

Immigration Services Agency 2023



Connect the World. Create the Future.

The Role of the Immigration Services Agency

The basic function of immigration control and residency management is, while respecting human rights, to ensure the just management of immigration and residency of foreign nationals, to protect refugees, and to provide general coordination relating to improving the circumstances for the acceptance of foreign nationals.

Therefore, the Immigration Services Agency is committed to ensuring smooth, strict, and appropriate immigration and residency management by actively welcoming foreign nationals who abide by the rules while preventing entry and residence of foreign nationals who threaten the safety and well-being of Japan, and ensuring that such foreign nationals are removed from Japan. Furthermore, in cooperation with other countries and international organizations, the Immigration Services Agency aims to provide prompt and reliable protection to those who truly need asylum.

Additionally, we work with related organizations to realize a harmonious society of coexistence where all Japanese citizens and foreign nationals accepted into Japanese society which can live together as good neighbors. Our goal is to contribute to the realization of an orderly society and to the sound development of Japan's economy and society.





(April 2019)

Basic Policy for the Basic Plan for Immigration Control and Residency Management (*)

Proactive acceptance of foreign nationals who vitalizing the Japanese economy and society.

Promotion of international contributions to developing countries, etc., and promotion of optimization of the technical intern training program from the perspective of protection of the technical intern trainees.

Preparation of an environment for the realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals who have been accepted by Japan.

Contribution to the realization of a tourism-oriented country through the implementation of fast and smooth immigration procedures for foreign nationals visiting Japan.

Reinforcement of strict and proper immigration examinations and residency management and countermeasures against illegal residents, etc. in order to realize a safe and secure society.

Promotion of appropriate and prompt asylum for refugees in light of Japan's standing as a member of the international community with regard to the issue of refugees.

(*) Based on Article 61-10 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, this Plan serves as the basis for the measures formulated by the Minister of Justice on the management of the entry and residence of foreign nationals.



ORGANIZATION CHART Diagram Showing the Distribution of Immigration Services Agency and

Regional Immigration Services Bureaus

Organization

There are 6,314 officials who are involved with administering immigration control and residency management (as of the end of FY2023).

Of this number, 4,085 are immigration inspectors, who carry out immigration examinations and residence examinations among other tasks. Next, 1,659 are immigration control officers, who detect illegal immigrants and similar, and handle their forcible deportation from the country. Finally, the remaining 570 of the total are either official in the Ministry of Justice who carry out general administration work or Technical official in the Ministry of Justice such as doctors, nurses, and the like.



Immigration Services Agency



Email distribution service: https://mail.isa.go.jp/m/ja_entry





Sapporo Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI_SAPPORO





Porotan



Sendai Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI_SENDAI





Justiceparo-kun



Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI TOKYO





Toribu



Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI_NAGOYA





Nagomin



Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI OSAKA





Entora-kun



Hiroshima Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI HIROSHIMA2







Takamatsu Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI TAKAMATSU







Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau

@IMMI_FUKUOKA





Poppo-chan





Higashi-Nihon Immigration Center

Ushiro-kun

@IMMI_HIGASHI

Omura Immigration Center

@IMMI_OMURA2



Smooth and Strict Immigration Examinations PASSPURT



To protect Japan's front door and ensure the smooth travel of people

Job Details

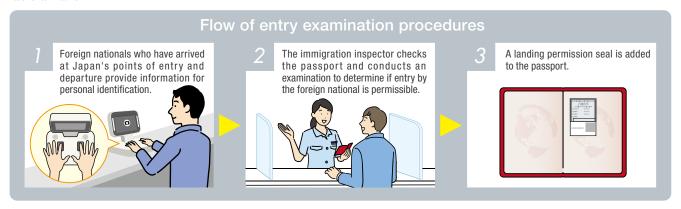
>> Immigration examinations of foreign nationals (checking departures and returns of Japanese nationals)

Foreign nationals who wish to land in Japan will, excepting those eligible for exemption, provide information for personal identification (fingerprints and facial photographs) and submit to an interview by an immigration inspector.

The immigration inspector will conduct an examination to determine whether the person in question meets the conditions for landing, and when it is confirmed that they meet those conditions grants them landing permission.

Also, for those foreign nationals who wish to leave from Japan, the inspector confirms their departure.

Furthermore, with respect to the departures and returns of Japanese nationals, the immigration inspector confirms the facts at hand.



>> Certificate of Eligibility

In principle, foreign nationals need to obtain a visa at a Japanese embassy overseas, etc. before coming to Japan. Therefore, in 1990 a system of Certificate of Eligibility (COE) was introduced in order to simplify and facilitate entry examination procedures.

The Certificate of Eligibility certifies that a foreign national who intends to enter Japan meets conditions for landing such as whether the activity which the person will engage in Japan corresponds with any status of residence (excluding "Temporary Visitor" and "Permanent Resident"), etc.

The issued Certificate of Eligibility enables a foreign national to obtain a visa and a landing permission smoothly through submitting or presenting it at the time of applications for a visa at an overseas embassy or landing.

Also, foreign nationals can receive the Certificate of Eligibility via email from March 2023.



Certificate of Eligibility

>> Initiatives toward achieving a tourism-oriented country

To become a tourism-oriented country, we are undertaking a variety of initiatives to facilitate carrying out smooth entry examinations for those foreign nationals who present no problem.

Facial recognition automated gate

To streamline the departures and returns of Japanese nationals, starting in October 2017 we introduced and put into operation facial recognition automated gates to eliminate the need for pre-registration procedures. Starting in July 2019, the gates were also put into use with departure procedures for foreign nationals.

Bio-cart

To speed up entry procedures for foreign nationals, in October 2016 we introduced equipment for accepting the submissions of fingerprints and facial photographs while awaiting examination.

Automated gates (fingerprint recognition gates)

In 2007, we introduced gates where Japanese nationals and those foreign nationals who satisfy certain conditions who have registered in advance can complete entry (return) procedures automatically by comparing their passport and fingerprints.









Facial recognition automated gate

Bio-cart

Aside from this, in light of the increase in the number of foreign nationals who visit Japan by cruise ship, for foreign national passengers on cruise ships designated by the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency, we have been working to facilitate entry examinations for those passengers by, for example, introducing the system of landing permission for cruise ship tourists which uses a simplified procedure to allow entry.

