Always arrive early for immigration appointments.
 - Keep your documents organized.
 - Learn basic Japanese phrases.
 - Follow local customs and etiquette.
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Living in Japan Guide

- Respect community rules.
- Stay informed about changes to immigration regulations.
- Ask questions if you are unsure about any legal requirements.

A little preparation goes a long way toward making your experience in Japan enjoyable and stress-free.

Need Professional Visa Consultation?

Applying for a Japanese visa can sometimes feel complicated, especially if you are unfamiliar with the required documents, eligibility criteria, or immigration procedures. Receiving professional guidance before submitting your application can help you understand the process more clearly and prepare your documents correctly.

If you are in **Sri Lanka** and require assistance with your journey to Japan, **JP Supports** proudly works with our trusted Sri Lankan consultation partner:

Moshi Moshi Nippon

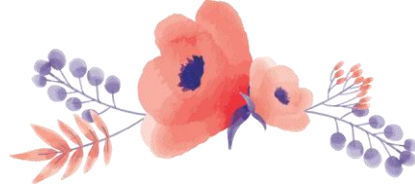
Website: <https://moshimoshinippon.com/>

Their experienced team provides guidance for individuals who are planning to:

- Study in Japan
- Work in Japan
- Apply for a Japanese visa
- Understand document requirements
- Prepare visa applications
- Receive pre-departure advice
- Learn about living and working in Japan
- Understand Japanese culture and everyday life

Whether you are applying for your first Japanese visa or need professional advice regarding your application, their consultants can help explain the process and answer your questions before you travel.





Living in Japan Guide

Please note: Visa approval is determined solely by the Japanese Immigration Services Agency and the relevant Japanese authorities. Consultation services provide guidance and document preparation assistance but cannot guarantee visa approval.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, please visit:

 <https://moshimoshinippon.com/>

About JP Supports

JP Supports is committed to helping international students, skilled professionals, and newcomers successfully begin their lives in Japan. Through practical guides, useful resources, and trusted partnerships, we aim to make your relocation experience easier, safer, and more informed.

Conclusion

Moving to Japan is an exciting opportunity filled with new experiences, personal growth, and career possibilities. Understanding your visa, maintaining your legal status, and completing the necessary administrative procedures are essential steps toward building a successful life in Japan.

By staying informed, following immigration regulations, and seeking professional advice whenever needed, you can enjoy your time in Japan with confidence and peace of mind.

Welcome to Japan, and we wish you every success in your new journey!

