

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in Japan



GLOSSARY	4
SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION	5
GENERAL INFORMATION	5
MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO JAPAN	5
Job Prospects	6
OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM	7
SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY	9
TYPES OF DEGREES	10
EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN	10
APPLYING	12
OVERVIEW	12
SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY	15
TYPES OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATIONS	16
HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE	16
EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S	16
EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs	17
OVERVIEW	18
FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP	20
FEES	20
BUDGETING	21
SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS	22
Scholarships by Local Governments and Local International Associations	22
SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION	23
(Applicable to all Applicants)	23
APPLYING FOR A VISA	24
DO YOU NEED A VISA	24
WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY	24
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST	24
HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN JAPAN	24
APPLYING	24
OTHER INFORMATION	25
ACCOMMODATION	26
GENERAL OPTIONS	26
PRIVATE HOUSING	27
Finding an Apartment	27
Options	27
Regions in Japan ranked according to cost of living	28
CONTRIBUTORS	29

GLOSSARY

COE (Certificate of Eligibility): Certificate that will be provided by your university after you receive admission (it can help expedite visa processes)

Zairyu Card: Residence Card

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Japan is one of the largest economies in the world. Though 99% of the population speaks Japanese, English is taught widely. The government of Japan took an initiative to increase the number of English-taught programs, referred to as “English programs”, to attract more international students to Japan. More information on such initiatives can be viewed on this article written by [The Japan Times](#) and by [Australian Education International](#). The government has set a target of [300,000 international students](#) studying in Japan, by 2020, and so your chances of acceptance into relevant programs **may** be improved. For statistics on the number of international students attending educational institutes in Japan, including divisions based on type of degree and program, are available [here](#) or [here](#).

As compared to the UK, US and Canada, Japan has lower tuition fees and living costs, however, it also has a highly competitive admission process. The section below outlines the various motivations behind studying in Japan.

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO JAPAN

Note: sites that promote Japan as a destination for international students highlight the following, and may not be fully accurate. . It is recommended that you try to verify this information yourself as well.

Japan is usually on the rise in terms of scientific and technological advancements. It is particularly famous for Computer Engineering, and so students interested in this field should definitely consider Japan as a location for further study. Additionally, Japan has a rich culture and history; the social environment is a mix of traditional background and modern technology, making it a very unique society. Moreover, Japan is considered to be one of the safest and most peaceful countries in the world, ranking high in standards of living. It has a great transport system, a clean environment, and a variety of festivals throughout the year. Japan also has low crime rates, thus making it a safe and attractive destination for further study.

Is learning Japanese mandatory for admission?

There are many universities offering English-taught programs, so learning Japanese is not compulsory. However, living in Japan may be difficult without any knowledge of Japanese, and additionally, there are some degrees that have **no** English-taught programs. So to properly experience Japan and fit in the country, or to take the degrees mentioned above, knowledge of Japanese is recommended.

Universities may offer introductory Japanese language courses, designed for international students, if you wish to improve your proficiency in the language. Note though that such courses often do not add to your university credits and have additional course fees.

You can also go through page 22 of this [link](#) to find out more about Japanese learning institutes.

Working while studying

In order to work part-time, students must apply for approval before working. Generally, 28 hours per week are allowed (which is extended to 8 hours a day during vacations), however, there are certain restrictions on the work that you are allowed to do (for example, working in bars or in the gaming arcades is prohibited).

The following resources are useful when considering part-time work:

- [Part-time Work](#)
- [Finding Part-time Work](#)

Job Prospects

According to [University World News](#), the Japanese government wants international students to stay in Japan and work after finishing their degrees. Such incentives include helping students find jobs post-graduation, offering subsidized company internships, improving the pace of work permit/visa processing and more. According to the [Japan Revitalizing Strategy Decision](#), in 2016 30% of international students were employed (70% were not -- so employability for international students is not very high). The government aims to improve the employment rate to 50% by 2020. It is important to note however, that such policies and initiatives are directed towards very competent students.