Additionally, we have been installing vertical examination booths and displaying the wait times for entry examinations to be completed.

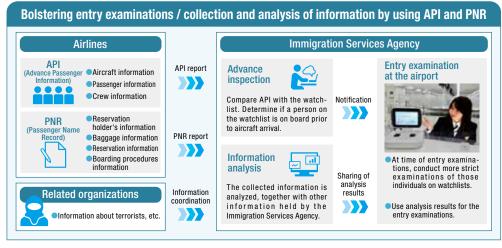
>> Boosting border controls (international counter-terrorism measures)

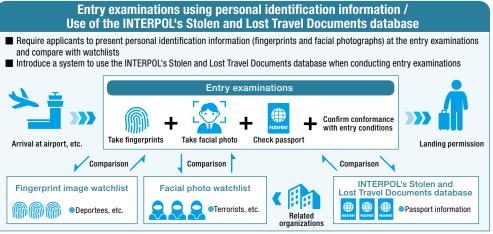
In order to protect the lives and safety of people in Japan, it is extremely important to prevent the entry of persons who are trying to enter Japan with illegal purposes, e.g., terrorists and criminals disguised as tourists.

To reliably detect such persons, the Immigration Services Agency carries out strict and effective entry examinations, and engages in patrol and monitoring activities.



On patrol







Proper and Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Nationals



To realize residence by foreign nationals in line with objectives

Job Details

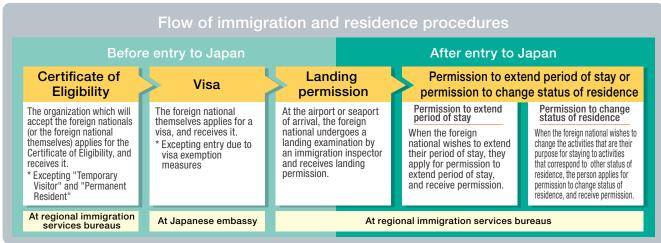
>> Residence examination for foreign nationals

Foreign nationals who reside in Japan can engage in activities freely and securely so long as within the scope of their status of residence and period of stay that determined at the time of landing. Those who desire to change their status of residence or extend their period of stay are required to obtain permission from the regional immigration services bureaus in accordance with Japanese laws and regulations.

Accordingly, the regional immigration services bureaus carry out examinations of various applications (changes of status of residence, etc.) from foreign residents.

The government of Japan strives to implement appropriate residence control of foreign nationals, as well as considering interests and security of Japanese citizens, through permitting foreign national's activities and stay in Japan by a status of residence and period of stay and implementing these examination.

* Please refer to pages 17 and 18 for the list of status of residence.



>> Residence management for mid to long-term residents

Since July 2012, a residency management system has been introduced for foreign nationals residing for a mid to long-term period in Japan to enable the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency to continuously ascertain the information necessary to manage the residence of foreign nationals in Japan. To go with being issued permissions related to residence of these mid to long term residents in Japan, such as new landing permissions, permissions to change status of residence, and permissions to extend the period of stay, they are issued residence cards.

Residence cards record items such as name, date of birth, gender, nationality or region, place of residence, status of residence, and period of stay.



Residence card

>> Online residency procedures

Online residency procedures via the Internet have been limited to staff members of organizations that satisfy certain criteria as well as lawyers and administrative scriveners. However, since March 2022, foreign nationals can apply online via the Internet by utilizing the personal authentication function including the My Number Card.

Prior application must be made by registering user information online or by mail.





There is no charge for using the system.

2

Applications can be submitted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, from your home or office.

The system may be shut down for maintenance several times a year.



You can also receive your residence card by mail.

These are some of the benefits!



PR character
"Rasppi"
for online residence
procedures

>> Technical intern training

The technical intern training program was established with the goal of transferring skills, techniques, and knowledge cultivated in Japan to developing countries and regions. The objective of this program is to contribute to "developing the human resources" who will have a role in the economic development in those developing countries and regions.

To ensure proper technical intern training and the protection of technical intern trainees, the Technical Intern Training Act was passed in November 2016. The Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT) was established based on this Act, which accredits technical intern training plans and provides consultation services in the trainees' mother tongues, among other activities.

The Immigration Services Agency also strives to protect technical intern trainees by, for example, distributing a Technical Intern Trainee Handbook which includes information regarding consultation desks, etc., to all technical intern trainees upon their entry to Japan.



Technical Intern Trainee Handbook (available in 9 languages)



Technical Intern Trainee Handbook (smartphone app version)

>> Specified skilled worker

In the industrial fields, which find it difficult to secure human resources, even if they strive for productivity improvement and recruitment of domestic human resources, measures were taken to establish status of residence "Specified Skilled Worker (i)" and status of residence "Specified Skilled Worker (ii)" in order to accept foreign nationals with high skills and expertise as "work-ready" laborers on April 1, 2019.

Various initiatives are being pursued toward the smooth operation of the Specified Skilled Worker system. These include the establishment of policies on the system's operation in collaboration with related ministries and agencies, the drafting of memorandums of cooperation (MOCs) with sending country governments, matching events for companies that wish to employ foreign nationals with specified skills, and the holding of information sessions for foreign nationals in their home countries.



Leaflet announcing matching event

>> Promotion of the acceptance of highly-skilled foreign professionals

In order to actively accept outstanding human resources from overseas and generate new innovation, Japan has established "the system of preferential immigration control and residency management treatment based on the points-based system for highly-skilled foreign professionals" to promote the acceptance of highly-skilled foreign nationals.

This system uses a points-based framework to recognize among those foreign nationals who meet the requirements for certain employment statuses those human resources (highly-skilled foreign professionals) who possess particularly outstanding capabilities, technical skills, etc. The system provides them with preferential immigration control and residency management treatment (e.g., allows under certain conditions for parents to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professionals, for domestic worker to be employed, etc.).

Additionally, in April 2023, the Japan System for Special Highly Skilled Professionals (J-Skip) and the Japan System for Future Creation Individual Visa (J-Find) were established. J-Skip is a system for granting the "Highly Skilled Professional" status of residence, based on academic background or business career background and promised annual salary above certain levels. J-Find is a system for granting a "Designated Activities" (future creation individual) status of residence to those foreign nationals who are graduates of outstanding overseas universities, etc., and wish to work or conduct preparatory activities for starting a business in Japan.





