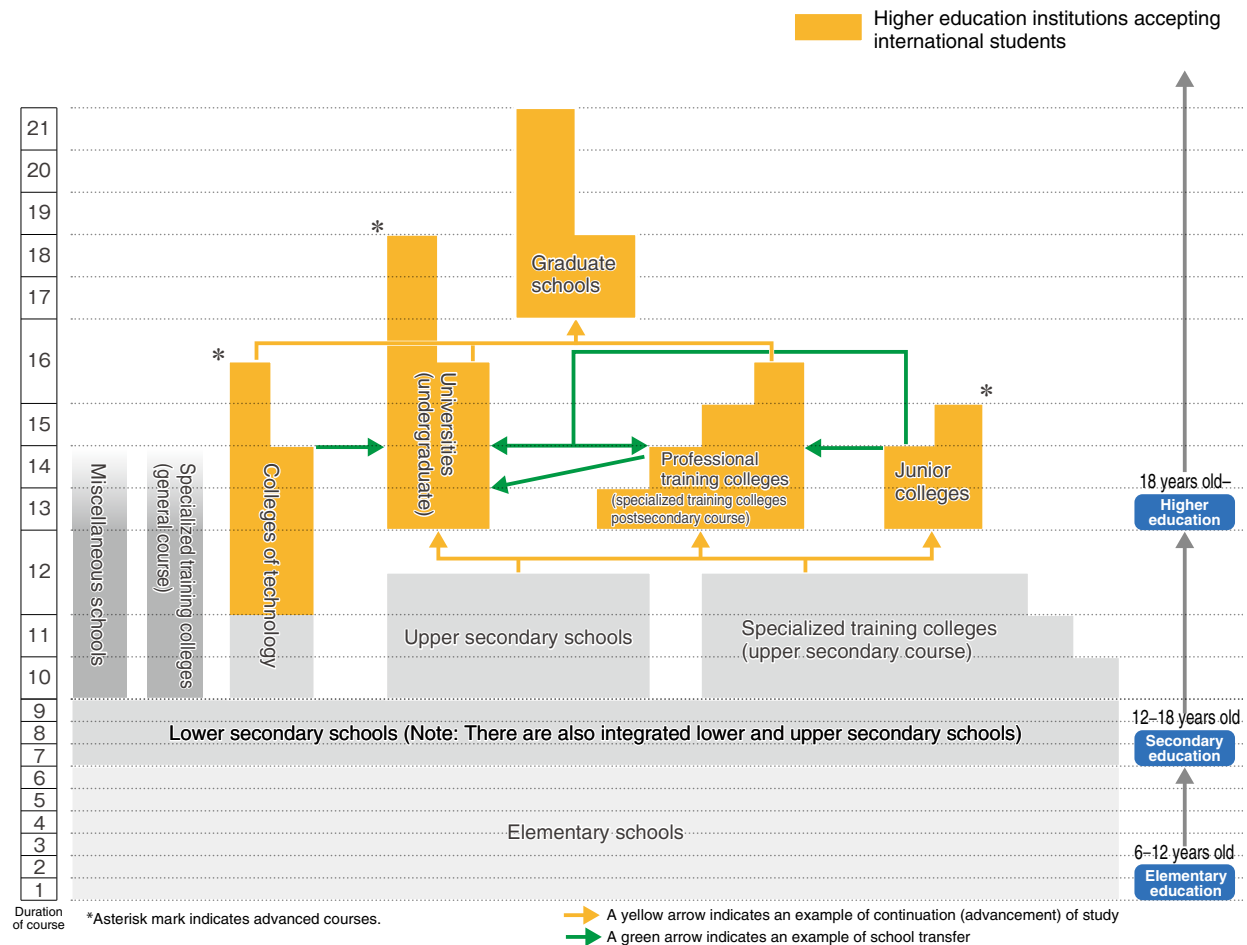


Japanese Educational System

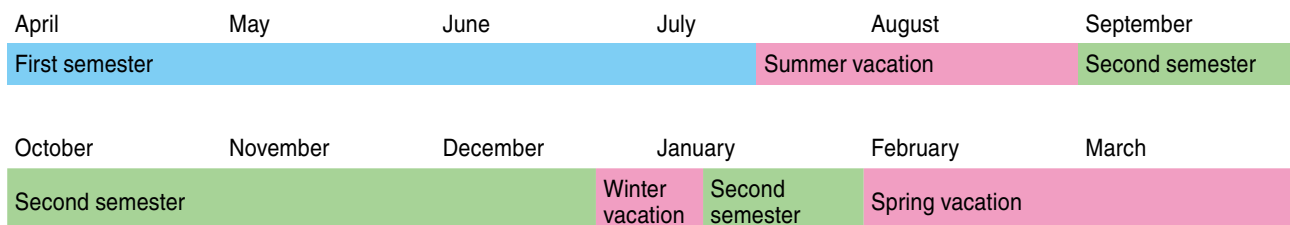
In Japan, the higher education starts upon the completion of 12 years of education: elementary education (6 years of elementary school) and secondary education (3 years of lower secondary school and 3 years of upper secondary school). There are 5 types of higher education institutions where international students can be admitted to, which are 1) Colleges of technology, 2) Professional training colleges (postsecondary course of specialized training colleges), 3) Junior colleges, 4) Universities (undergraduate) and 5) Graduate schools. Depending on the founding bodies, these higher education institutions are categorized into three types: national, local public and private.



1 Check the academic year and school term system

The academic year of schools in Japan normally starts from April and ends in March of the following year. Many universities in Japan adopt a semester system (two terms), with a first semester from April to September and a second semester from October to March. Some of the universities adopt a trimester system (three terms) or a quarter system (four terms). In general, students in Japan begin school in April, but some universities—especially graduate schools—also have a September or October admission program.

One academic year for a student enrolling in April in a two term school



2 Check your admission eligibility

In principle, you must have completed 12 years of education to apply for admission to a university (undergraduate), junior college, or professional training college in Japan. You must have completed 11 years of education to apply for admission to a college of technology, and 16 years of education for admission to a graduate school (master's program).

Students from countries such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia and Peru who have completed 10 or 11 years of elementary and secondary school education and wish to apply for admission to higher education institutions, such as universities, in Japan must meet either of the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) Have completed 12 years of formal school education by taking an additional one or two years of schooling at a university or other higher education institution or a university preparatory program in their home country.
