



February 2022 issue

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Facebook Page Opens

"日本留学ネット・Japan Alumni Global Network"

With the end of "Japan Alumni eNews" in March 2021, a new Facebook page has started.

<https://www.facebook.com/jasso.japanalumnglobalnetwork>

In addition, this newsletter is published once a year as part.

For international students who have studied in Japan, we post information useful for life after studying abroad such as the latest news on Japan, employment support information, and stories of other fellow students. Please stay tuned and enjoy interacting with current and former international students by taking advantage of social media that can be easily used.

Official Facebook Page
"Japan Alumni Global Network"



Looking Back Hot Topics of 2021 in Japan

Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics held over a year

The Olympics and Paralympics were postponed for the first time in history by one year due to the COVID-19.

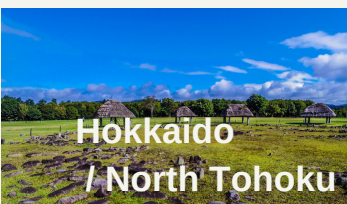
At the Olympics, Japan won 27 gold medals, the highest number in history, and the second highest number of medals at the Paralympics in history.



"Amami / Okinawa" and "Hokkaido / North Tohoku" have become World Heritage Sites



Amami / Okinawa

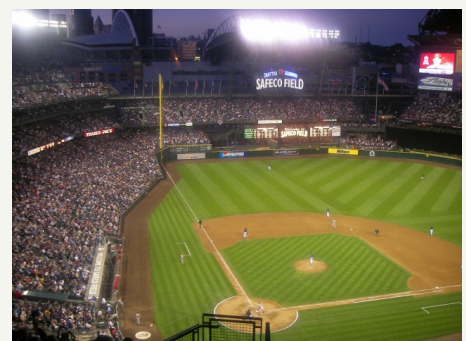


Hokkaido / North Tohoku

The World Heritage Committee has designated "Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island" (Kagoshima Prefecture, Okinawa Prefecture) as World Natural Heritage Sites, and "Jomon Prehistoric Site in Northern Japan" (Hokkaido, Aomori prefecture, Iwate prefecture, Akita prefecture) has been registered as a World Cultural Heritage Site. There are 20 cultural heritage sites and 5 natural heritage sites in Japan, for a total of 25 sites.

Shohei Ohtani, who is active in the American Angels, chosen as MVP

Shohei Ohtani, who plays as a two-way player in the American League Angels, was selected for this season's American League Most Valuable Player Award (MVP). He is the second Japanese player to receive the award for the first time in 20 years since Ichiro (Mariners) in 2001.



Introducing "Job Hunting Guide for International Students"

JASSO publishes "Job Hunting Guide for International Students" every year. When international students start job hunting in Japan, they may be confused by the activities and recruitment schedule unique to Japan. The number of employment of international students is increasing, but you may wonder when to start preparation? What is the required Japanese level? How do you prepare for the interview? There would be various questions.

Understanding the current situation of job hunting for international students, and above all, knowing the needs of Japanese companies for hiring international students is indispensable for job hunting. This guide book provides detailed and easy-to-understand explanations of the challenges faced by international students.

For example, when and what to do, research in industry / company and applying for a position, preparation for employment examination, changing status of residence, stories of others' experiences, etc., you can cover information related to job hunting with this one book.

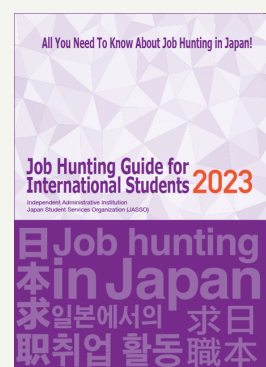
Main contents of "Job Hunting Guide for International Students 2023"

- Before Starting to Job Hunt in Japan
- Preparation for Job Hunting Activities
- Applications
- From Screening Tests and Job Offers to Joining a Company
- Changing Your Status of Residence
- Job Hunting Reports

You can download the PDF version of "Job Hunting Guide for International Students 2023 (Japanese Version)" at the following URL (the booklet version will be sent from the end of February 2022).

https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/after_study_j/job/guide.html

"Job Hunting Guide for International Students 2023 (English version)"



In addition, the PDF file of the 2023 English version will be updated in the following page,

https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/after_study_j/job/guide.html

The PDF file of the 2023 version in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Korean can be downloaded from the same URL from around the end of February. So please take advantage of it.

