

Employment in Japan

“We would like to hire talented personnel regardless of nationality,” “We need personnel who can speak foreign languages and understand foreign situations,” “We would like to actively hire personnel with diverse backgrounds.” In Japan, there are a growing number of companies that operate in line with these statements, and the hiring of international students is increasing. However, it is still not easy for an international student to be hired in Japan. The JASSO website listed below contains the experiences of job seekers like yourself as well as job search event information; be sure to look through these materials and start your job hunt early.

Job Hunting Guide for International Students (JASSO)

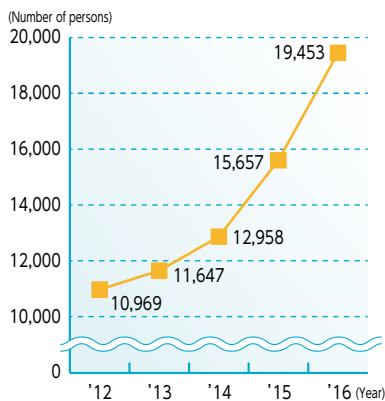
http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/job/guide.html

Japan Alumni eNews (JASSO)

http://www.jasso.go.jp/en/study_j/enews/index.html

The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies

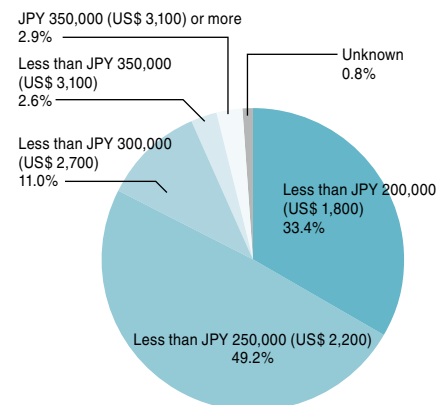
Number of approvals given to international students for the change of status of residence from “Student” to a working visa



Composition ratio by type of business (Top 10)

No. 1	Commerce and trading	20.6%
No. 2	IT	9.4%
No. 3	Food service	5.3%
No. 4	Hotels and inns	3.0%
No. 5	Construction	2.6%
No. 6	Education	2.5%
No. 7	Foods	2.4%
No. 8	Electrical appliances	2.3%
No. 9	Tourism	2.3%
No. 10	Machinery	2.1%

Starting salary (monthly)



Source: The Employment of International Students by Japanese Companies in 2016 by Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

Note: Calculated at US\$ 1 = ¥114

Change of status of residence

International students have to have their status of residence changed from “Student” to “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services,” etc. in order to work in Japan.

Please note the following points:

1) Academic background	Graduates of universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology. Graduates of professional training colleges in Japan who have obtained the academic title of “diploma.”
2) Types of job to be engaged in	Emphasis is placed on whether the jobs are related to their majors. For instance, a person who is a fashion design graduate but opts to work as a computer programmer will have difficulty changing his/her status of residence.
3) Salary	International students must receive a salary equivalent to or more than a Japanese employee.
4) The actual situation of the employer	The companies international students plan to work for are required to have a stable management foundation and business performance.

What to do if you cannot find a job

Even if you are unable to find a job before graduation from the Japanese university¹ or professional training college², you can still continue to engage in job-seeking activities in Japan for one more year after graduation by changing your status of residence from “Student” to “Designated Activities.” The period of stay of “Designated Activities” is six months, and as a rule, only one additional six-month extension is allowed. If you fulfill certain requirements, however, you may continue looking for a job into your second year after graduation.

For more information on procedures, please inquire at a regional immigration bureau.

1. Includes junior colleges and graduate schools. However, this does not include preparatory Japanese language program students, audit students, credit-earning students and research students.

2. Limited to those who have acquired a diploma.