- 2) Have completed university preparatory courses (*junbi kyōiku katei*) authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan* (provided, however, that they have completed a level of education equivalent to a Japanese high school).

If you have completed elementary and secondary education courses in your home country that are 11 years long or more but less than 12 years, you are considered eligible for admission without completing the university preparatory courses if the said education courses are designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

Note: In addition to the following eligibility criteria, some schools also set their own requirements. If you are unsure whether your qualifications meet the admission requirements, please be sure to consult the school of your choice.

* List of university preparatory courses authorized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/search/nihongokyouiku.html

3 Check the degrees and titles you can obtain and the required study periods

	Program	Academic degrees and titles	Required study period
Graduate school	Doctorate program *1	Doctoral degree	5 years
	Master's program	Master's degree	2 years
	Professional degree program	Master's professional degree	2 years
		Juris doctor (professional degree)	3 years
		Master of education (professional degree)	2 years
University (undergraduate)	General faculties, faculty of pharmacy (four-year program)	Bachelor's degree	4 years
	Faculties of medicine, dentistry, veterinary and pharmacy (six-year program)		6 years
Junior college *2 *5	–	Associate degree	2 or 3 years
College of technology *3 *4 *5	–	Foundation degree	3 years (3 years and 6 months for mercantile marine studies)
Specialized training college *4	Postsecondary course (professional training college)	Diploma	2 years or more
		Advanced diploma	4 years or more

*1 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.

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.niad.ac.jp/english/>

Q Is a degree earned in Japan valid in other countries?

A Normally, a degree earned in Japan is recognized as equivalent to those earned in other countries. In some countries, however, the ministry of education or a qualifications assessment institution (a nonprofit organization, private enterprise, etc.) appraises academic degrees obtained in foreign countries. Please check with the relevant authorities in your home country.