3 Creating an Environment Accepting of Foreign Nationals Toward the Creation of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence



For everyone to be able to live as good neighbors

Job Details

>> Cooperating with local governments through the Accepting Environmental Coordinators

Starting in April 2019, "Accepting Environmental Coordinators" were assigned to the regional immigration services bureaus (excepting some offices). Based on a request from the local government, these coordinators will promptly dispatch staff to serve as consultants at consulting counters related to foreign residents. They also provide information and training to the officers of local governments who are engaged in consultation services.

Furthermore, to promote multicultural and inclusive policies in the various regions, the Immigration Services Agency is working on further deploying the Accepting Environmental Coordinator system. In cooperation and collaboration with local governments, the Immigration Services Agency is working to collect information about the various regions and to share the useful information collected with those local governments such as about good practices.

>> Providing consultations to foreign residents

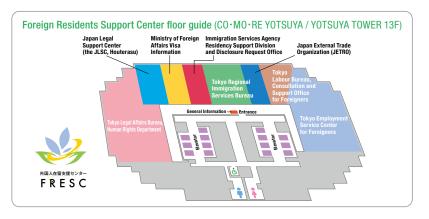
The Immigration Services Agency has established at each of its regional immigration services bureaus and district offices (excepting airport district immigration services offices) Immigration Information Centers to serve as a point of contact mainly for providing guidance on procedures related status of residence, etc.

In recent years, owing to the growing need to deal with the difficulties that foreign nationals face in their daily lives, in addition to the guidance on procedures that it has been providing the Immigration Services Agency has also been working with residency support departments to also provide consultations related to all aspects of daily life.

Furthermore, the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) was opened on July 2020. At FRESC, which establishes a hub for supporting foreign residents, eight organizations from four ministries and agencies (including the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau's Human Rights Department and the Houterasu (Japan Legal Support Center)) have offices on one floor to cope with inquiries regarding the status of residence as well as legal problems, responds to inquiries from one-stop consulting counters at local government offices, and holds training sessions for administrative officers of local governments through close cooperation among them.



Immigration Information Center



>> Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

In November 2021, a written opinion compiled by "Advisory Panel of Experts for the Realization of Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals" was submitted to the Minister of Justice, co-chair of the Ministerial Conference (a conference made up of the ministers and directors of the related ministries and agencies). Based on this proposal, in June 2022, the government formulated a Roadmap (partly changed in June 2023) that shows Japan's visions of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals. It also lays out the medium- to long-term issues and concrete measures to realize these visions by FY2026.

Based on that Roadmap and the Comprehensive Measures laid out below, the government has united to further promote establishing an environment aimed at realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

>> Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals

In December 2018, the government formulated "Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals" (hereinafter referred to as "Comprehensive Measures"), which includes measures related to scenes in daily life such as work environment, education, medical care and housing from the perspective of more strongly and comprehensively promoting the measures for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals. The Comprehensive Measures has been revised five times since then, and the most recent revision was made in June 2023.

The Comprehensive Measures shows the measures that should be implemented in a single year in the Roadmap and the measures that are not included in the Roadmap itself because they are not necessarily measures that should be implemented over the medium-to long-term, but should be addressed by the government to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

Support for one-stop consulting counters

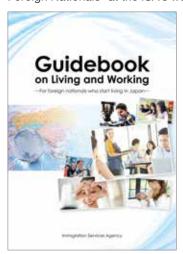
Support is provided through subsidies and the like for initiatives to establish and operate one-stop consulting counters through which the local governments deliver information and provide consultations so that a resident foreign national who has questions or concerns about matters related to daily life can get to the appropriate information or to a place that offers advice and consultations.



A consultation taking place at a one-stop consulting counter

>> Guidebook on Living and Working

The Immigration Services Agency, with cooperation from a wide range of sections of the government, has compiled a "Guidebook on Living and Working" that covers basic information (residency procedures, labor-related laws, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) necessary for foreign residents to lead their lives and take up employment in Japan safely and securely. It is available in 16 languages at the "Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals" at the ISA's website.





https://www.moj.go.jp/ isa/guidebook_all.html

>> Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support

In August 2020, the Immigration Services Agency created its "Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support" to promote the use of plain Japanese (using Japanese that is easy to understand mindful of the other party, such by rephrasing difficult language) by the national and local governments. The ISA is promoting the spread and use of plain Japanese through training, etc., for local government officials.





PR character "Kotorin"



Promotion of Measures Against Illegal Residents to Realize a Safe and Secure Society



To keep Japan safe and secure

Job Details

Among the foreign nationals residing in Japan are some who are regarded as unfavorable to Japanese society. These include persons who entered or landed Japan illegally, persons who overstayed beyond their authorized period of stay or are engaged in unauthorized activities, or persons who have been punished for certain crimes.

The Immigration Services Agency follows a series of procedures to deal with these individuals. It carefully carries out procedures to ascertaining the facts involved and considering the circumstances of the foreign national in question by investigating the violation, examining the violation, and conducting hearings, makes determinations on whether or not they are grounds for forcible deportation, and repatriate those individuals for which the results determine they should be forcibly deported overseas.

However, this does not mean that all foreign nationals who come under the conditions for deportation stipulated in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act will be deported from Japan. Some may be granted special permission to stay by the Minister of Justice in light of that person's history in Japan, their family situation, and the like.

In addition, certain violators of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act who meet certain conditions will be able to leave Japan through a simplified procedure by departure order.

Flow of deportation procedures



An immigration inspector examines whether the suspect falls under the conditions of deportation or not.

* If a suspect disagrees with the result of the examination, he/she may request an hearing by a special inquiry officer.



Violation detection

Investigation into violation

Detention

Examination into violation

Hearing

Decision by the Minister of Justice or the director of a regional immigration services bureau

Deportation

An immigration control officer investigates the facts concerning a violation.



A special inquiry officer determines whether the immigration inspector's decision is correct or not.

* If the suspect disagrees with the special inquiry officer's judgment, he/she may file an objection with the Minister of Justice.

