

# Job Hunting Reports



## Ms. Diah Rostanti Fadila

**Nationality:** Indonesian

**University/school:** Graduate school, Shizuoka University

**Major:** Department of Engineering, Graduate School of Integrated Science and Technology

**Period of study in Japan:** October 2016 to September 2018

**Place of work:** Advics Co., Ltd.

**Japanese proficiency:** JLPT N3

### Reason for working in Japan

After studying in Japan for two years, I felt that the systematic and methodical workflow of Japan suits me well. I decided to work in Japan because Japanese people are diligent and always work to do the best for the customer. This is because I want to learn a lot from the Japanese business culture.

### Reason for choosing my company

I chose to work in the automotive brake system industry because I want to contribute to the safety of many people and reduce the number of traffic accidents. My mission is to safeguard human lives.

### Company job content

The mission of Advics Co., Ltd is to contribute to society by pursuing better safety, environment, and comfort through quality products that make customers happy. As a developer of brake control systems, I am actively involved in developing communication software for the brake system.

### Self-promotion to companies

I focused on promoting my abilities with programming skills, management systems, and foreign languages. My faculty was computer science, and I managed business development for my master's. I applied to be a computer engineer, and I highlighted my programming and data analysis skills.

### Number of companies applied to during job hunting

The university offered me an interview with one company as special recruitment, but it didn't work out. Then, one of my instructors at the university recommended me to this company, and I applied.

### Effective job hunting strategies

I applied to my current company in April. The recruitment period had already finished, but I wrote an e-mail directly to the human resources department, and they were kind enough to give me the opportunity to apply. I had an interview in May, and I was accepted in June.

### How I researched industries and companies

I first learned of my company when I participated in my university's tour of the company. Afterward, I participated in the company's booth when a job hunting briefing session was held at my university, and I was able to obtain detailed information about the company and a business card of the person responsible for recruiting.

### Things to be careful of regarding application forms and resumes

I wrote experiences related to my major. I also wrote other skills and interests. I think any hardships in your student life or research will also be valued, so I recommend writing specifics of what you worked hard on.

### Things to be careful of during interviews

First, I gained knowledge about the company I am applying for. I told the interviewer that I am interested in working, and I told my reasons for applying and my skills. Finally, they gave me an opportunity after my interview to ask questions, and I asked a question showing my strong interest in working there.

### Questions during interviews

About almost everything on my resume. What I learned at university, what research I am doing, what remuneration I had received, my strengths and weaknesses, and what hardships I experienced at university and how I was able to solve them.

### Hopes and plans for the future

I want to become someone who is always learning new things, under whatever circumstances. My company gives me opportunities to always learn new skills and develop. I will use those skills to contribute to building up the company. I dream of people around the world using my company's products in their daily lives and of being able to witness the products being appreciated.

### Advice to future job seekers

International students must apply to a company they are really interested in and check the atmosphere at that company. Don't select a company just because you are a job seeker or just because the pay is high. If you already have many strengths to offer that company, writing the resume should be easy, so prepare to grow and produce outcomes.



## Ms. Xue Qi

**Nationality:** Chinese  
**University/school:** Graduate school, Yokohama City University  
**Major:** Graduate School of International Management  
**Period of study in Japan:** September 2015 to July 2020  
**Place of work:** Altech Corporation  
**Japanese proficiency:** JLPT N1

### Reason for working in Japan

In the beginning, I liked Japanese culture and I came to study in Japan, but after three years in Japan, my goals changed. I found employment in Japan because I wanted to become someone who can participate actively in this global age. Also, since I put so much effort into studying Japanese, I would like to stay in Japan and make use of my language skills as much as I can.

### Reason for choosing my future company

Altech has a long history, and it is stable and has good employee benefits and welfare, so I thought it would be a company that a foreigner can feel secure at. Also, since it is doing business in China, I think I would be able to do work dealing with China in the future.

### Company job content

Mostly dispatching engineers and working on consigned engineering projects. I don't know what my work will be yet.

### Self-promotion to companies

I highlighted my tenacity in continuing to make efforts toward my goal by telling the story of how I tried hard and found my own solutions to contribute to an increase in sales at my short-term job selling bags, despite my limited Japanese.

### Number of companies applied to during job hunting

Pre-application: 40, company briefing session: 15, application: 20, interview: 6

### Effective job hunting strategies

I think it is effective to find the industry you are interested in with internships to clarify your goals.

### How I researched industries and companies

I used many methods, such as researching on the Internet, asking persons who have already gone through this, and participating in internships. I recommend internships the most. By participating in an internship, you can experience the details of work and the atmosphere of the workplace that you can't find out by just seeing or hearing.

### Things to be careful of regarding application forms and resumes

I think it is better to write easy-to-understand Japanese than to write complicated Japanese. I think it's also good to ask Japanese friends or instructors to check your Japanese, just in case.