Please also use this page for employment of international students.

<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/job/employment/>



If you are looking for a job in Japan, first consult with the career center or the international exchange center of your university (school).

How did former international students choose their careers? Here are interviews!

With the desire to "connect valuable study abroad experience to the brilliance of the future," to the road of Japanese language education in China!



■ Profile

- Name: XIAOYUE SHI
- From: China (Qingdao City, Shandong Province)
- Language: Chinese, Japanese, English
- University (Faculty/ Department): Kindai University (Applied Sociology/ Social and Mass Media)

■ Work history

2016-2018: After graduating from university, worked at a major language school in China and was in charge of overall management.

2019-2020: Worked as a Japanese teacher at a school in Jiangsu Province, China.

From October 2020 to the present: Individual entrepreneurship. Teaching Japanese at a high school in China.

Actively taking the role of a supporter for students who have a strong desire to study in Japan.

Did you consider employment in Japan or overseas after studying abroad?

When I was in the 4th year of university, I considered employment in China, where I was born, in Japan, and overseas, but I chose to return home in the end.

There are two main backgrounds.

The first is to be able to help my family by making use of the experience of studying abroad.

This is because my family runs a business which has an alliance with Japan, and I thought that I would be able to utilize the experience I have cultivated in Japan to help it.

The second is to fulfill my goal of "becoming a bridge between my home country of China and Japan."

Since it was my goal before studying abroad, I decided to return to China because I wanted to go back to my original intentions and work as a bridge with Japan in my home country.

How is your experience studying abroad in Japan useful in shaping your current career?

I want young people who also have a dream of studying abroad to enjoy the “charms of Japan”, as an experienced person who has followed the same path, I can firmly support prospective international students.

In addition, I was able to start own business because of my knowledge of Japanese, the experience of taking an examination, and the experience of running a school in China.

A word to everyone who is preparing for employment

Believe in your potential and sincerely overcome the difficulties!



**Focusing on the delay in DX
(digital transformation)
conversion in Japan,
developed an application
with no code!**

■ Profile

- Name: Igor Voroshilov
- From: Russia
- Language: Russian, English, Japanese

■ Educational background

- September 2012-August 2016: Faculty of Global Studies, Moscow State University
- March 2015-August 2015: Sophia University
- September 2017-August 2019: The University of Tokyo Graduate School Master's Program

■ Work history

- August 2018-Present: LikePay Co., Ltd. CEO

What made you decide to start a business?

There are two main reasons.

- ① I've always wanted to enjoy life freely since I was little.
- ② At the stage when the research project has not started in the first year of graduate school

I was uncomfortable starting job hunting, and I felt that it was easier to start a business by myself.

- ① I wanted to start my own business so that I could live my life freely.

I have always wanted to live freely, and to create my own business.

When I was job hunting, I had the impression that companies that hire foreign students often do the same job as Japanese people.

However, I personally think that foreign students have skills that are different from those of Japanese students, such as different cultural understanding and multilingual skills, so they can take on the challenge of business by making use of them. That is how I started to seek a job to use my skill.

- ② At the stage when the research project has not started in the first year of graduate school.

It was uncomfortable to start job hunting, and I felt that it was easier to start a business by myself.

When I was in the first year of graduate school, I participated in a job hunting event, but I felt uncomfortable starting job hunting before the research project had started.

Also, the job hunting schedule requires lots of effort for the long term, and I feel that it is not good for me to spend 1.5 years on job hunting, and I think that it is better to spend time to start a business by myself instead of job hunting.

At that time, I was invited by a friend who was considering starting a business like me to participate in a startup event.