>> Measures against illegal and imposter residents

Along with measures taken at the border, reducing the numbers of foreign nationals who are actually residing illegally in Japan is also important toward realizing a safe and secure society. The Immigration Services Agency is working to reduce the numbers of illegal residents such as by tightening up their detection and implement safe and reliable deportation, as well as expanding publicity efforts to prevent illegal work and further raise awareness of the departure order system. Furthermore, the Immigration Services Agency is actively carrying out a variety of measures in its work to build a society that does not produce illegal residents. These include furthering the analysis of information about resident foreign national obtainable through the residency management system, working to clarify the circumstances of imposter residents, and appropriately carrying out procedures to revoke someone's status of residence.



Publicity using digital signage

>> Efforts to improve treatment

Under a September 2010 agreement with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), the Immigration Services Agency began holding talks about the problems related to detention. Regular telephone consultation, etc. are held by bar associations regarding persons being detained at Immigration Detention Centers. Additionally, based on a June 2020 proposal from the Special Subcommittee on Detention and Deportation and a February 2022 proposal from the Advisory Panel on Enhancing the Medical System at ISA Detention Facilities, the Immigration Services Agency has been working to further improve the treatment of detainees, such as by improving the medical care system.

Furthermore, with the goal of ensuring transparency in security treatment, the Immigration Services Agency has established the Immigration Detention Facilities Visiting Committee at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau and the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau. The committees conduct inspections of the detention facilities and conduct interviews with detainees, as well as review correspondence from detainees and hold meetings. Based on these materials, they present their opinions to the directors of the detention facilities. With regard to the opinions submitted by these committees, the directors then work to take measures on those matters that can be addressed.



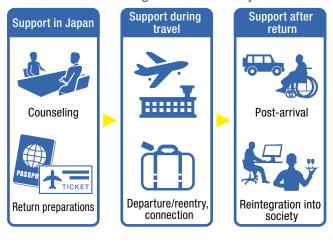
Online meeting of the Special Subcommittee on Detention and Deportation

>> Encouraging deportation of deportees

Regarding those individuals who evade deportation, the Immigration Services Agency works to encourage them to return home of their own volition. However, with respect to those individuals who nonetheless evade deportation, based on the regulations stipulated by law, they are ultimately deported by regularly operated service, accompanied by an escort. Additionally, since 2013, to avoid situations where an airline captain may refuse boarding, the Immigration Services Agency has carried out group deportation using a chartered flight, which makes it possible to securely deport significant numbers of deportees who share the same deportation destination.

Also, among those individuals who have the intention to return to their home country but evade deportation mainly because of concerns about their lives after returning, for those recognized as requiring humane consideration, with the help of the International Organization for Migration's Japan office, the Immigration Services Agency since FY2013 has operated a program to support voluntary return and reintegration into society.

Outline of Program to Support Voluntary Return and Reintegration into Society





5 Proper Protection of Refugees



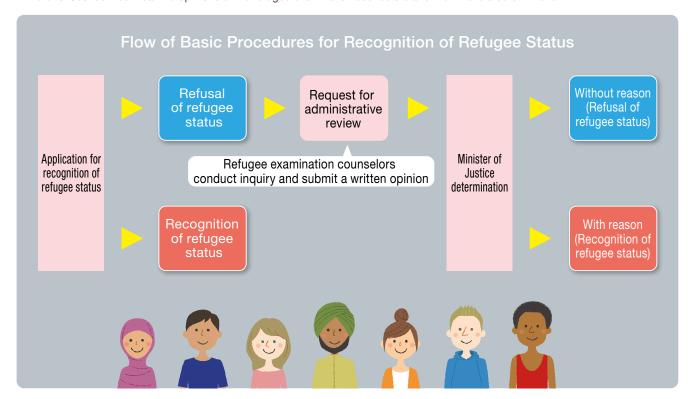
Job Details

>> Refugee recognition

Japan is a signatory to both the "Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees" and the "Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees." With the Convention and the Protocol having come into effect for Japan on January 1, 1982, it guaranteed that the various protective measures set down in those agreements would be applied to refugees.

Based on a request from a foreign national in Japan, the Immigration Services Agency(ISA) conducts an examination to determine whether or not the person qualifies for refugee status and issues a refugee travel document to those who have been recognized. At airports and seaports, the ISA handles the work of, for example, granting landing permission for temporary refuge that authorizes the temporary entry and residence of foreign nationals who apply for asylum and may qualify as refugees.

Additionally, the refugee examination counselor system was created in 2005 to grant appropriate asylum to refugees through a more equitable and neutral procedure. Through this system, in the event that a complaint has been filed regarding the refusal of refugee status, etc., three refugee examination counselors—comprising university professors, lawyers, etc. —will pursue an inquiry. The Minister of Justice must hear the opinions of the refugee examination counselors and then make a determination.



>> Further optimization to the operation of the refugee recognition system

Japan has properly recognized applicants who should be recognized as refugees, and even when they cannot be recognized as refugees, they have been allowed to stay in Japan as long as they need protection based on humanitarian consideration with the situation in their home countries. On the other hand, it has become necessary to improve the transparency of the refugee recognition system, and to respond to the rapid increase in the number of applications for refugee recognition and various claims in recent years.

The ISA is working in close cooperation with relevant organizations such as UNHCR (the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) to further optimize operation of the refugee recognition system based on three pillars: (i) clarifying normative elements on the eligibility for refugee status, (ii) improving the capacity of refugee inquirers, and (iii) enriching the content of country of origin information. To accelerate these initiatives, the ISA exchanged a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with UNHCR in July 2021.

Furthermore, with regard to item (i) above, in March 2023 the ISA formulated and published "Guide to Eligibility Determination for Refugee Status" that arrange the points that should be taken into consideration when making determinations on refugee status.



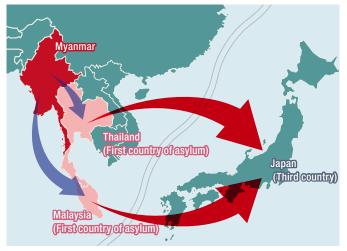
Signing ceremony with UNHCR

>> Acceptance of refugees through resettlement

Resettlement entails authorizing the resettlement of refugees who have escaped their country of origin and accepted temporary asylum in, for example, refugee camps in a neighboring country. These individuals are then transferred to a third country that has agreed to newly accept them from the country from which they had initially sought asylum.