Despite the efforts of the government, the major hurdle for international students is proficiency in the Japanese language. While many companies are enthusiastic about hiring international students, they expect their knowledge of the Japanese language to be at the same level as natives, which is rarely the case. Koji Yoshida (from the [Employment Service Center for Foreigners](#)) argues that:

“All this contributes to foreign graduates, who find work through us, having to be resigned to jobs in IT sectors or as interpreters in duty free zones like international airports. They are disappointed,”
(reported by [University World News](#))

Hence, if you plan to work in Japan, proficiency in the Japanese language is not only an asset, but also in most cases a requirement.

Otherwise, employment is based on what the companies are looking for; these requirements can vary. For example, companies tend to hire international students for their knowledge or language skills of the country they belong to, because it is related to some overseas project or development. Highly competent graduates are attractive employees for companies, despite their nationality, however, in such cases language barriers alongside other hurdles may not guarantee employment. It is thus important to research into the background and goals of various industries or companies when applying, to understand their needs and apply efficiently.

For more information, check out the following sources:

- [Finding Employment of International Students](#), a guide by Doshisha University.

- [International Students Face Job Hunting Hurdles](#), The Japan Times.
- [Job Hunting Guide for International Students](#), JASSO.

Working in Japan after graduation

Graduates can work in Japan after graduation, as long as they apply for and get a [work or long-term stay visa](#). As shown in the link, there are different visas for different types of workers and professions. For details on the processes for each profession, click the relevant links within the web-page. Otherwise, a general procedure when applying is outlined [here](#).

If you find and secure a job before graduating	Your status of residence needs to be changed from “Student” to the status of the work permit, for example “Engineer”. This is done by applying for the relevant visas, after securing the job.
If you do not find and secure a job before graduation, and wish to work in Japan	Your status of residence needs to be changed from “Student” to the status of “ Designated Activities ”. By doing so, you will be allowed to look for jobs in Japan for a maximum of one year, post-graduation. Generally the status of residence for “Designated Activities” is for 6 months, and it can only be extended once (thus making a maximum of 1 year).

Job finding processes are mostly the same for international and Japanese students; you must research and then contact shortlisted companies for employment opportunities. Most companies have recruitment drives during their application season, students should be aware of those. Find out about such seasons through your university.

Information on job-hunting processes, in addition to the resources mentioned above, include:

- [Working after Graduation](#)
- [Employment and Internships](#)

OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The following table provides a short overview of the education system in Japan compared to the education system in Pakistan. O-Levels and SSC are equivalent to Junior High School in Japan. A-Levels and FSC are equivalent to Senior High School. Some students in Japan may choose to go to technology colleges or specialist technology colleges after completing their Junior High School. The duration of study at these institutions is usually 5+ years. Following 18 years, students enrol in Higher Education Institutions.

	Japan	Pakistan
12-15 years	Junior High School	O-Levels or SSC

15+ years	Senior High School or Technology College (typically 5 years in length)	A-levels or HSSC
18+ years	Higher Education	

Higher Education Institutions in Japan

(information for this section has been taken from [StudyJapan](#))

International students can enroll in one of the five different types of institutes of higher education in Japan: universities (for undergraduate courses), graduate schools, junior colleges, professional training colleges (for post-secondary courses) and colleges of technology. There are also some Japanese language schools that are available for those who want to learn Japanese in Japan.

Universities: Japan has national, public and private universities for undergraduate courses.

Graduate Schools: These offer Master's and Doctorate programs.

Junior Colleges: These offer vocational courses at the end of which you are given a Diploma or an Associate Degree.

Special Training College: These offer advanced vocational courses. Students graduating for these courses receive a diploma.

Colleges of Technology: These offer 5-year courses to junior-high school graduates (O-Levels equivalent) in areas like engineering, merchant shipping etc.

For more information on the different types of institutes, please visit this [website](#).

SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREES

Types of Degrees		Duration (Full time programs)
Bachelor's Degree	Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences and six-year courses of Pharmacy	6 years
	All other fields (including four-year course of Pharmacy)	4 years
Junior College Associate Degree		2-3 years
Colleges of Technology Degree		5 years (eligible to apply for this after O-Levels/Matric)
Diplomas	Regular Diploma	2 or more years
	Advanced Diploma	4 or more years

Bachelor's degrees are conferred when a student has finished their undergraduate degree, from an undergraduate university. Associate degrees, on the other hand, are conferred by Junior Colleges and Colleges of Technology and are considered to be vocational in nature. You can apply to a college of technology after completing your O-Levels/Matric (or their equivalent), whereas you can apply to Junior Colleges and Universities after completing secondary school. For more information on the different types of institutions and degrees/diplomas conferred, you can go through this [link](#). A regular diploma will require 2 or more years of study (1700 hours or more) whereas an advanced diploma will require 4 or more years of study (3400 hours or more). If you obtain a regular diploma, you can **transfer** to a university. If you obtain an advanced an advanced diploma, you are qualified to **enter** a graduate school.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN

In order to apply for undergraduate programs in Japan, students must satisfy **one of the following** eligibility criteria:

1. **Have 11-12 years of education:** you should have completed 12 years of education (the requirement is the same if you are applying to a Junior College or to a Professional Training College).
2. **Have 10-11 years of education:** If you have completed elementary and secondary education within 10 or 11 years, then you will be required to do **one** of the following:
 - i. Take additional years of schooling to fill in the gap. This can be at a university or any other higher education institute in your home country, and can include **preparatory program** at such universities.

- ii. Take **preparatory courses**, authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan ([List of authorized courses](#)).
3. Be of 18 years of age or older, and have **passed an academic qualification examination**, considered equivalent to the completion of 12 years of school education in countries other than Japan.
4. Hold an **IB qualification or an appropriate number of GCE A level courses**, as per university requirements.

It is important to note that requirements (whether it be within this section or later sections) vary according to university, and so the information should be taken for guideline purposes. It is important to consult the university websites or contact admission representatives to find out details about specific university requirements.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

There are a number of public, private and national universities in Japan, each with competitive admission processes.

If you are an eligible student for study in Japan, the next step is comparing, researching and shortlisting programs for study. Evaluation should be based on:

- The content of courses, research opportunities and strength of faculty
- Suitability of the program for you, based on your language background (if you have no knowledge of Japanese, then focus on programs taught fully in English)
- Admission examinations the universities require
- The number of international students accepted previously in that university, prospects of scholarships for international students and general support offered, in terms of career advice etc.
- Alongside other general factors such as location, tuition fees, accommodation etc.

The following resources are useful when searching for universities:

- [Search for Schools](#) (Undergraduate)
- [Japan Study Support](#)
- [UNIV. IN JAPAN](#) (For English-taught programs)

Application Components

Application components vary according to university and program. The following are the general application components usually required:

1. The application form provided by the university
2. Certificate of upper-secondary school graduation
3. Upper Secondary School Transcript
4. Letters of Recommendation
5. Certificate of proficiency in Japanese or English

All documentation is usually required to be translated into English or Japanese.

It is recommended that you visit your prospective university website to find out what the exact requirements are.

Entrance Exam

Another common part of applying to Japanese universities is the **Entrance Exam**. This is usually a requirement for both local and international students, and consists of some of the following components. The detailed methods vary depending on the school, so it is best that you check the school application guidebook for more information.

(Note that this information was taken from [The Study Guide for International Students](#))

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) - this test check your proficiency in Japanese **and** basic academic skills
7. Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) -- this is a test to check your proficiency in Japanese
8. National Center Test

Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)

The purpose of this exam is to see whether international students qualify for undergraduate studies, or similar higher education degrees, in Japan. It tests student's Japanese language skills alongside their basic academic abilities, based on what that particular institution requires. Most universities (especially national universities) require students to take the EJU. In some cases, this requirement may vary depending on the department within the university. [This list](#) is of all schools that require students to take the EJU. The EJU is administered by the Japanese Student Services Organization ([JASSO](#)).

