

# Japan Alumni Global Network Newsletter

## December 2025 issue

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# Looking Back at Hot Topics of 2025 in Japan

## Osaka–Kansai Expo 2025

From April 13 to October 13, 2025, the Osaka–Kansai Expo was held on Yumeshima Island in Osaka.

With the theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” the event featured innovative pavilions and exhibitions. Visitors from across Japan and around the world came to experience the latest visions for a future society.



## Two Japanese Scientists Receive Nobel Prizes in the Same Year!



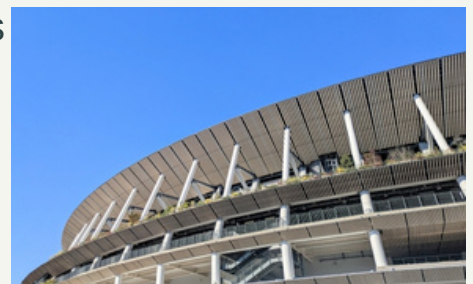
On October 6, Professor Shimon Sakaguchi of Osaka University received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. His groundbreaking discovery of regulatory T-cells (Tregs) is expected to open new possibilities in cancer and autoimmune disease treatment.

Then again on October 8, Professor Susumu Kitagawa of Kyoto University was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his pioneering work on MOFs (Metal–Organic Frameworks). These materials have the potential to contribute to solutions for global challenges such as CO<sub>2</sub> capturing and reducing plastic pollution.

## Tokyo 2025 World Athletics & Deaflympics

Tokyo hosted two major international sporting events this fall: the World Athletics Championships from September 13–21, and the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics from November 15–26.

Top athletes from around the globe competed at the highest level, while supporters traveled to Japan to cheer the athletes from their home countries, bringing tremendous excitement throughout Japan.



## Here are alumni testimonials!

Here are some testimonials from other alumni who job-hunted in Japan!



### ■Profile

Name:Gahyeon Kim

Nationality: South Korea



## Difficulties and Challenges Faced during Job Hunting

Hello everyone, nice to meet you! My name is Kim, and I'm from South Korea. I'm currently living in Japan, and today I'd like to share my experience of job hunting here. I studied in Korea through high school, then came to Japan for university. In Japan, job hunting often starts as early as the summer of your third year. Students apply for summer internships, and by winter, job-hunting begins in earnest. Formal hiring usually begins around March or April of your fourth year, and offers start to come in one after another.

When I was a senior, I focused mainly on the hotel industry. There were a few reasons why I chose this field: I speak both Japanese and Korean, and I enjoy helping people and chatting with guests. Starting in April, after putting in a lot of effort, I was able to receive offers from three companies. However, I decided not to pursue hotels after all, because the pay was low, and I would have had to work night shifts. That's how I ended up graduating without a job offer.



After that, I started looking for positions where I could use both Korean and Japanese. I sent résumés everywhere, from trading companies to cosmetics firms. However, I could hardly even get past the document screening. Back when I was a new graduate, I had no problem getting through the paperwork stage and even through the first interview, so I really felt how much harder job hunting becomes once you're no longer fresh out of school.