Japan had accepted every year approximately 30 refugees from Myanmar living in refugee camps in Thailand since FY2010 as pilots case based on Cabinet approval, etc. Starting in FY2015, it began accepting the refugees from Myanmar who were given temporary asylum in Malaysia.

Furthermore, beginning in FY2020, due to a change to part of the Cabinet approval etc., the decision was made on matters such as expanding acceptance to include refugees temporarily residing around the Asia region, and expanding to around 60 as for the number of refugees accepted annually. In cooperation with related ministries and agencies, the ISA is striving to ensure their smooth acceptance.



Resettlement illustration (In the case of accepting refugees from Myanmar)

>> Encouraging collaboration with private support groups

In 2012 three-party agreement with the Forum for Refugees Japan and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, the Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice, finalized a memorandum on working to come up with better policies by collaborating and cooperating with citizen groups.

Based on this memorandum, during the period of April 2012 and March 2014, the Immigration Bureau implemented a "pilot project", which the Immigration Bureau (at the time) requested the Forum for Refugees Japan to secure a residence for foreign nationals claiming asylum at Narita Airport for whom it is difficult to secure a residence, and Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge or Permission for Provisional Stay was granted to foreign nationals who were accepted by the Forum.

Subsequently, following discussions by the three parties, the same measures under this project are currently being taken at Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Chubu Airport and Kansai Airport.

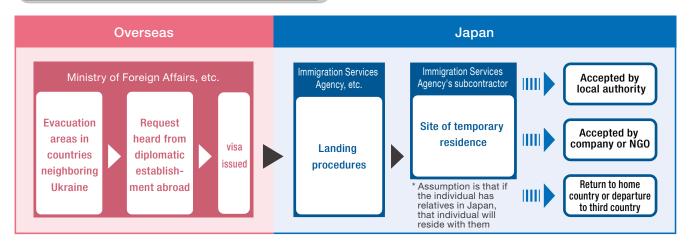


Meeting with citizen support groups

Other Initiatives

1 Receiving and Supporting Evacuees From Ukraine (As of July 1, 2023)

(1) Receiving evacuees from Ukraine



(2) Primary support for evacuees from Ukraine

Travel assistance for evacuees from Ukraine

For those evacuees from Ukraine who wish to evacuate to Japan but are having difficulties securing on their means the means for traveling here, the Immigration Services Agency provides assistance with traveling to Japan in the form of securing a certain number of seats on commercial flights here.



An interview with evacuees at the Embassy of Japan in Poland

Matching of relief supplies and services

A dedicated website has been established so that evacuees from Ukraine can receive from companies and similar the relief supplies and services that they had requested.





Certificate for evacuees from Ukraine

To make it so that Ukrainian evacuees can more smoothly obtain support intended for evacuees, the Immigration Services Agency issues documents certifying that those individuals are evacuees from Ukraine.



Assignment of Ukrainian Evacuees Reception Support Officers

To handle consultations with evacuees from Ukraine and with local authorities, the Immigration Services Agency has assigned Ukrainian Evacuees Reception Support Officers to 66 regional immigration services bureaus around the country.



Interview of evacuees by a Ukrainian Evacuees Reception Support Officer



In addition, for evacuees from Ukraine, the Immigration Services Agency is flexible when it comes to handling status of residence and has established contact points for consultation via email and telephone in Ukrainian. Furthermore, for evacuees from Ukraine who lack sponsors, the Immigration Services Agency also matches them with local government organizations that will offer them a temporary residence, give them funds to cover daily expenses and medical fees, and serve as a point of reception.





2 Measures against trafficking in persons

Trafficking in persons means acts—including procurement, transportation, sexual exploitation and receipt of persons by means of violence, threat, abduction, fraud, abuse of a position of vulnerability, etc.—for the purpose of exploitation by forcing them to engage in prostitution or forced labor. Trafficking in persons is a serious abuse of human rights and is absolutely unacceptable.

Since signing the "Protocol on Trafficking in Persons" that was adopted by resolution of the United Nations in November 2000, Japan has been implementing government-wide measures to combat trafficking in persons led by the Cabinet Secretariat, and including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the National Police Agency. In December 2014, the "Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons" was established, consisting of relevant cabinet ministers, to strongly promote anti-trafficking measures.

The Immigration Services Agency has also been working closely with the related ministries and agencies based on the "2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons" formulated in December 2022. Moreover, through strengthening its relations with the relevant foreign organizations, international organizations and NGOs, the Immigration Services Agency has been working to prevent trafficking in persons, as well as more proactively monitoring cases of trafficking that may be hidden from view, and working to eradicate trafficking and to properly protect the victims.

Initiatives by the Immigration Services Agency

Prevention

- Stricter landing and residence examinations
- Reinforcing investigation into and cracking down on brokers
 Collaborating with embassies, airlines, and the like

Eradicate

trafficking!

human

Protection

- Stabilization of the legal status of foreign national victims by granting special permission to stay in Japan, etc.
- Fast and smooth repatriation support

Prosecution

- Proactive approach towards cases involving promotion of illegal employment
- Deportation of foreign national offenders

3 Responding to the International Community

>> Treaties and International Conventions

In light of the deep relationship to the work under its jurisdiction, the Immigration Services Agency actively supports the framework such as Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), and frameworks aimed at exchanging information and opinions and improving cooperative relationships among multiple countries, including the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Furthermore, with respect to government reports on the status of the implementation of treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) to which Japan is a signatory, from its perspective of immigration control and residency management administration, the Immigration Services Agency is involved in the drafting reports, review of the government reports and follow-up thereof.

>> International conferences

The 1st Tokyo immigration Forum, organized by the Ministry of Justice and the Immigration Services Agency, was held on March 2–3, 2022, with the participation of representatives from immigration authorities of 18 countries and regions. In this forum, participants shared information and exchange opinion through the frank and active discussion of issues faced by immigration authorities from various countries and regions. The 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum was held between December 12 and 14, 2022.



