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To live in Japan, you must have status of residence. There are 27 types of status of residence, each of which stipulates the activities you are permitted to undertake in Japan, and the period of your stay.

1 Confirmation of status of residence

When you enter Japan to stay, your status of residence and the period of your stay are determined according to your objective in entering Japan. Your type of status of residence and the period of your stay are recorded in your passport; please look and confirm these points.



Source: Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice "Immigration control instructions" pamphlet

For the following 27 types of status of residence, undertaking activities other than those permitted in each case is not possible.

(1) Status of residence which permits work (17 types)

Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Diplomat	Activities of a member of a diplomatic mission or consulate of a foreign government to the Japanese government, or a person granted the same prerogatives and exemptions as a diplomatic mission by a treaty or international institution, or a member of the family of such a person constituting part of his or her household <Ambassadors, ministers and general consulates of foreign governments, members of a delegation, etc. and their families>	Period when "diplomatic activities" are undertaken	○



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Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Official	Activities of a person authorized by the Japanese government to carry out the public duties of a foreign government or international organization, or a member of the family of such a person constituting part of his or her household (excluding activities which come under the category of "Diplomat") <Employees of embassies, and general consulates of foreign governments, members of a delegation employed to carry out public duties, etc. and their families>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 3 months, 30 days or 15 days	○
Professor	Activities of researching, leading research or instructing at a Japanese university, organization equivalent to an institution, or collages of technology <University professors, etc.>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Artist	Activities of music, fine arts, literature or other artistic activities for earning an income (excluding activities which come under the category of "Entertainment") <Painters, composers, writers etc.>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Religious activities	Missionary work or other activities undertaken by persons of religion dispatched to Japan by foreign religious bodies <Missionary priests etc. dispatched by foreign religious bodies>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Journalist	Coverage and activities undertaken based on a contract with a foreign media organization <Journalists, camera operators etc. belonging to foreign media organizations>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Investor / business manager	Foreigners who start the management of trading companies or other businesses in Japan, or who invest in such a business and carry out management, or who are engaged in the administration of such a business or who start managing such a business in Japan (includes foreign corporations. This also applies in the following items). Alternatively, activities for the management of the business or the administration of such a business carried out on behalf of a foreigner who has invested in such a business (excluding activities for the management or administration of businesses which may not legally be carried out unless they come under the category of "Legal/accounting services") <Company managers and administrators of foreign companies, etc.>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Legal / Accounting Services	Activities relating to work duties relating to law and accounting which are to be undertaken by lawyers in foreign law, foreign public certified accountants and persons possessing other legal qualifications <Lawyers, public certified accountants etc.>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Medical Services	Activities for work duties relating to medical services, to be undertaken by doctors, dentists or other persons possessing legal qualifications <Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○



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Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Researcher	Activities for work duties for undertaking research, based on a contract with a Japanese public or private organization (excluding activities which come under the category of "Professor") <Researchers at governmental organizations or private companies>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Instructor	Activities of language education or other education at elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, schools for students with special needs, vocational schools or other types of schools and educational organizations which are equivalent in terms of facilities and structure <Language instructors etc. at elementary, junior high and high schools etc.>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Engineer	Activities for work duties requiring technical skills or knowledge pertaining to physics, engineering or other natural sciences, undertaken based on a contract with a Japanese public or private organization (excluding activities which come under the categories of "Professor," "Investor/business manager" the categories between "Medical services," and "Instructor" and the categories between "Intracompany transferee" and "Entertainer") <Engineers such as mechanical engineers>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Specialist in Humanities / International Services	Activities engaged in work duties undertaken based on a contract with a Japanese public or private organization pertaining to the areas of law, economics, sociology and areas of the humanities, which require knowledge, and work duties which require thought or sensibility with a base in foreign cultures (excluding activities which come under the categories of "Professor," "Artist," "Journalist," the categories between "Investor/business manager" and "Instructor," and the categories of "Intracompany transferee" and "Entertainment") <Interpreters, designers, company language instructors, etc.>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Intracompany Transferee	Activities which come under the categories of "Engineer," or "Specialist in humanities/international services" in this list which are undertaken by an employee of a place of business, being the main office or branch or other place of business, which is a public or private organization in a foreign country, when the employee concerned is transferred to a place of business in Japan for a stipulated period of time <Employees transferred from a foreign place of business>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months	○
Entertainment	Activities related to entertainment such as theater, performing arts, performance and sports, or other artistic activities (excluding activities which come under the category of "Investor/business manager") <Actors, singers, dancers, actors, professional sports players etc.>	3 years, 1 year, 6 months, 3 months or 15 days	○