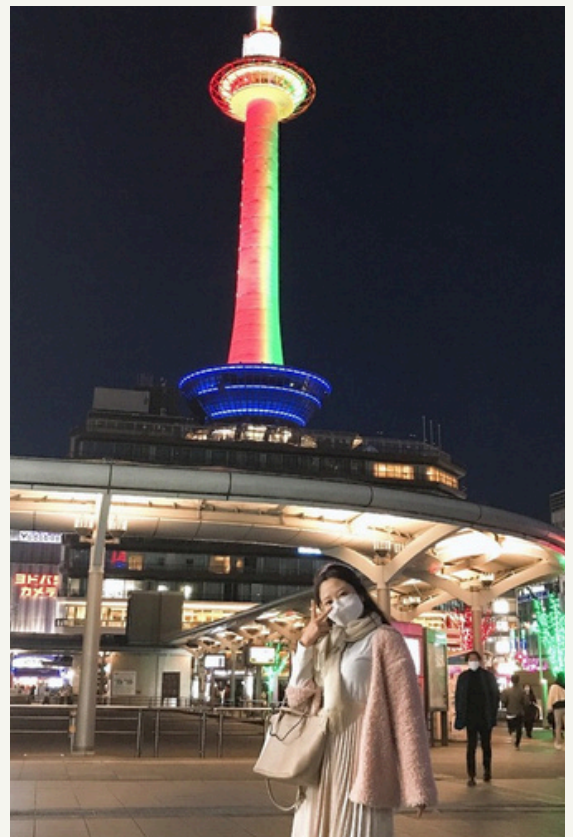
Looking at company recruitment pages, I found they were aimed mainly at new graduates or people with work experience. Unfortunately, there were very few openings for "already graduated but no work experience yet." Luckily, I found a company that considered my freelance work as professional experience, and I was able to join as an experienced hire. Looking back, I think I was really fortunate.

If you're reading this and thinking, "Finding a job in Japan may be too difficult," don't worry! These days, more companies are opening up positions for people who have already graduated, and many are actively looking to hire foreign talent as part of their push toward globalization.

Here's what I want to share from my own journey:

If you can, I recommend joining a company at least once as a new graduate, even if you later decide to leave. If that's not an option, make sure your résumé is well-prepared, and use every resource available, including job sites, recruiters, and even career-change agents.

Keep going and don't give up! You're sure to find a company that's happy to extend a hand. Good luck, everyone!



## Check out what current international students are doing!

Here are the experiences of a current international student conducting research in Japan!



### ■Profile

Name: Hilda Meriyandah

Graduate School: Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences, University of Tsukuba

Nationality: Indonesian



### About the research that you are doing in Japan

"The health of mothers and children has been something that has piqued my interest ever since I was a student at university. Up until now, I have conducted a number of studies in this area, and currently my research is about the growth and development of children. I'm so lucky to be able to pursue my degree in Japan since I was in master. It's been my 5th year staying in Japan and still looking forward to a amazing future ahead!"

### Research Topic: Social skills development in early childhood and its influencing factors.

My research seeks to understand how preschool children develop crucial social skills—and what shapes this growth in different cultural settings. One part of my work explores the differences between Indonesian and Japanese preschoolers, aiming to reveal how environment and culture help shape cooperation, communication, and emotional control at a very early stage.

At the heart of my research is a simple yet profound question: what factors contribute to the social development of children? I intend to discover, via my research, the processes that contribute to the development of social skills, as well as the ways in which these mechanisms are influenced by factors such as parenting styles, educational systems, and cultural values. I believe that these findings have the potential to improve the support that is provided to children in Japan, Indonesia, and many other nations.

## Research Methods & Academic Life in Japan

To bring my research to life, I've spent countless hours visiting childcare centers in both countries, connecting with educators, parents, and young children. Using structured questionnaires, focus group interviews, and observation, I've been able to gather valuable data that reflects the day-to-day reality of early education. Being in Japan has given me access to world-class research facilities and the guidance of mentors who truly care about the next generation of scholars. The cross-cultural exchange with peers has also enriched my perspective—reminding me that learning doesn't just happen in classrooms, but in everyday moments of cultural connection.

While in Indonesia, I also acquired knowledge on collaborative child-rearing practices. While Indonesia's childcare system is not as advanced as Japan's, parents significantly benefit from the support of their surrounding community, including grandparents, relatives, friends, and neighbors, in conjunction with assistance from educators and professionals. This type of culture also contributes to children's development.

Children are the future, and their early years matter. By bridging research between Japan and Indonesia, I hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of how we can all nurture more empathetic, socially capable young minds—wherever they are in the world.



# 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 are 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 2027"

- 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 2027 (Japanese Version)" at the following URL (The booklet version is scheduled to be sent out around late February 2026.).

[https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/after\\_study\\_j/job/guide.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/after_study_j/job/guide.html)

In addition, the PDF file of the 2027 English version will be available for download from the same URL around late February. So please take advantage of it.