Additionally, the Immigration Services Agency sends delegates to

the Migration Experts Sub-Group (MESG) Meeting, one of the sub groups of the G7 Rome-Lyon Group, which is a senior experts' group to discuss measures against international terrorism and transnational organized crime. The ISA also sends delegates to the Government Delegation on Anti-Human Trafficking Measures to exchange information on recent efforts to counter trafficking in persons, and to the Consular Consultation etc. to express Japan's position actively and build cooperative relationship with other countries, as well as to participate in multinational meetings such as OECD for the purpose of information sharing and exchanging opinions.

4

Amendments to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act to resolve the Issues of Deportation Evasion and Long-Term Detention

The Bill for Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (the Amendment Bill) was passed on June 9, 2023 at the 211st ordinary session of the Diet. Under the current system, foreign nationals whose deportation has been conclusively determined by administration can unrestrictedly suspend their deportation by repeating application for recognition of refugee status, regardless of the reason and the number of application. This has made it difficult for the Immigration Services Agency to promptly and appropriately deport these deportation evaders.

The Amendment Bill aims to resolve these issues of deportation evasion and long-term detention of deportation evaders and also create a system for providing foreign nationals who need international protection on humanitarian grounds, such as displaced persons from conflict, with the status for protection equivalent to refugee.

The Amendment Bill lays out certain measures, including the creation of (a) exceptions to suspension of deportation of applicants for refugee status and a deportation order for deportation evaders with penalties; (b) a new alternative to detention for those under deportation proceedings; and (c) recognition system of complimentary protection for foreign nationals who need international protection and application procedure of special permission to stay in Japan for those who need protection on humanitarian consideration.

The goal of these measures is to resolve in a comprehensive manner the above-mentioned issues under the current system and also lay foundations for realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

Appendix: List of Status of Residence

Status of Residence		Authorized activities	Examples	Period of Stay
Diplomat	governments hosted by the similar privileges and/or immu	enstituent members of diplomatic missions or consular offices of foreign Japanese Government; activities on the part of those who are provided with Inities as are granted to diplomatic missions pursuant to treaties or international vities on the part of their family members belonging to the same household.	Ambassador, minister, consulate general, or delegation member of a foreign government and their families	Period during which diplomatic activities are performed
Official	organizations recognized by	e who engage in the official business of foreign governments or international the Japanese Government; and activities on the part of their family members hold (except for the activities listed in the "Diplomat" column of this Table).	Employee of an embassy or consulate of a foreign government, individual assigned by an international institution for an official assignment, and their families	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 3 months, 30 days or 15 days
Professor	Activities for research, guidan or colleges of technology ("Ko	ce of research or education at a university, an equivalent educational institutions tosenmongakko").	College professor	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Artist	Artistic activities that produce listed in the "Entertainer" colu	e income, including music, the fine arts, literature, etc.(except for the activities mn of this Table).	Composer, artist, or writer	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Religious Activities	Missionary and other religion religious organization.	us activities conducted by foreign religious workers dispatched by a foreign	Missionary assigned by a foreign religious organization	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Journalist	News coverage and other Jo organization.	ournalistic activities conducted based on a contract with a foreign journalistic	Reporter or photographer of foreign press	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
	(i) Activities coming under any of the following items of "a" to "c" conducted by a person who meets the criteria specified by an Ordinance of the Ministry of Justice as a human resource with advanced highly-skilled capabilities, and who is expected to contribute to the development of academic research or the economy of Japan.	(a) Activities of engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice, or in conjunction with such activities, activities of a business managed personally by the highly-skilled professional associated with these activities or activities of research, research guidance or education based on a contract entered into a public or private organization in Japan other than said organization. (b) Activities of engaging in work requiring specialized knowledge or skills in the field of natural sciences or humanities based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice, or in conjunction with such activities, activities of a business managed personally by the highlyskilled professional associated with these	Highly-skilled human resources in accordance with the points' system	5 years
Highly- Skilled Professional		activities. (c) Activities of engaging in the operation of international trade or other business at a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice or to manage said business or, in conjunction with such activities, activities of a business personally managed by the highly-skilled professional associated with these activities.		
	the residence of the persor of Japan. (a) Activities of entered into with a public specialized knowledge or s into with a public or private trade or other business at conjunction with any of the Artist, Religious Activities, Specialist in Humanities/Ini	ich meet the criteria specified by an Ordinance of the Ministry of Justice where in engaging in the activities given in the previous item contributes to the interests engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract or private organization in Japan. (b) Activities of engaging in work requiring skills in the field of natural sciences or humanities based on a contract entered organization in Japan. (c) Activities of engaging in the operation of international a public or private organization in Japan or to manage said business. (d) In a activities listed in (ii) (a) to (c), the activities given in the column for Professor, Journalist, Legal/Accounting Services, Medical Services, Instructor, Engineer/ternational Services, Nursing Care, Entertainer, Skilled Labor or Specified Skilled stivities coming under any of (ii) (a) to (c)).		Unlimited
Business Manager	business (except for activities	peration of international trade or other business in Japan or to manage said to engage in the operation or management of business which may not be legally action given in the column of "Legal/Accounting Services").	Manager or operator of a company, etc.	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 6 months, 4 months or 3 months
Legal/ Accounting Services		or accounting business which may lawfully only be carried out by registered mubengoshi), or certified public accountants (gaikokukoninkaikeishi) or those	Attorney or certified public accountant	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Medical Services	Activities to engage in media dentists or those with other le	cal treatment services which may lawfully only be undertaken by physicians, gal qualifications.	Physician, dentist or registered nurse	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Researcher	Activities to engage in researce the activities listed in the "Pro	ch based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan (except for fessor" column of this Table).	Researcher at a government- related institution or company	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Instructor	compulsory education school for special needs education, v	age instruction or other education at an elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, school for secondary education (chutokyoikugakko), school vocational school (senshugakko), miscellaneous category school(kakushugakko) n equivalent to a miscellaneous educational institution in facilities and curriculum.	Language instructor at a high school or junior high school	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Engineer/ Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	science, engineering or othe or other humanities fields or acquired through experience organization in Japan(excep Manager","Legal/Accountin	s which require specialized skills or knowledge pertinent to the field of physical r natural science fields or to the field of jurisprudence, economics, sociology to engage in services which require specific ways of thinking or sensitivity with a foreign culture, based on a contract entered into with a public or private of for the activities listed in the "Professor", "Artist", "Journalist", "Business g Services", "Medical Services", "Researcher", "Instructor", "Intra-company d "Entertainer" columns of this Table).	Engineers such as of mechanical engineering, interpreters, designers, language teachers of private companies, and employees engaged in the marketing field, etc.	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Intra- company Transferee	time from a business office of head office, branch office or	connel who is transferred to a business office in Japan for a limited period of established in a foreign country by a public or private organization which has other business office in Japan, and who engages in the activities listed in the nities/ International Services" column of this Table at the business office.	Transferee from an office abroad	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Nursing Care		ed as a certified care worker to engage in nursing care or the instructions of act with a public or private organization in Japan.	Certified Care Worker	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months
Entertainer		rical performances, musical performances, sports or any other show form of ties listed in the "Business Manager" column of this Table).	Actor, singer, dancer, or professional athlete	3 years, 1 year, 6 months, 3 months, or 15 days
Skilled Labor	Activities to engage in service on a contract with a public or	es which require industrial techniques or skills belonging to special fields based private organization in Japan.	Chef of foreign cuisine, sports instructor, aircraft pilot, or craftsman of precious metals	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 3 months