Through this event, I heard from foreign entrepreneurs how they started their businesses, and I felt that the goal of starting a business could be realized as the image of entrepreneurship gradually became more concrete.

Also, hearing a real story from a foreign entrepreneur who started a business in Japan gave me a lot of courage and pushed my back!

Did what you learned at a Japanese university help you start a business?

What I learned at university is not directly related to the service content of the company, I think that the experience of "thinking with my own mind" and "making connections with various people" during my school life in Japan was especially useful for starting a business.

Focusing on the fact that Japan's digital transformation has been delayed, I used it for business ideas.

You had the option of starting a business in Russia or overseas, but what was the reason for starting a business in Japan?

I thought that the business form had a high affinity with Japan.

Since there is a tendency of posting products and services that Japanese people consume on Instagram etc., it would match my service, so I decided to start a business based in Japan.

Message to international students

It is very difficult to start a business in Japan due to cultural differences, but you can have a valuable experience of creating a business as a team while thinking through trial and error.

If you are an international student who likes challenges, please take advantage of your strength as a foreigner and take on the challenge of starting a business!

Introducing the International Student Association

Here are some of the organizations that are active as returnee student associations in each region.

■ Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) (India)

An alumni association for Indians who have stayed in Japan for over a year for continuous learning or research.

Website: <https://mosai.org.in/>



The activities are as follows.

1. MOSAI Japanese Language Institute: Japanese Language Education Department
2. Higher Education Counseling Room: Information Service Department for Studying in Japan
3. Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)
4. Implementation of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
5. Holding academic / educational seminars and conferences between Japan and India
6. Implementation of All Indian Japanese Speech Contest

■ Circle Camerounais des Anciens du Nippon (CCAN) (Cameroon)

A network of Cameroonians who have graduated from Japanese universities all over the world.

For 17 years since its establishment (2005), it has been connected to the Japanese Embassy in Cameroon to promote cultural exchange between Japan and Cameroon.

Members of this association work for national institutions, NGOs, companies, etc.

Contact: tetsopgang@yahoo.com

■ KIZUNA Network(Switzerland)

"KIZUNA" is a network of people who have studied abroad / research / work experience in Japan.

It is made up of about 100 members and usually has an annual official meeting.

Introducing new members, giving lectures, and interacting with each other.

KIZUNA is working to connect with more people who have experience in Japan and people who are interested in Japan.

Web: https://www.ch.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_de/kizuna.html



■ **Japan Study Visit Alumni Association of Gerogia (Georgia)**

Although the activity has been suspended due to the COVID-19, it usually meet once a year at the Japanese ambassador's office to exchange information and opinions and hold a meeting to introduce new alumni.

Contact: k.tsereteli@freeuni.edu.ge

■ **German JSPS Alumni Association (JSPS-Club) (Germany)**

Currently, JSPS-Club has about 500 researchers in various fields, of which about 60 are engaged in research in Japan. Members can join not only JSPS but also researchers who have stayed in Japan using the JASSO scholarship system. JSPS-Club holds annual symposiums for those who are interested in German-Japanese academic exchanges and regular meetings for members in Japan and German-speaking countries. In addition, a junior forum is held in Germany jointly with the JSPS Bonn Research Liaison Center to provide an opportunity to present research results.

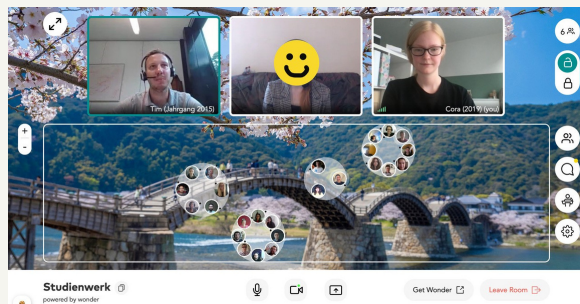
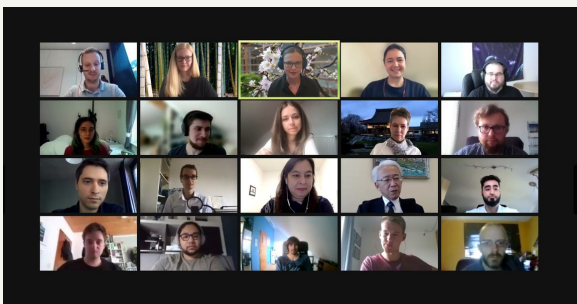
Website: <https://www.jsp-club.de/>