Job Hunting Guide for International Students 2027 (Japanese version)



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



## Introducing support programs for international students and former international students.

JASSO also supports international students who have returned to their home countries. This time, we would like to introduce the "Follow-up Research Fellowship". The recruitment for 2026 has been closed, but reports from 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 members in 2025: 47
- Number of members in 2026: App. 45 (projected)

Here for the report of the Follow-up Research Fellowship  
[https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/after\\_study\\_j/tanken/report/index.html](https://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/after_study_j/tanken/report/index.html)





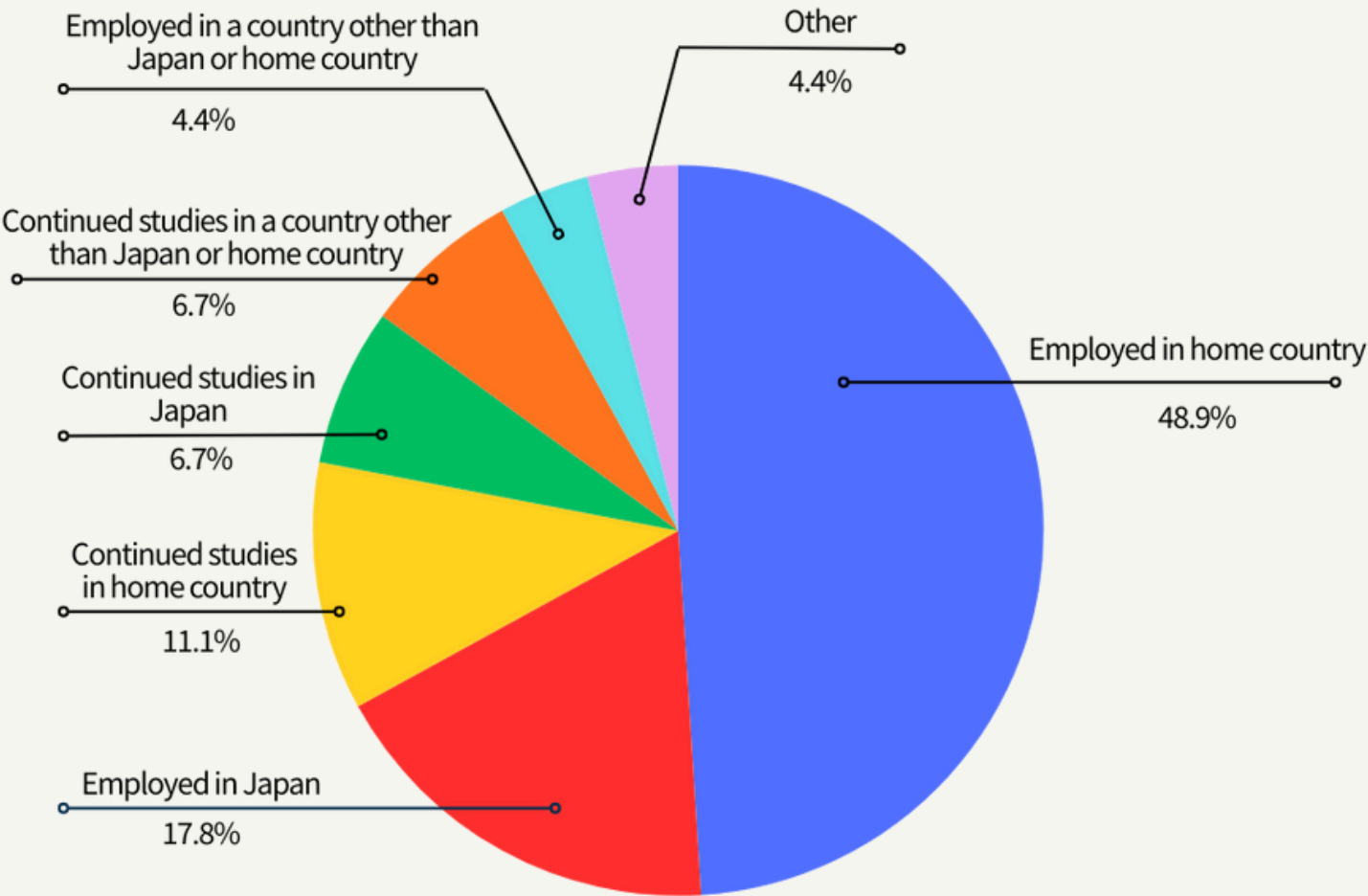
# What Kind of Careers Do International Students Build after Studying in Japan?