### Things to be careful of during interviews

I think it's good to speak what you really think instead of talking from a memorized answer. If you memorize it and talk, your expression becomes stiff and you can't show feeling, so it is difficult to gain the interviewer's empathy. It's easier for people to empathize if you speak naturally, saying what you are really thinking.

### Questions during interviews

Why I chose this industry and company, what I want to promote about myself, what I worked hard on as a student, why I came to Japan to study, what I want to do in the future, and whether I have plans to return to my home country.

### Hopes and plans for the future

I want to become someone who can participate actively in this global age. One-tenth of the employees at the company that has given me the job offer are citizens of other countries. I would like to contribute to increasing foreign employees and becoming a global company. Also, through my volunteer activity, I am supporting the employment of international students. Another one of my hopes is to support foreign nationals who live in Japan and improve their lives through this activity.

### Advice to future job seekers

International students are more likely than Japanese students to get a late start on their job hunting activities, so it's better to start preparations early.



## Ms. LU, CHIA-CHIN

**Nationality:** Taiwanese  
**University/school:** Graduate school, Aichi University  
**Major:** Faculty of International Communication, The Department of Global Liberal Arts  
**Period of study in Japan:** April 2016 to March 2020  
**Place of work:** Rakuten, Inc.  
**Japanese proficiency:** JLPT N1

### Reason for working in Japan

I decided to start my career at a Japanese company because I want to be a competent person wherever I go from now on. In Japan, job hunting takes place using a unique system of recruiting, simultaneous recruitment of new graduates. I was attracted by the fact that after joining the company, I could learn business manners and specialized knowledge and skills, and that there was a proper new employee training system in place.

### Reason for choosing my company

I thought I could do a lot of interesting things in this company. I was also fascinated by the open corporate culture, such as the attitude of taking on new challenges without fear to create a new normal of the world without being bound by common sense, and the efforts to change the official language of the company to English and diversity.

### Company job content

It offers more than 70 different services in 30 countries and regions, including e-commerce, FinTech, digital content and communications. We are a company that places importance on giving people a sense of convenience and value.

### Self-promotion to companies

In addition to studying, I conveyed what I had learned in my student life, such as club activities and part-time jobs. In particular, I emphasized how my experience has changed me and how I can make use of that change in my work.

### Number of companies applied to during job hunting

Pre-application: 8, interview: 6  
Since I wanted to concentrate, I only applied for the companies which I really wanted to work for if I got it.

### Effective job hunting strategies

It is important to start preparations early and manage your own time. And I always thought about what I wanted to accomplish. I corrected my plan when I noticed that it was different from what I had imagined.

### How I researched industries and companies

Rather than relying solely on the content of company websites and company briefings, I collected industry and company information through senior advice and reliable websites. The collected information was organized in Word, and questions and other information that were asked at each interview stage were organized into folders for each company.

### Things to be careful of regarding application forms and resumes

I wrote "from a company standpoint". Common sense in my point of view is not necessarily common sense of others. I was careful to write concisely and logically, such as writing a conclusion first and including numbers. After I finished writing, I asked a native Japanese speaker to check if the grammar was correct and the sentence could be understood.

### Things to be careful of during interviews

Not to tell a lie. A sincere approach to the interviewer leads to trust. Companies judge students' aptitude and decide whether to pass or not. Even if you join a company with a character that is completely different from your real self in an interview, if the company culture and personality don't match, it is you who will suffer.

### Questions during interviews

Reasons for applying, what I want to accomplish in the company, the experience of my school days, and how to deal with the difficulties I face.

### Hopes and plans for the future

I want to do something where my work can influence the world. Therefore, I would like to continue to learn specialized knowledge and experience various things, and grow myself by calculating back on what I can do now.

### Advice to future job-seekers

It is important to decide by yourself without leaving the final decision to others. When you get lost, you should decide the priority and analyze it. New graduates can only experience it once in their lives, so think that it's a good chance to get to know various companies, enjoy it and do job hunting without regret.



## Mr. HU YANPENG

**Nationality:** Chinese  
**University/school:** Graduate school, Sophia University  
**Major:** Faculty of Law, Department of Legal Studies of the Global Environment  
**Period of study in Japan:** April 2017 to March 2021  
**Place of work:** IBM Japan Digital Services Company (IJDS)  
**Japanese proficiency:** Advanced (Capable of using Japanese in business situations)

### Reason for working in Japan

I have been studying in Japan for more than 5 years, and I am familiar with Japanese society and living, more than that of my home country. I wanted to make use of those experiences and knowledge. I decided to find a job in Japan because I thought there were more opportunities to be challenged and to learn in Japan than in my own country.

### Reason for choosing my company

I was interested in IT and wanted to contribute to changing people's lives as an IT specialist. IJDS has a wealth of industry knowledge and unparalleled technological expertise, so there are plenty of opportunities to learn specialized skills. I also found it easy to work in an environment that embraces diversity and changes.