The first session of EJU examination begins in June, and the second session begins in November. The exam takes place either in Japan or in the following countries: India (New Delhi), Indonesia (Jakarta, Surabaya), South Korea (Seoul, Busan), Sri Lanka (Colombo), Singapore, Thailand (Bangkok), Taiwan (Taipei), Philippines (Manila), Vietnam (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City), Hong Kong, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Myanmar (Yangon), Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar), Russia (Vladivostok) (*Source: [The Study Guide for International Students](#)*). Note that this list was made in 2017/18. In later years, it is possible that the international locations of the examinations increase to include other countries. For more information on what the EJU consists of, [click here](#) and [here](#). For information on how to apply, [click here](#).

Other exams you may be required to take:

1. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

This is to evaluate your proficiency in the Japanese Language. It has 2 sessions, the first in July and the second in December. Similar to the EJU, this test is taken in Japan and in other countries too. More information on the JLPT can be viewed on the following sites:

- For JLPT administered in Japan, [click here](#).
- For JLPT administered in other countries, [click here](#).

2. [The National Centre Test](#)

This is not a common test requirement for international students, however, some programs such as medicine and dentistry often require it.

For degree programs in English, have the following are additional components to the application:

- Proof of Proficiency in English (TOEFL, IELTS)

- TOEFL iBT: 71-80 scores.
- IELTS: 5.5-6 scores
- Certificates of academic achievement. This can be any of the following:
 - Transcripts for undergraduate courses. This includes the scores for the EJU.
 - SAT scores.
 - High School graduation standardized examination scores.

Application Cycle

You can apply for one of two enrollment cycles:

- **April Enrollment**
- **October Enrollment**

April Enrollment

If you are hoping to enroll in April, you should use April-September to request application forms, prepare materials and submit them. September-November is the application submission period. Once you receive admission, you can begin the immigration and enrollment procedures in January-March. Then you can officially join in April.

October Enrollment

If you are hoping to enroll in October, you should use October-February to request application forms, prepare materials and submit them. February-April is the application submission period. Once you receive admission, you can begin the immigration and enrollment procedures in July-September. Then you can officially join in October.

Some schools do offer programs that start in July/January (these are few in number though). Make sure you give yourself sufficient time to prepare your application/make other preparations (at least 6-9 months, or more).

Application Process and Timeline

When applying, you will need to apply directly through the university website - there are no national portals for applying. You can also consider emailing admissions office to find out what the exact processes/timelines for their specific school are.

SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATIONS

Types of Degree		Duration
Doctoral Degree		5 years
Master's Degree		2 years
Professional Degree Programs	Master's Professional Degree	2 years
	Juris Doctor (JD) (Professional Degree)	3 years
	Master of Education (Professional Degree)	2 years

“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.” ([JASSO](#)). To find out the difference between a regular Master's degree and a professional degree program, please visit your prospective university website.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S

In order to apply for a Master's/Doctoral (Phase 1) degree in Japan, students must satisfy **one** of the following eligibility criteria:

1. The completion of 16 years of school education (11-13 years till high-school, and then an undergraduate degree).
2. Completion of undergraduate/Bachelor's degree: completed in the standard study time, whether it is 3 years or more.
3. The completion of any required professional training college courses (if relevant).
4. If you do not have an undergraduate degree: students are still eligible if it is believed that they have the academic abilities similar to or better than university graduates. This is proven by taking an individual entrance qualification exam, conducted by the host graduate school. Such applicants are generally required to be at least 22 years of age.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

In order to apply for a Doctoral (Phase 2) degree in Japan, students must satisfy **one** of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Students who have earned a Master's or Doctoral degree

2. If you do not have a Master's degree but do have an undergraduate degree:
 - a. Students are still eligible as long as they have been involved in research study for at least 2 years -- at universities or research centers (including overseas universities and research centers) for two or more years, and have academic competency equivalent to persons with a master's degree by the graduate school .
 - b. If you do not have research-based experience, you can still be eligible by taking an individual qualification exam (conducted by the graduate school) which tests you to see if your academic competence is at the same level as a student who has finished a Master's program/professional degree.. Applicants for these tests are generally required to be at least 24 years old.