We asked our followers what career paths they took after their studies in Japan.

We hope the results help you explore your own future options!

- Survey period: Oct. 10–24, 2025
- Responses: 46 (out of 472 contacted)

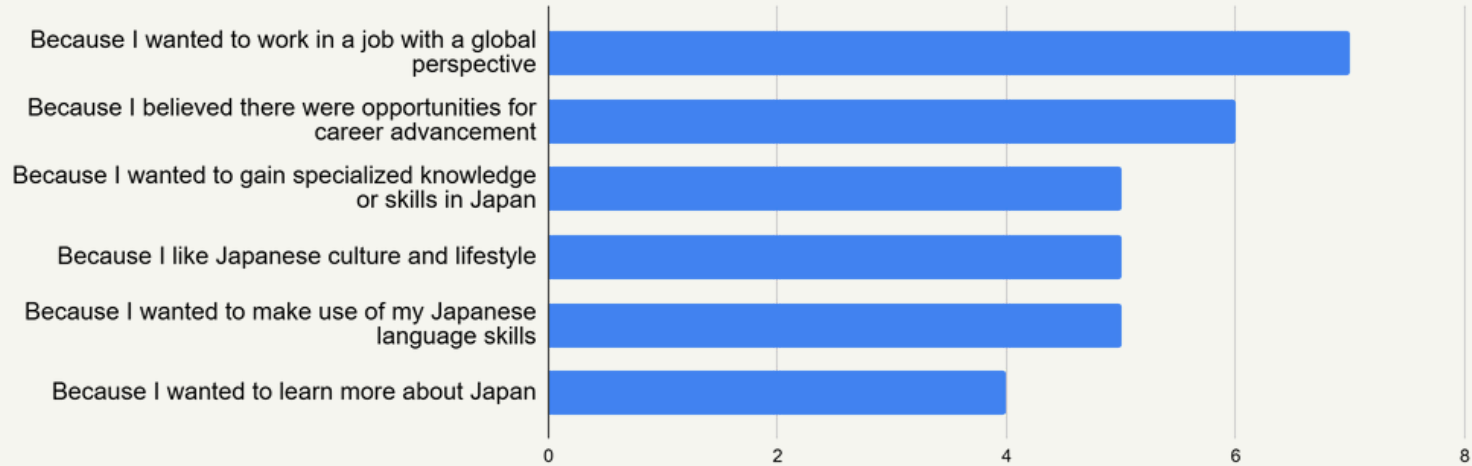
## What path did you take after studying in Japan?



