Changing Your Status of Residence

Application for Change of Status of Residence
Changing from "College Student" to a visa allowing you to work 63

Qualification Guide
Requirements for changing the status of residence 64

Preparing Required Documents
Checking documents required for application procedures 65

Job Hunting Activities after Graduating
Procedures for changing your status of residence to continue job hunting 66

Application for Change of Status of Residence

Changing from "College Student" to a visa allowing you to work

In order to work in Japan, international students are required to change their status of residence from "College Student" to a status of residence that allows them to work.

Residence statuses which allow a person to work in Japan

1. Residence statuses which allow a person to work in Japan without regard to job type or industry:
   - Permanent Resident, Spouse or Child of Japanese National, Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident, and Long Term Resident

2. Residence statuses which allow a person to work with restrictions regarding job type, industry, and work content:
   - Highly Skilled Professional, Professor, Artist, Religious Activities, Journalist, Business Manager, Legal/Accounting Services, Medical Services, Researcher, Instructor, Engineer/Specialists in Humanities/International Services, Intra-Company Transferee, Entertainer, Skilled Labor, and Nursing Care

   - The Highly Skilled Professional residence status is for those who have at least a certain number of points calculated based on academic background, professional career, annual salary, etc.
   - The Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services status accounted for approximately 90% of the residence statuses held by international students that changed their residence status for the purpose of working in Japan in Heisei 29(2017).

Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services

Activities to engage in services, which require skills or knowledge pertinent to physical sciences, engineering or other natural science fields, or to engage in services which require knowledge pertinent to jurisprudence, economics, sociology or other human science fields, or to engage in services which require specific ways of thought or sensitivity based on experience with foreign culture, based on a contract with a public or private organization in Japan.

   - Management, finance, general affairs, legal affairs, planning, product development, design, marketing, advertising, public relations, interpretation, translation, language instruction, production technology, research and development, engineering, programming, architectural design, system administration, etc.

   - Major in the subject of the industry you want to pursue to get the necessary knowledge and graduate from university, or receive at least equivalent education. Or, complete special training at a vocational school (only in cases coming under the necessary completion requirements as set out by the Minister of Justice). Or, acquire a decent knowledge of the industry you want to enter based on 10 years or more of business experience (includes time spent majoring in subjects related to the aforementioned knowledge at a technical college, high school, second half of secondary school, or specialty course at a vocational school).

   - In cases in which the applicant is to engage in work related to information processing in which skills and knowledge are required, the applicant is not required to satisfy the requirements as set out by the Minister of Justice as long as he/she has passed the specified examination on information processing skills or has obtained certification as set out by the Minister of Justice for information processing skills.

   - In cases in which the applicant is to engage in work that requires specific ways of thinking or sensitivity grounded in a foreign culture, the applicant must have at least three years of experience for work in translation, interpretation, language instruction, public relations, advertising, overseas transactions, clothing or interior design, product development, etc. In cases in which the applicant is to engage in work such as translation, interpretation, or language instruction, no work experience is required if the applicant has graduated from a university.

   - The applicant must receive no less compensation than a Japanese national would receive for comparable work.

Inquiries will be made concerning whether or not subjects majored in at university or vocational school are related to knowledge and skills required for the work you intend to engage in.

   - University graduates can engage in translation from or into their native language, interpretation, and/or language instruction regardless of university major.

   - In regards to computer technology related work, persons who pass an information processing skills examination as set out by the Minister of Justice or has obtained certification in the field can engage in such work regardless of what their major was at university or vocational school.
Qualification Guide

Requirements for changing the status of residence

Four points pertaining to the screening process for changing the status of residence are as follows:

1. Applicant’s academic background (major, contents of research, etc.) and other background information indicating the possession of the required skills and knowledge, etc.
2. Skills and knowledge, etc., possessed by the applicant being useful for the job sought.
3. Treatment of the applicant (remuneration) being applicable.
4. The scale and business results of the recruiting company indicating stability and continuity, and being able to provide the applicant with the opportunity to perform the necessary duties.

Prepared Required Documents

Checking documents required for application procedures

The documentation required for changing the status of residence will differ in accordance with the institution at which you are to be employed.