Status of Residence	Authorized activities		Examples	Period of Stay
Specified Skilled Worker	(i)	Activities to engage in work requiring skills that need a considerable degree of knowledge or experience provided for in the applicable Order for the Ministry of Justice belonging to a specified industrial field (meaning the specified industrial field designated in the applicable Order of the Ministry of Justice where the securing of human resources to supplement the shortage of labor by employing foreign nationals is required due to difficulty in securing human resources; hereinafter the same shall apply in the same item) designated by the Minister of Justice based on a contract (limited to those conforming to the provisions of Article 2-5, paragraph (1) through to paragraph (4) of the immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act; hereinafter the same shall apply in the following item) concerning employment entered into with a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice.	Foreign nationals engaging in work requiring skills which need considerable knowledge or experience belonging to specified industrial fields.	Period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (1 year or less)
	(ii)	Activities to engage in work requiring the proficient skills provided for in the applicable Order for the Ministry of Justice belonging to a specified industrial field designated by the Minister of Justice based on a contract concerning employment entered into with a public or private organization in Japan designated by the Minister of Justice.	Foreign nationals engaging in work requiring proficient skills belonging to specified industrial fields.	3 years, 1 year or 6 months
	(i)	(a) Activities of taking a training course based on a technical intern training plan (limited to those pertaining to Individual-Enterprise-Type Technical Intern Training (i)) accredited under the Technical Intern Training Act, and engaging in work related to the skills, etc.		Period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (1 year or less)
Technical Intern Training		(b) Activities of taking a training course based on a technical intern training plan (limited to those pertaining to Supervising-Organization-Type Technical Intern Training (i)) accredited under the Technical Intern Training Act, and engaging in work related to the skills, etc.		
	(ii)	(a) Activities of engaging in work requiring the skills, etc. based on a technical intern training plan (limited to those pertaining to Individual-Enterprise-Type Technical Intern Training (ii)) accredited under the Technical Intern Training Act.	Technical intern trainees	Period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (2 year or less)
		(b) Activities of engaging in work requiring the skills, etc. based on a technical intern training plan (limited to those pertaining to Supervising-Organization-Type Technical Intern Training (ii)) accredited under the Technical Intern Training Act.	Technical intern trainees	
	(iii)	(a) Activities of engaging in work requiring the skills, etc. based on a technical intern training plan (limited to those pertaining to Individual-Enterprise-Type Technical Intern Training (iii)) accredited under the Technical Intern Training Act.		Period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (2 year or less)
		(b) Activities of engaging in work requiring the skills, etc. based on a technical intern training plan (limited to those pertaining to Supervising-Organization-Type Technical Intern Training (iii)) accredited under the Technical Intern Training Act.		
Cultural Activities	Academic or artistic activities that provide no income, or activities engaged in for the purpose of pursuing specific Japanese cultural or artistic studies, or for the purpose of learning and acquiring Japanese culture or arts under the guidance of experts (except for activities listed in the columns from "Student" to "Trainee" in this Table).		Researcher of Japanese culture	3 years, 1 year, 6 months or 3 months
Temporary Visitor	Sightseeing, recreation, sports, visiting relatives, inspection tours, participating in lectures or meetings, business contact or other similar activities during a short period of stay in Japan.		Tourist or conference participant	90 days, 30 days, 15 days or period of less than 15 days
Student	Activities to receive education at a university, technical school (kotosenmongakko), senior high school (including the second half of a course of study at a school for secondary education (chutokyoikugakko)), senior high school course of a school for special needs education (tokubetsushiengakko), junior high school (including the second half of a course of a compulsory education school (gimukyoikugakko) and the first half of a course of study at a school for secondary education (chutokyoikugakko)) or a junior high school course of a school for special needs education (tokubetsushiengakko), elementary school (including the first half of a course of study in a compulsory education school (gimukyoikugakko)) or an elementary school course of a school for special needs education (tokubetsushiengakko), vocational school (senshugakko), miscellaneous category school (kakushugakko) or an equivalent educational institution in terms of facilities and organization in Japan.		A university student, a junior college student, a student at a college of technology (kotosenmongakko), a senior high school student, a junior high school student or an elementary school student	Period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (4 years and 3 months or less)
Trainee	Activities to acquire skills at a public or a private organization in Japan (except for the activities listed in the "Technical Intern Training (i)" and "Student" columns of this Table).		Trainee	2 years, 1 year, 6 months or 3 months
Dependent	Daily activities on the part of a spouse or unmarried minor supported by the foreign national staying in Japan with the status of residence of "Professor", "Artist", "Religious Activities", "Journalist", "Highly-Skilled Professional", "Business Manager", "Legal/Accounting Services", "Medical Services", "Researcher", "Instructor", "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services", "Intra-company Transferee", "Nursing Care", "Entertainer", "Skilled Labor", "Specified Skilled Worker (ii)", "Cultural Activities" and "Student" in this table.		Spouse or child who is a dependant of a residing foreign national	Period designated individually by the Minister of Justice (5 year or less)
Designated Activities	Activities which are specifically designated by the Minister of Justice for foreign individuals.		Domestic help for a diplomat, individual on a working holiday, or nurse and certified caretaker candidates under the Economic Partnership Agreement	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 6 months, 3 months or a term designated by the Minister of Justice (5 years or less)