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Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Skilled Labor	Activities engaged in work duties which require proficient skills in a specialist production field, to be undertaken based on a contract with a Japanese public or private organization <Foreign cuisines chef, sports instructors, pilots of aircraft, etc., metalworker in precious metals, pilot etc.>	5 years, 3 years,, 1 year or 3 months	○
Technical Intern Training	Type 1 Either (a) or (b) (a) Activities to learn and acquire skills at a public or private organization in Japan for overseas employees of the organization or employees of an overseas organization, either public or private, that has a business relationship with the organization in Japan as prescribed in the Ministry of Justice ordinance. (Also includes activities to learn and acquire skills necessary to work at the accepting organization in Japan.) (b) Activities to learn and acquire skills at a nonprofit organization that meet the requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Justice ordinance (either as a staff of the organization or an employee of another organization, either public or private). Type 2 Either (a) or (b) (a) Activities for those who have acquired skills from the activities in 1(a) to further improve those skills and put them into practice at the public or private organization in Japan designated by the Ministry of Justice under an employment contract with the organization. (b) Activities for those who have acquired skills from activities in 1(b) to further improve those skills and put them into practice at a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice under an employment contact with the organization. (Those employees must be under the responsibility and supervision of a nonprofit organization that meets the requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Justice ordinance.) <Technical interns>	(1) 1 year or 6 months (2) Not more than 1 year and as specified by the Minister of Justice	○

(2) Status of residence which does not permit work (5 types)

Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Cultural Activities	Non-income earning academic or artistic activities, or activities to conduct specialist research in culture or arts peculiar to Japan or to learn such culture or arts through specialized instruction from a specialist (excluding activities which come under the category of "College student") <Researchers in Japanese culture etc.>	3 years, 1 year 6 months or 3 months	×



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Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Temporary Visitor	Activities of tourism, recreation, sports, visiting relatives, observations, participation in study courses or meetings, business communication and other similar activities to be undertaken over a short-term stay in Japan <Tourists, people participating in meetings, etc.>	Short stay within the periods of 90 days, 30 days or 15 days	×
College Student	Activities of obtaining education at a Japanese university, at a college of technology (koto senmon gakko), at a senior high school (including the senior high school term at a junior-senior high school [chuto kyoiku gakko]). Or activities of obtaining an education in the senior high school level of a school for special needs education (tokubetsu shien gakko), or at an advanced vocational school (senshu gakko) or a school in the miscellaneous category (kakushu gakko), or an educational organization providing an equivalent curriculum. <Students at universities, junior colleges or colleges of technology or senior high schools, etc.>	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	×
Trainee	Activities for learning technical skills, skills or knowledge through being taken on at a private or public organization in Japan (excluding activities which come under the category of "Technical Trading Intern Type 1" or "College student" <Trainees>	1 year, 6 months or 3 months	×
Dependent	Everyday activities undertaken by spouses or children who are dependents of persons who are staying in Japan and who possess the qualifications of categories between "Professor" and "Cultural activities," or who are staying in Japan and who possess the qualifications of "College student," or "Trainee". <Dependent spouses/children of foreign residents, etc.>	5 years, 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	×

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(3) Status of residence which may permit work depending on the permission given to the individual (1 type)

Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Designated Activities	Activities which have been specially designated by the Minister of Justice to an individual foreigner <High-level researcher, employee of diplomat, working holiday, nurses / caregivers designated according to economic treaties>	5 years, 4 years, 3 years, 2 years, 1 year, 6 months or a period designated by the Minister of Justice for the individual foreigner within the scope of no more than one year	○

(4) Status of residence based on rank or position (4 types)

Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Permanent Resident	Persons recognized as permanent residents by the Minister of Justice <Persons who have been granted permission from the Minister of Justice to stay in Japan permanently (except for Special Permanent Residents under the Immigration Control Special Act)>	No limit	◎
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	Person who is a spouse or child of a Japanese nation, an adopted child under the Special Adoption System according to Provision 2 of Article 817 of the Civil Law (1896, Code No. 89), or a child born in Japan to a Japanese person <Spouses or children of Japanese nationals, biological children adopted children under the Special Adoption System>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 6 months	◎
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	Person who is a spouse or child of a person possessing a permanent resident's status of residence, or of a special permanent resident as stated in the "Persons who have been recognized according to the Special Law on the Immigration Control of, inter alia, those who have lost Japanese nationality on the basis of the Treaty of Peace with Japan." (hereafter referred to as "permanent residents") or a person born in Japan as the child of a permanent resident and, following this, continuing to live in Japan <Spouses and children of permanent residents or special permanent residents, or biological children born in Japan and continuing to live here>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 6 months	◎



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Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Long-Term Resident	Person for whom the Minister of Justice has stipulated a set period of residence in view of special circumstances <Refugees from Indochina, conditional refugees, third-generation Nikkei, Japanese left behind in China, etc.>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 6 months or a period designated by the Minister of Justice for the individual foreigner within the scope of no more than 5 years	◎

NB: Symbols in the "Work" column have the following meanings:

- ◎ : No restrictions on work
- : Work is permitted within certain limits
- × : Work is not permitted

Source: Ministry of Justice, Immigration Bureau, "List of Types of Status of Residence" and "Start of a new residency management system!"