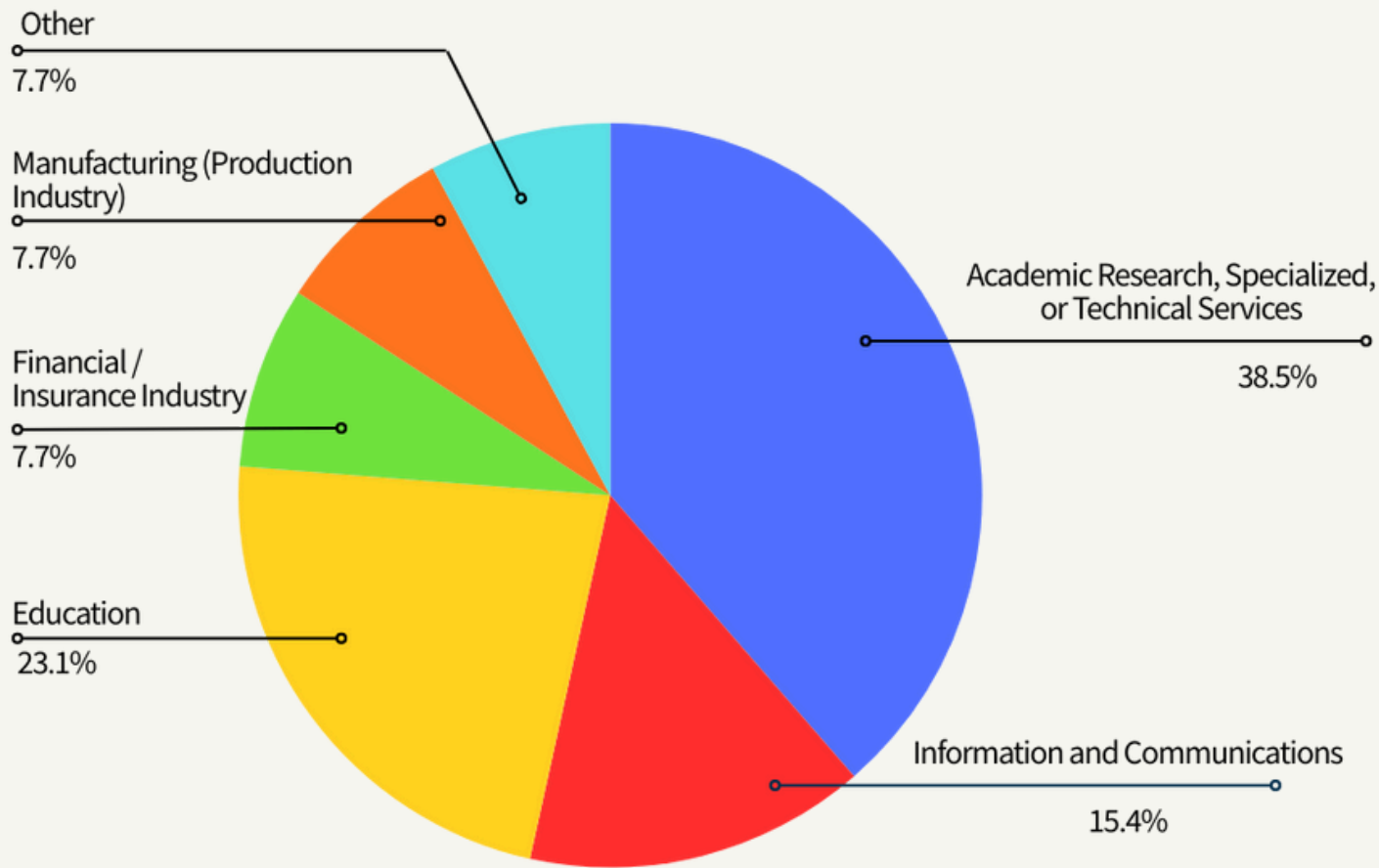
# What Kind of Careers Do International Students Build after Studying in Japan?

For those who pursued further studies or employment in Japan

Please tell us why you chose to stay in Japan. (Select all that apply)