If you are planning on applying to a program in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary medicine or certain Pharmaceutical sciences, please confirm the eligibility requirements directly with the school of your choice before applying since they may vary according to the applicant's academic background.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

If you are an eligible student then the next step is searching for a graduate school. The following resources are useful when searching:

- [Search for Schools](#) (Graduate)
- [Japan Study Support](#)
- [UNIV. IN JAPAN](#) (For English-taught programs)

Application Components

Application components vary according to university and program. The following are the general application components usually required:

(Disclaimer: some of these components may not be required for specific programs. It is recommended that you visit your prospective university page to find out the exact requirements.)

- The application form provided by the graduate school
- Certificate of Bachelor's degree
- *For Doctoral applications* : Certificate of Master's degree (Some programs may not require a Master's degree, in which case you will not be required to submit this)
- Latest transcripts (of the last school attended)
- Letter of Recommendation
-]Research Plan (required by most graduate schools, according to [JASSO](#) -- but do visit your prospective program website to find out if this is required for your Master's degree/professional degree)
 - The purpose of the research plan is to outline the purpose and approach of your potential research.
 - It includes, but is not limited to, the following:
(The following was taken from the [The Study Guide for International Students](#))
 - Purpose: the purpose of your research
 - Background: of what your research is centred around
 - Meaning: of your proposed research and what it constitutes and what it aims at
 - Method: the method of research you plan to follow
 - References

All documentation is usually required to be translated into English or Japanese.

For degree programs in English, have the following are additional components to the application:

- Proof of Proficiency in English (TOEFL, IELTS)
 - TOEFL iBT: 75-80
 - IELTS: 6

- Certificates of academic achievement. This can be any of the following:
 - Transcripts for undergraduate courses. This includes the scores for the EJU.
 - SAT scores.
 - High School graduation standardized examination scores.

An additional part of your application to graduate school **may** be to find an academic advisor, i.e. a professor/lecturer who advises prospective students on their studies and course planning. In some cases universities require the informal approval of the academic advisor before the application is submitted. Students must find such an advisor on their own. You can find an advisor by:

(The following was taken from the [The Study Guide for International Students](#))

- Check online, ask students who have studied abroad or ask researchers in Pakistan Contact your selected graduate school and ask them to connect you with an advisor.

Note that some graduate schools require students to study as a research student (kenkyusei) before entering the regular program, while others allow students to take an examination and enter directly. Such details should be checked through graduate school websites.

A research student is a non-degree student who is:

(The following was taken from the [The Study Guide for International Students](#))

1. Enrolled in a course, which is usually at the graduate level, for short-term research purposes and is not awarded a degree.
2. Enrolled as a short-term international student, in a course (usually at an undergraduate or graduate level) under the inter-university exchange agreement.
3. Going to prepare for admission to a graduate school and is enrolled in this after completing their undergraduate courses.

Application Cycle

Usually applications open in summer and continue on until October/November and in some cases even January. Admissions then usually occur in April, with some happening later in September/October.

Application Process and Timeline

When applying, you will need to apply directly through the university website - there are no national portals for applying.

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

FEES

Although tuition fees can vary according to the program and type of university, you can find an outline of the average cost of a graduate program [here](#). Do note that tuition fees can differ for universities, so make sure to check each university and program's website for a completely accurate figure. Generally, private universities will have the highest fees, and national universities the lowest fees.

The tables below give an overview of the average cost/range of costs you can expect for different degrees and different institutions (taken from [JASSO](#)). For field-specific averages, please visit the link mentioned above.

For undergraduate schools, Medicine and Dentistry degrees are the most expensive (close to double the cost of other degrees).

