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B Status of residence

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To live in Japan, you must have status of residence. There are 28 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.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">① 11 March, 2005② Status: Temporary Visitor (purpose of visiting relatives or sight seeing)③ Duration admitted to stay: 90days④ Inspected at Narita Airport Terminal 2	<p>The image shows two Japanese immigration stamps. The left stamp is a yellow 'LANDING PERMISSION' stamp with the date 11 MAR 2005, status 'Temporary Visitor', and duration '90days'. The right stamp is a blue 'JAPAN VISITATION' stamp with the date 11 MAR 2005, status 'Temporary Visitor', and duration '90 days'. Both stamps have numbered callouts 1-4 pointing to specific fields: 1 points to the date, 2 points to the status, 3 points to the duration, and 4 points to the airport terminal.</p>
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Source: Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice "Immigration control instructions" pamphlet

For the following 28 types of status of residence, undertaking activities other than those permitted in each case is not possible.



(1) Status of residence which permits work (18 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	○
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 colleges 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	○

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Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Highly skilled professionals	<p>Type 1 Activities which come under any of the following (a) to (c) to be conducted by foreign nationals who meet the criteria provided for by an ordinance of the Ministry of Justice as human resources who possess advanced and specialized skills, and who are expected to contribute to the academic research and economic development of Japan.</p> <p>(a) Activities of engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice, or in conjunction with such activities, activities of personally operating a business which is related to such activities or activities of engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan other than the applicable organization.</p> <p>(b) Activities of engaging in work requiring specialized knowledge or skills in the field of natural sciences or humanities based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice, or in conjunction with such activities, activities of personally operating a business which is related to the applicable activities.</p> <p>(c) Activities of operating international trade or some other business of a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice or of managing such business, or in conjunction with such activities, activities of personally operating a business which is related to the applicable activities.</p> <p>Type 2 The following activities to be conducted by foreign nationals who engaged in the activities given in Type 1 and who meet the criteria provided for by an ordinance of the Ministry of Justice as persons whose residence will contribute to the interests of Japan.</p> <p>(a) Activities of engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan.</p> <p>(b) Activities of engaging in work requiring specialized knowledge or skills in the field of natural sciences or humanities based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan.</p> <p>(c) Activities of operating international trade or some other business of a public or private organization in Japan, or of managing such business.</p> <p>(d) In conjunction with any of the activities listed in Type 2 (a) to (c), the activities which come under the categories of “Professor”, “Artist”, “Religious Activities”, “Journalist”, “Legal/Accounting Services”, “Medical Services”, “Instructor”, “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, “Entertainer” or “Skilled Labor” (excluding activities coming under any of Type 2 (a) to (c)).</p> <p><Highly-skilled human resources in accordance with the points system></p>	5 years for Type 1 and indefinite for Type 2	

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Status of residence	Activities which may be undertaken in Japan (for example, types of employment permitted)	Period of stay	Work
Business manager	Activities of operating international trade or some other business of a public or private organization in Japan or of managing such business (excluding activities to engage in the operation or management of business which is not allowed without the legal qualifications which come under the category of "Legal/Accounting Services"). <Manager or administrator of a company>	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 4 months 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	○
Researcher	Activities for work duties for undertaking research, based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan (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 / Specialist in Humanities / International Services	Activities to engage in services, which require skills or knowledge pertinent to physical science, engineering or other natural science fields, or to engage in services, which require knowledge pertinent to jurisprudence, economics, sociology or other human science fields, or to engage in services, which require specific ways of thought or sensitivity based on experience with foreign culture, based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan (excluding activities which come under the category of "Professor", "Artist", "Journalist", "Business Manager", "Legal/Accounting Services", "Medical Services", "Researcher", "Instructor", "Intra-company Transferee" and "Entertainer"). <Engineer such as of mechanical engineering, interpreter, designer, language instructor at a private company or marketing specialist, etc.>	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
Intracompany Transferee	Activities which come under the categories of “Engineer/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	○
Care Worker	Activities of engaging in care service or care guidance, which are to be undertaken by certified care workers, based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan.	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 “Business manager”) <Actors, singers, dancers, actors, professional sports players etc.>	3 years, 1 year, 6 months, 3 months or 15 days	○
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 public or private organization in Japan <Foreign cuisines chef, sports instructors, pilots of aircraft, metalworker in precious metals, pilot etc.>	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
Technical Intern Training	<p>Type 1 (a) Activities to receive training courses and activities to acquire skills and knowledge through employment agreements, based on a technical intern training plan approved by the Technical Intern Training Act (limited to those related to the Individual enterprise-based training I) (b) Activities to receive training courses and activities to acquire skills and knowledge through employment agreements, based on a technical intern training plan approved by the Technical Intern Training Act (limited to those related to the Supervising organization-based training I)</p> <p>Type 2 (a) Activities to receive training courses and activities to acquire skills and knowledge through employment agreements, based on a technical intern training plan approved by the Technical Intern Training Act (limited to those related to the Individual enterprise-based training II) (b) Activities to receive training courses and activities to acquire skills and knowledge through employment agreements, based on a technical intern training plan approved by the Technical Intern Training Act (limited to those related to the Supervising organization-based training II)</p> <p>Type 3 (a) Activities to receive training courses and activities to acquire skills and knowledge through employment agreements, based on a technical intern training plan approved by the Technical Intern Training Act (limited to those related to the Individual enterprise-based training III) (b) Activities to receive training courses and activities to acquire skills and knowledge through employment agreements, based on a technical intern training plan approved by the Technical Intern Training Act (limited to those related to the Supervising organization-based training III)</p>	<p>Type 1 Not more than 1 year and as specified individually by the Minister of Justice</p> <p>Type 2 Not more than 2 years and as specified individually by the Minister of Justice</p> <p>Type 3 Not more than 2 years and as specified individually by the Minister of Justice</p>	○

(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	<p>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.></p>	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 university, a college of technology (koto senmon gakko), 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), a junior high school (including the junior high school term at a junior-senior high school [chuto kyoiku gakko]), a junior high school level of a school for special needs education (tokubetsu shien gakko), an elementary school, an elementary school level of a school for special needs education (tokubetsu shien gakko), an advanced vocational school (senshu gakko), a school in the miscellaneous category (kakushu gakko), or an educational organization providing an equivalent curriculum in Japan. <Students at universities, junior colleges or colleges of technology, senior high schools, junior high schools or elementary 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, etc., 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" (excluding "Technical Intern Training") or who are staying in Japan and who possess the qualification of "College student". <Dependent spouses/children of foreign residents>	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 <Domestic staff of a diplomat, etc., working holiday, nurses/caregivers designated according to economic treaties>	5 years, 4 years, 3 years, 2 years, 1 year, 6 months, 3 months or a period designated by the Minister of Justice for the individual foreigner within the scope of no more than 5 years	○

(4) Status of residence based on personal relationship or position (4 types)

Status of residence	Personal relationship or position on which the residence is authorized in Japan	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	Personal relationship or position on which the residence is authorized in Japan	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 accepted for third-country resettlement, 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!"