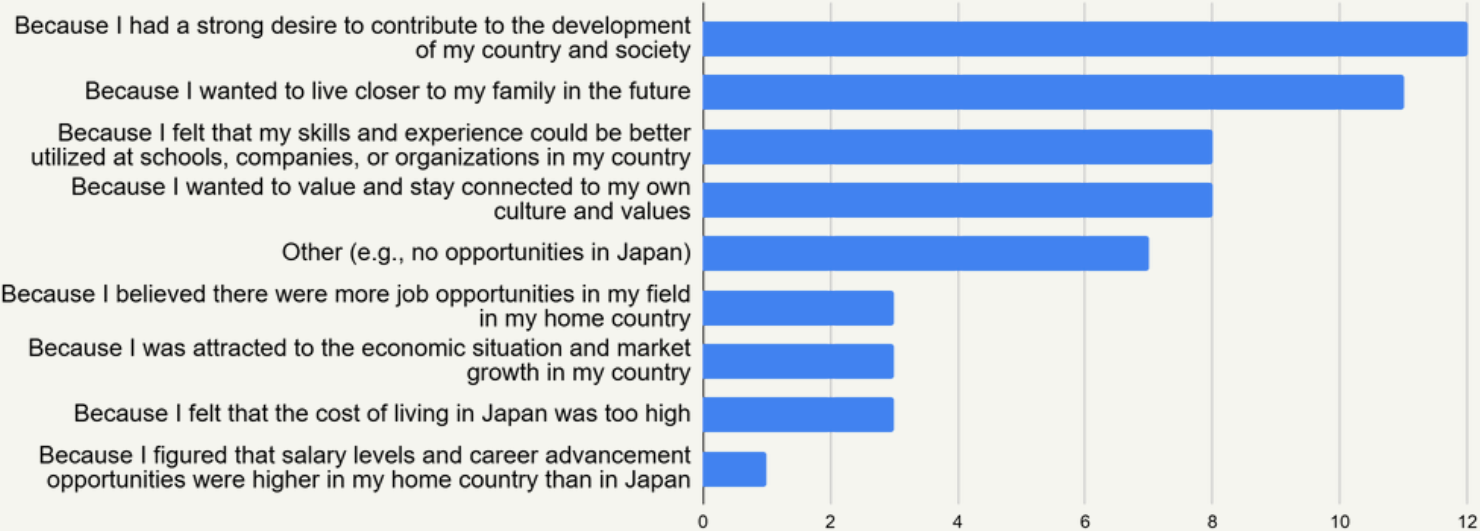
For those who found employment in Japan:What type of industry did you work in?



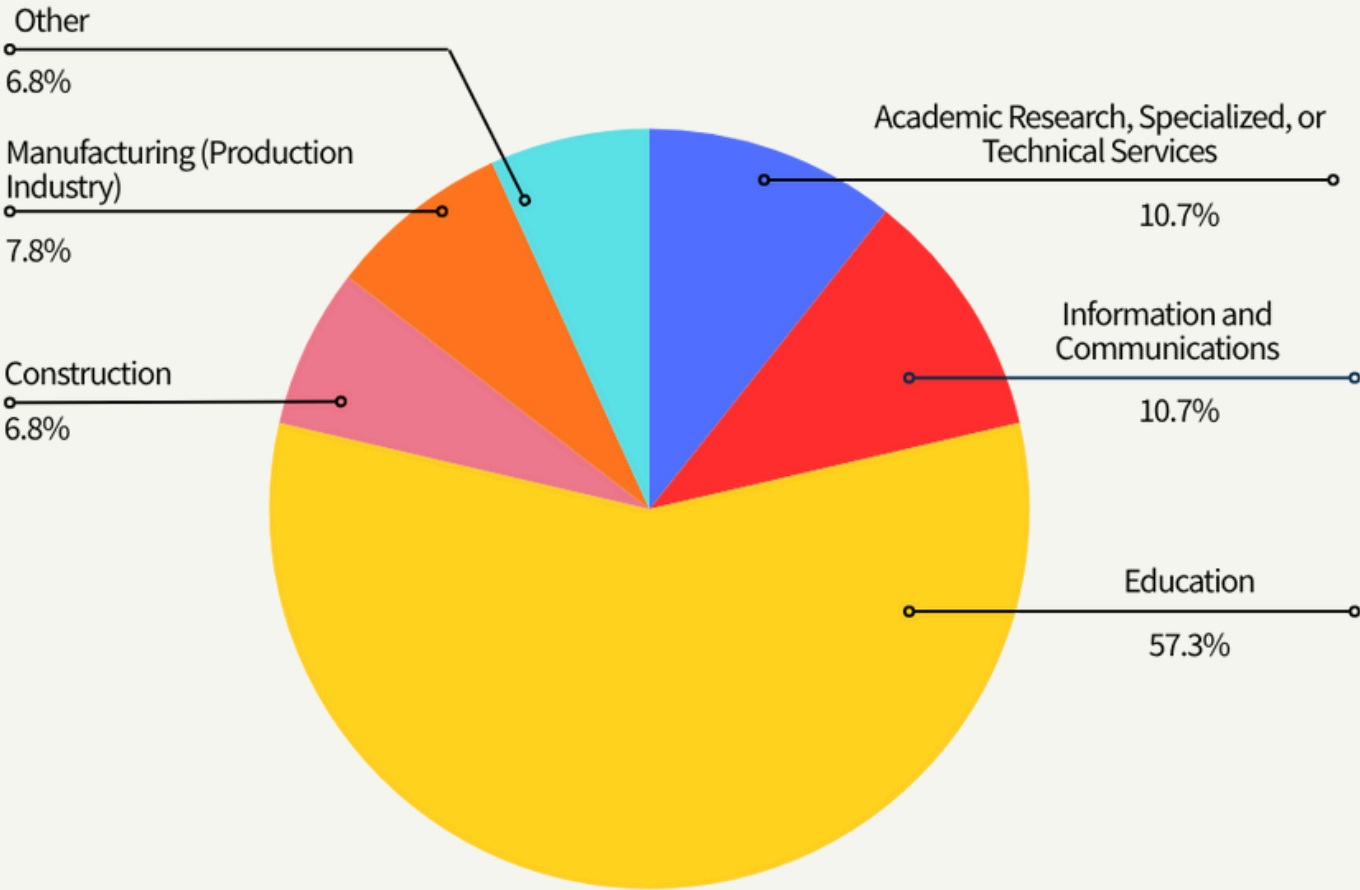
# What Kind of Careers Do International Students Build after Studying in Japan?