### Company job content

We provide consulting, technical support, and commissioned services for the planning, design, development, maintenance, and operation of information systems, as well as software products made by other companies to complement IBM products.

### Self-promotion to companies

I conveyed my strong desire to join this company. I also showed my listening and learning skills and the ability to keep doing what I decided until the end.

### Number of companies applied to during job hunting

About 30

### Effective job hunting strategies

It is important to think about what you want to be in the future and look for a job this way instead of applying only to famous companies. There are always things and information that you don't know by yourself, so I recommend you to share information with your friends and use the career center of the school.

### How I researched industries and companies

The most effective way is to attend the company briefing sessions. The most efficient way is to gather the information you want to know before you participate, and ask the employees about the information that you didn't get at the briefing. Another way is to search on the internet and look at the company news and financial statements.

### Things to be careful of regarding application forms and resumes

The most important thing is to write honestly. I expressed my true self and let the company judge whether I was suitable or not. I also wrote concisely to make it easier for readers to understand. I also read the questions on the application form and thought about what they really wanted to ask before writing.

### Things to be careful of during interviews

I viewed the interviewer as a peer, and relaxed to be able to express myself. Also, since they were interviewing a lot of people, I answered them in a way that was easy to understand without saying unnecessary things.

### Questions during interviews

The reasons why I wanted to work in Japan, what I did well and couldn't do well when I was a student, how I imagined myself working in the future, what I was doing as a part-timer, and about other companies I was applying to.

### Hopes and plans for the future

Studying in the IT industry and working as an IT specialist to help change the lives of people around the world.

### Advice to future job-seekers

Job hunting is tough. But it's one of the most important choices in your life. You might get nervous when you hear that someone else has got a job offer, but trust yourself. Finding a job is not first come, first serve, but it is important to find the right company for you in the end.



## Ms. Jieun Lee

**Nationality:** Korean  
**University/school:** Graduate school, Kwansai Gakuin University  
**Major:** School of Humanities, Department of Psychological Sciences, Psychological Sciences  
**Period of study in Japan:** April 2015 to March 2019  
**Place of work:** Maxell Holdings, Ltd.,  
**Japanese proficiency:** JLPT N1

### Reason for working in Japan

I wanted to contribute to Japanese society. With the help of many Japanese friends and acquaintances, I was able to finish my university life without any problems, so I decided to get a job because I wanted to be a useful person for Japanese people and Japanese society through my work.

### Reason for choosing my company

I was attracted to Maxell's batteries and products and wanted to expand those products globally. In particular, I wanted to support the beauty, health, and enriching lives of women not only in Japan but also overseas with our beauty household appliances.

### Company job content and my responsibilities at the company

We manufacture and sell electric equipment in a variety of fields, mainly batteries, and projectors and beauty products, in the three fields of "automobiles", "living and infrastructure" and "health and beauty". And, I am in charge of procurement. I coordinate purchasing operations in all divisions and focus on securing high-quality materials, reducing costs, and ensuring smooth production.

### Self-promotion to companies

I talked about when I planned and ran an exchange event for international students outside the university to emphasize my "steady planning skills" and "honest acceptance of feedback and opinions".

### Number of companies applied to during job hunting

Pre-application: 50, company briefing session: 20 including employment seminar, application: 30, interview: 15

### Effective job hunting strategies

It is important to participate in internships and employment seminars as soon as possible to narrow down the industries you wish to work for. Another effective way is to actively use job hunting events and career centers at universities, and to practice interviews repeatedly.

### How I researched industries and companies

First, narrow down the industry you wish to work for, and start with a shallow understanding of the structure of the entire industry. After that, I researched the situation and possibilities in depth, while gaining knowledge about the industry through discussion meetings with former students working at employment websites and companies in that industry.

### Things to be careful of regarding application forms and resumes

I tried to make the content easier for readers to understand. I wrote down what I wanted to write once in my own native language, translated it into Japanese, and thoroughly checked whether my Japanese friends around me could read it and understand it.

### Things to be careful of during interviews

The first thing is the way of speaking. In an interview, it is important to use keigo and follow business manners, which are different from the way of speaking in everyday life. Second, always smile and have good posture to give a good impression to the interviewer.

### Questions during interviews

I was asked why I came to Japan to study, why I wanted to work in Japan, my strengths and weaknesses, what I did well at university, and where I would like to be in five or ten years.

### Hopes and plans for the future

I would like to be able to be in charge of various fields in the current buyer's work. I would like to play an important role not only in Japan but also in the global society.

### Advice to future job-seekers

In order to appeal to the company, it is important to clarify what you want to say, and to conclude concisely. If you have the most impressive "words", the interviewer will listen. Keep up the good work in order to succeed!