Status of Residence	Personal Status or Position for Which Residence is Authorized	Examples	Period of Stay
Permanent Resident	Those who are permitted permanent residence by the Minister of Justice.	Individual who is permitted permanent residence by the Minister of Justice (except for special permanent residents of the Special Act on the Immigration Control)	Unlimited
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	The spouses of Japanese nationals, those born as the children of Japanese nationals or children adopted by Japanese nationals pursuant to the provisions of Article 817-2 of the Civil Code (Law No.89 of 1896).	Spouse or child of a Japanese national, or child adopted by a Japanese national in accordance with the provisions of Article 817-2 of the Civil Code	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 6 months
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	The spouses of permanent residents, etc. or those born as the children of permanent residents, etc. in Japan and who have continued to reside in Japan.	Spouse of a permanent resident or Special Permanent Resident, or biological child of a permanent resident or Special Permanent Resident who was born and continues to reside in Japan	5 years, 3 years, 1 year or 6 months
Long- Term Resident	Those who are authorized to reside in Japan with a period of stay designated by the Minister of Justice in consideration of special circumstances.	Refugees accepted for third-country resettlement, Japanese descent, etc.	5 years, 3 years, 1 year, 6 months or a term designated by the Minister of Justice (5 years or less)

We hope this information helps you to better understand and familiarize yourself with the work of Japanese immigration control and residency management.

Contact points for inquiries about procedures related to immigration, status of residence, etc.

>>> Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and district offices

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Sapporo Regional Immigration Services Bureau	〒060-0042 Sapporo Third Joint Government Building, Odori-nishi 12 Chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido		TEL: 0570-003259 (IP Phone/International Call: 011-211-5701)	
Sendai Regional Immigration Services Bureau	₹983-0842 Sendai Second Legal Affairs Joint Government Building, 1-3-20 Gorin, Miyagino-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi		TEL: 022-256-6076 (main switchboard)	
Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau	〒108-8255 5-5-30 Konan	, Minato-ku, Tokyo	TEL: 0570-034259 (IP Phone/International Call: 03-5796-7234)	
	〒160-0004 Yotsuya Tower 13F & 14F 1-6-1 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo		TEL: 0570-01-1000 (IP Phone/International Call: 03-5363-3013)	
Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Yotsuya Branch	Status of Residence Registration Office	Notifications connected to an affiliated organization, notifications from an affiliated organization	TEL: 03-5363-3032	
Office	Online Examinations Office	Status of Residence Online Application Procedures	TEL: 03-5363-3030	
	Registration Office	Examination Record Management	TEL: 03-5363-3039	
Narita Airport District Immigration Services Office	〒282-0004 6th floor, Term Narita-shi, Chi	inal 2, Narita International Airport, 1-1 Azafurugome, Furugome, iba	TEL: 0476-34-2222 (main switchboard) TEL: 0476-34-2211	
Haneda Airport District Immigration Services Office	〒144-0041 Haneda Airpor	t CIQ Building, 2-6-4 Haneda-Kuko, Ota-ku, Tokyo	TEL: 03-5708-3202 (main switchboard)	
Yokohama District Immigration Services Office	〒236-0002 10-7 Torihama-cho, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa		TEL: 0570-045259 (IP Phone/International Call: 045-769-1729)	
Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau	〒455-8601 5-18, Shoho-cho, Minato-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi		TEL: 0570-052259 (IP Phone/International Call: 052-217-8944)	
Chubu Airport District Immigration Services Office	〒479-0881 3rd floor, CIQ Building, 1-1 Centrair, Tokoname-shi, Aichi		TEL: 0569-38-7410 (main switchboard)	
Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau	〒559-0034 1-29-53 Nankou-Kita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka		TEL: 0570-064259 (IP Phone/International Call: 06-4703-2050)	
Kansai Airport District Immigration Services Office	〒549-0011 1 Senshu-Kuko-Naka, Tajiri-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka		TEL: 072-455-1453 (main switchboard)	
Kobe District Immigration Services Office	〒650-0024 Kobe District Joint Government Building, 29 Kaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo		TEL: 078-391-6377 (main switchboard)	
Hiroshima Regional Immigration Services Bureau	₹730-0012 Hiroshima General Legal Affairs Building, 2-31 Kami-hacchoubori, Naka-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima		TEL: 082-221-4411 (main switchboard)	
Takamatsu Regional Immigration		gal Affairs Joint Government Building, 1-1 Marunouchi, i, Kagawa (General Affairs Section, Security Department)	TEL: 087-822-5852 (main switchboard)	
Services Bureau	₹760-0011 Hamanocho Branch Office, 72-9, Hamanocho, Takamatsu-shi, Kagawa (Examinations Department)		TEL: 087-822-5851	
Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau	〒810-0073 Fukuoka First General Legal Affairs Building, 3-5-25 Maizuru, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka		TEL: 092-717-5420 (main switchboard)	
Naha District Immigration Services Office			TEL: 098-832-4185 (main switchboard)	
Higashi-Nihon Immigration Center	digashi-Nihon Immigration Center 〒300-1288 1766-1 Kuno-cho, Ushiku-shi, Ibaraki		TEL: 029-875-1291 (main switchboard)	
Omura Immigration Center	₹856-0817 644-3 Kogashima-machi, Omura-shi, Nagasaki		TEL: 0957-52-2121 (main switchboard)	

>>> Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC)

Foreign Residents Support Center	〒160-0004 Yotsuya Tower 13F 1-6-1 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo	TEL: 0570-011000 (IP Phone/International Call: 03-5363-3013)
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>>> Immigration Information Centers, etc.

Face-to-Face Longuitation	The above-mentioned regional immigration services bureaus and district offices (excluding the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau Yotsuya Branch Office, airport offices and immigration centers)	
Consultation by phone	TEL: 0570-013904 (IP Phone/International Call: 03-5796-7112)	