**For those who pursued further studies or employment in your home country**

Please tell us why you chose to return to your home country. (Select all that apply)



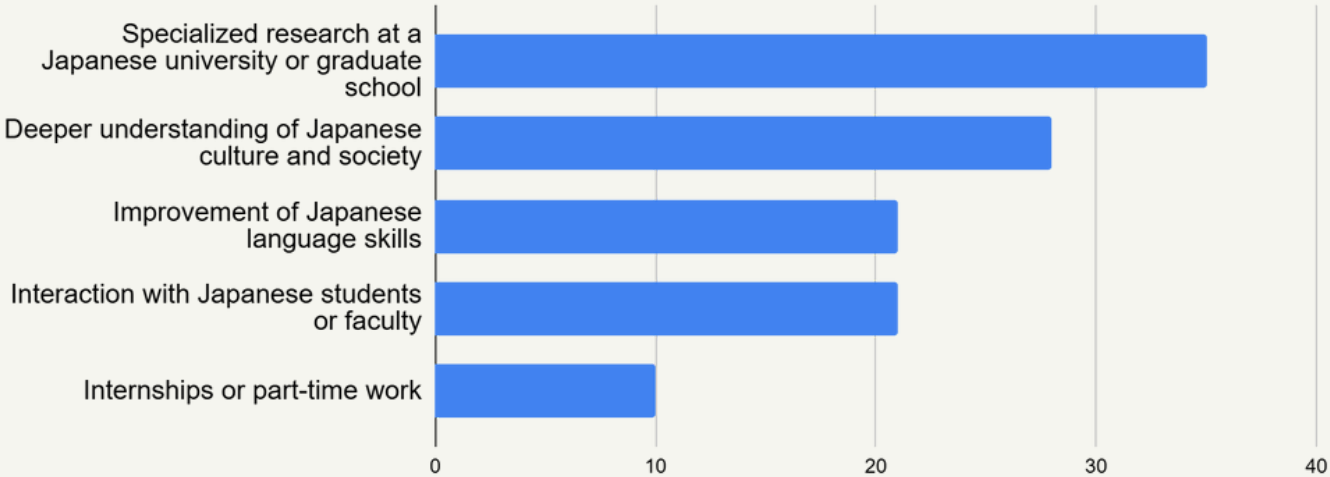
**For those who pursued further employment in your home country:  
What type of industry did you work in?**