■ **Freunde des Studienwerk für Deutsch-Japanischen Kulturaustausch in NRW e.V. (Germany)**

Freunde des Studienwerk für Deutsch-Japanischen Kulturaustausch in NRW e.V. is a network of former participants of the Gakusei Engokai fellowship program "Experience Japan!". "Experience Japan!" provides German students and young researchers active in various fields with the opportunity to learn about culture and society in Japan. It also co-sponsors Japan-related events in Germany to promote cultural exchange.

Website: <https://www.japan-studienwerk.de/>



■ **Jordan Japan Academic Society (Jordan)**

Building bilateral relations, promoting cultural activities, promoting academic exchanges, building partnerships with Japanese academic institutions, promoting Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology scholarships for Jordanian academic institutions. It focuses on recommending students who are scientifically acclaimed for this scholarship. We also invite lecturers from both Japan and Jordan to hold lectures and focus on matching academic researchers.



Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/238597356277401/>

■ **JICA Alumni Association of Rwanda (Rwanda)**

It is made up of more than 800 Rwandans who have acquired skills and knowledge from Japan in fields such as agriculture, ICT and technology, health and education through the JICA program. By utilizing the diverse knowledge gained from JICA training, contributing to poverty reduction in Rwanda, and contributing to the development of education, health, agriculture, animal resources, environmental protection, and infrastructure for Rwandan people, socially and it promotes economic welfare and advocates lasting peace and respect for human rights.

Contact: jaarwanda2019@gmail.com



For other international student associations in each region,
please see below.

<https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/network/list/>



Introducing support programs for international students and former international students.

JASSO also supports international students who have returned to their countries. This time, we would like to introduce the "Follow-up Research Fellowship" and the "Follow-up Research Guidance". The recruitment for 2022 has been closed, but reports of former participants might be helpful.

■ Follow-up Research Fellowship

This is for students who have completed study in Japan and are active in the fields of education, academic research, or administration as they return to their home country. By subsidizing travel expenses and stay expenses to Japan, this program allows you to come back to Japan and conduct short-term research at a Japanese university with your former faculty members.

- Number of fellows in 2021: 26
- Number of fellows in 2022: App. 24 (planned)

[Here for the report of the Follow-up Research Fellowship]
https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/after_study_j/tanken/report/index.html



■ Follow-up Research Guidance

A program that dispatches former supervisors to the site to provide additional research guidance to returnees who have completed studying in Japan and are engaged in education and research activities at their own universities and academic research institutes.

- Number of fellows in 2021: 5
- Number of fellows in 2022: Approximately 5 (planned)

[Here for a report on the Follow-up Research Guidance]
https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/after_study_j/shido/report/index.html



[Conditions and precautions]

Both programs are only for those who have returned to their home countries after completing graduate school in Japan and have jobs in education, academic research, or administration in their own country (not for research institutes of private companies). For other application conditions, please check the application guidelines on the JASSO website and the university you have studied.

From the editorial department

This time, we covered topics such as news of 2021, job hunting/ career, introduction of international student associations and support programs. How was it?

The Japan Alumni Global Network Facebook page provides useful information for current/ former international students, and aims to be a place for everyone to interact with each other.

Those who are reading this post now! Would you like to introduce your memories in Japan or/and topics you want to share with fellow students on the Japan Alumni Global Network? Please write your name and email address and contact us via Facebook direct message or email "alumni-newsletter@jasso.go.jp".



Publisher
Follow-up Services and Career Support Unit,
International Scholarship Division,
Student Exchange Department
Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)
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