First of all, check which of the following four categories applies to the institute at which you are to be employed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>Company listed on any of Japan's stock exchanges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>Mutual company involved in the insurance industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 3</td>
<td>Independent administrative institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 4</td>
<td>Special corporation or licensed corporation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information above is only a summary. For more details, please refer to the page of the Ministry of Justice below.

http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyuukokukanri07_00091.html
Points-Based Preferential Immigration Treatment for Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals

This is a system in which points are allocated in accordance with the academic background, work experience and annual salary, etc., of foreign nationals with status of residence that permit employment, and applicants who score 70 or more points receive preferential treatment with regard to the easing of requirements for permanent residence, permission for spouses to work, and preferential processing of entry and residence procedures, etc.

1 Outline and Objectives of the System

The Points-Based Preferential Immigration Treatment for Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals was enacted on May 7, 2012, for the purpose of promoting the entry of highly-skilled foreign professionals into the country.

The objective of this system is to promote the entry of highly-skilled foreign professionals into Japan by dividing their activities into the three categories of [Advanced Academic Research Activities], [Advanced Specialized Technical Activities] and [Advanced Business Management Activities], and awarding points in accordance with their [Academic Background], [Work Experience], [Annual Salary], and other criteria depending on the characteristics thereof, and granting preferential immigration treatment to those who achieve a predetermined total of points (70 points).

2 Preferential Immigration Treatment

planThree Categories of Activities of Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals

- **Advanced Academic Research Activities (Highly-Skilled Professional (i) (a))**
  - Activities of engaging in research, research guidance, or education based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan

- **Advanced Specialized Technical Activities (Highly-Skilled Professional (i) (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

- **Advanced Business Management Activities (Highly-Skilled Professional (i) (c))**
  - Activities of engaging in the operation or management of a public or private organization in Japan

- **Points-Based Preferential Immigration Treatment for Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals**

Open for Professionals

In collaboration with related institutions, this site provides easy-to-understand information for foreign nationals on immigration, health care, child education, employment, housing, regional restructuring, and other details pertaining to life in Japan, as well as information for highly-skilled foreign professionals who live in Japan or are considering living in Japan, such as preferential treatment for immigration, etc.


Job Hunting Activities after Graduating

Procedures for changing your status of residence to continue job hunting

In the event that you cannot find employment by the time you graduate, you may apply to change your visa from "College Student" to "Designated Activities (to continue seeking employment)" to continue job hunting activities for a year after graduating.

(1) Application form for changing status of residence
(2) Passport and resident card (the former alien registration card), to show
(3) Certification showing the ability to pay all expenses to be incurred during the stay in Japan (proof of money transfer, copy of a bank statement, etc.)
(4) Bring your most recent university or college graduation certificate. If you studied at a technical or vocational school, you should also bring your transcript of results, your specialist degree certificate, and documents that outline the specialist training you have undertaken.
(5) Recommendation letter from the university enrolled in just before application
(6) Documents verifying you have continued job hunting (job hunt records, screening result document, etc.)

If you secure a job while on a "Designated Activities" visa, you will be required to change your residence status to "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Those who have graduated from a university (including two-year colleges) or a regular course at a graduate school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those who have graduated from a professional training college and got a diploma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documents required for application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Application form for changing status of residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Passport and resident card (the former alien registration card), to show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Certification showing the ability to pay all expenses to be incurred during the stay in Japan (proof of money transfer, copy of a bank statement, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Bring your most recent university or college graduation certificate. If you studied at a technical or vocational school, you should also bring your transcript of results, your specialist degree certificate, and documents that outline the specialist training you have undertaken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Recommendation letter from the university enrolled in just before application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Documents verifying you have continued job hunting (job hunt records, screening result document, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes

- You will have limited opportunities to find a job since many Japanese companies primarily target new graduates when planning their acquisition of human resources, and additionally, the period between April and September, in which you will continue job hunting, is when recruitment for the following year is underway.
- You may be asked to wait to join the company until April of the following year even if you are offered a position.
- It will be difficult to gather information because you will be required to conduct job hunting activities under a schedule that differs from the one for regular “new graduate hiring.” In addition, it will be difficult to communicate your eagerness to apply for a job because of the delay in timing.
- In the case you have been offered a position that starts in April of the following year, you may stay in Japan until you start work by changing your visa to “Designated Activities (for persons with job offers),” However, you must apply to change your status of residence because the content of your activities differs from job hunting activities.