Undergraduate Schools (total admission fee + tuition fee/year)	
National Universities	JPY 817,800 (USD 7534, as of June 2019)
Local Public Universities	JPY 770,355 (USD 7097, as of June 2019)
Private Universities	JPY 1,112,579 - JPY 4,923,504 (USD 10250 - 45360, as of June 2019)

Graduate Schools (total admission fee + tuition fee/year)		
National Universities		JPY 817,800 (USD 7534, as of June 2019)
Local Public Universities		JPY 768,884 (USD 7083, as of June 2019)
Private Universities	Master's	JPY 882,030 - JPY 1,473,741 (USD 8126 - 13577, as of June 2019)
	Doctorate	JPY 702,237 - JPY 1,349,185 (USD 6469-12430, as of June 2019)

Professional training colleges (total admission fee + tuition fee/year)

JPY 978,000 - JPY 1,411,000 (USD 9010-13,000, as of June 2019)

Japanese language institutions (Tuition fees, admission fees and screening fees)

1-year course	JPY 415,000 - 997,400 (USD 3823-9189)
18-month course	JPY 760,000 - 1,530,000 (USD 7002-14095)
2-year course	JPY 1,070,000 - 2,000,000 (USD 9857-18426)

BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

According to surveys carried out by [JASSO](#), these are the average monthly cost of living, excluding tuition, for different areas in Japan for the year 2018:

Region	Average monthly expenses
Kyushu	¥66,000
Chugoku	¥65,000
Shikoku	¥68,000
Kinki/Kansai	¥81,000
Chubu	¥77,000
Kanto	¥87,000

Tohoku	¥71,000
Hokkaido	¥80,000

Source: Lifestyle Survey of Privately Financed International Students 2015 (JASSO)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Go through the following links for more information on scholarships in Japan.

- [Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students](#)
 - Students need to have good academic records.
 - It typically lasts for 12 months.
- [Japanese Government \(MEXT\) Scholarships](#)
 - Applicants must be between 17-25 years of age.
- Scholarships by Local Governments and Local International Associations
 - These are offered according to where you live in Japan or the location of your university.
- Scholarships by Private Foundations
 - These are based on the goals of relevant private organizations.
- [List of Scholarships for International Students in 2018-19](#)
- [Scholarships in Japan for short-term study](#)

More information on these scholarships and additional scholarships can be found [here](#).

SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

If you wish to go to Japan to study as an international student, you will require the “Student” Visa.

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY

How long does visa processing take

The processing time for the student visa is 5-7 business days (minimum), if all your documentation is in order. In some cases, visa processing may take more time. Note: the embassy will never issue the visa on the day you submit your visa application.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

Please visit the embassy website for Japan to find out how much the visa application will cost.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN JAPAN

The period of stay will vary based on your type of study and its length (periods of stay are typically 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).

APPLYING

You can apply for your visa once you receive your Certificate of Eligibility. It may be possible to apply for the visa without a COE. But it is advised that you apply with the COE since that is a faster process.

What is a COE? A Certificate of Eligibility is issued when the Minister of Justice in Japan verifies that you meet the conditions for landing/residing in Japan. The document is there to help expedite/simplify immigration processes and make them more efficient. For more information, click [here](#).

1. You (or a Proxy, i.e. a family member or an employee of your school) will need to apply for an authorized COE at a regional immigration bureau in Japan. It is helpful to delegate this task to your school (make sure you submit all the documents they require -- the required documents may vary from school to school).
2. When you are applying for a COE (or a visa), you may be asked to show evidence that you can satisfactorily pay all your expenses during your stay in Japan.
3. Once you receive your COE, you can submit your visa application to the Japanese embassy in Pakistan. You will typically need to submit your passport, the visa application, your COE, photographs and any other document the embassy may ask for.
4. After receiving the visa:

- a. When you are entering Japan, you will be required to show your Passport, Visa, and COE (if it has been issued).
- b. If you are residing in Japan for more than 3 months, you will receive a residence card (Zairyu Card) -- which you must carry with you.

For more details regarding the Student Visa in Japan, please go through the [Student Guide to Japan](#) (pgs. 29-31).

OTHER INFORMATION

- If your visa application is declared unsuccessful, you may not get a reason why -- but you may submit another visa application 6 months later.

ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS

There are two main accommodation options you will have, as an international student in Japan. You can either choose to live in the student dormitory or you can get private accommodation of your own. The advantages and disadvantages of both options are presented in the table below.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Student Dormitory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More affordable - Great interaction with students (from various parts of the world) - Appliances, bedding etc. is already provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There might be a curfew that you may have to follow. - Some areas would be communal, like the kitchen, toilet and bathroom - Due to limited space, all students are not able to stay in dormitories
Private Housing (types of private accommodation are mentioned in the section below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great amount of privacy - More self-reliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More expensive - You will need to purchase your own electrical appliances, and perhaps some other furniture too. - You will also have to pay a security deposit fee, the agent's commission and other things (elaborated below)

According to most sources, approximately 70-75 percent of international students live in private houses or apartments (as of 2018).

Before arriving in Japan, you need to make sure you have a place to stay. As soon as you have received your admission, you should contact your school to find out if they are providing accommodation (i.e. student dorms). You should also find out how much the rent is, the number of people living in one room, and how much it costs to commute from the dorm to your school.

In case your school does not have an attached dormitory, or it cannot accommodate all the enrolled students, you should contact the school and find out if your school will help you find accommodation or not. You should also find out if your school will provide you with a temporary dorm before you find your own.

PRIVATE HOUSING

- When you are renting an apartment, you will need to sign a rental contract with the estate agent, or the landlord. At the time of signing, you will need to pay the agent's commission and the security deposit, known as "shiki-kin" (i.e. the security deposit). You might also need to pay gratuity money, known as "rei-kin". Security deposit amounts and gratuity money amounts may vary by accommodation, so make sure you check those before signing the lease.
- Most apartments will not be furnished, and you will need to arrange for that on your own.
- Joint Guarantor: A guarantor is a person who guarantees to make the payment in the event that you do not make the rent payment. You are required to have a Joint Guarantor when renting a place in Japan. If you do not pay the rent on time, or cause damage (and do not pay for the repair), the agent can ask the guarantor to pay for overdue costs. If you have limited contacts in Japan, school-related individuals (such as persons from your school's student office, or teaching staff) can serve as your guarantors. In some cases, a joint guarantor might not be needed (dependent on contract).

Finding an Apartment

- Many schools link their students with real estate agents, to help them find a secure place to live in. Once your admission is confirmed, you should contact your school and request them to connect you with an agent.
- Otherwise you can also try to find information: i) on the internet and in informational magazines, or ii) by contacting real estate agents in areas you are interested in living in.

Options

Youth Hostel	Youth hostels cost approximately 4000 yen per night. If you are interested in this option, it is recommended that you apply to become a member of a youth hostel organization, and make reservations <u>before</u> you come to Japan.
Weekly Rental Apartment	The cost of weekly rental apartments vary by location: for instance if your apartment is in central Tokyo, it might cost 100,000 yen or more per month; but if it is in the suburbs, the cost could be lower -- around 70,000 yen per month. Rent will be calculated on a day-by-day basis, so you will just have to pay for the number of days you are living there. These places will usually provide furniture, bedding and cooking items.
Inexpensive Business Hotels	Single rooms would typically cost around 6000 yen while rooms for two people would cost around 8000 yen per night.

Regions in Japan ranked according to cost of living

The cost of living in rural areas is lower than that of metropolitan areas. Places like Shikoku, Chugoku and Kyushu have the lowest cost of living (averaging 65,000-68,000 yen, per month). The more expensive places such as Kanto, Kinki and Hokkaido have the highest cost of living (80,000-87,000 yen).

CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers.

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile. We encourage you to consult these sources for additional information and guidance:

[JASSO](#), [StudyJapan.go](#), [Doshisha](#), [Study in Japan](#), [Gateway to Studying in Japan](#)

The following sources were also consulted when developing this profile:

[ISepStudyAbroad](#), [Asia Exchange Japan Times](#), [Internationalization of Japanese Universities](#), [JASSO](#), [The Complete University Guide](#), [University World News](#), [JPSS](#), [Study Kyoto](#), [Japan Times - Job Hurdles](#),