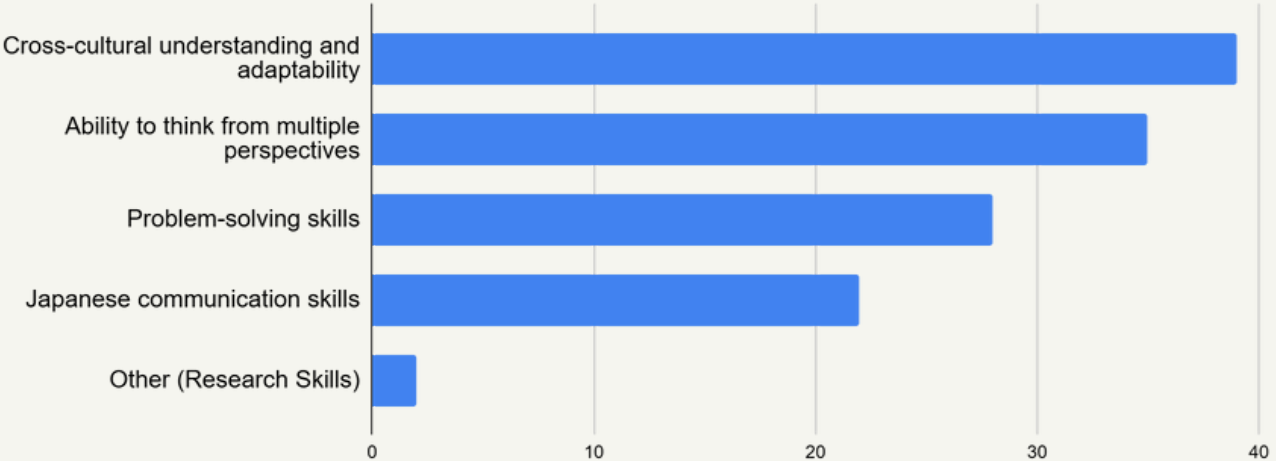
# What Kind of Careers Do International Students Build after Studying in Japan?

## Regarding your experience studying in Japan

What kinds of experiences during your studies in Japan were most helpful for your career development? (Select all that apply)



How are you putting your study-abroad experience in Japan to use? (Select all that apply)





# Introducing Japan Alumni Associations

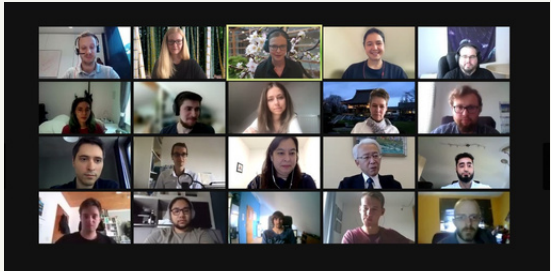
Alumni associations are active around the world, formed by former international students who want to stay connected with Japan, build networks in their home countries, support fellow alumni, and engage in cultural and professional exchange.

There are now over 200 associations in about 100 countries, especially in Asia where educational exchange with Japan has a deep history.

Activities at these associations may include networking gatherings and reunions, cultural exchange events, Japanese language and cultural-support programs, and online engagement via newsletters and social media.

The linked resource page lists each association with each group's name, their contact information (email or website) and information about their activities.

If you'd like to reconnect or make new connections, click here to check whether your region has an association, and get involved!



List of Returnee Student Associations is here  
<https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/ja/network/list/>



## Note from the editor

Thank you for reading the December 2025 issue of the Japan Alumni Global Network Newsletter.

JASSO publishes a newsletter once a year as part of our Facebook postings to provide useful information to current and former international students.

In this newsletter, we introduced news about Japan in 2025, information about finding a job and career in Japan, and activities and accomplishments of our former international students. Did they remind you of your study in Japan?

On the Japan Alumni Global Network Facebook page, we share news about Japan, alumni success stories, and information on job opportunities in Japan. Of course we also welcome comments and messages from readers. It's one way to reconnect with your former university or classmates!

We look forward to seeing you there! Come join the conversation!



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