We hope this information enables you to better understand and familiarize yourself with Japanese immigration control administration.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and district offices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sagamihara Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 046-930-0062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sendai Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>022-255-8481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-5801-3001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-5801-3001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of Residence Registration Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of Residence Reapplication Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination Record Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narita Airport District Immigration Services Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-5635-3301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haneda Airport Immigration Services Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-3468-3301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yokohama District Immigration Services Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>045-666-6801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>052-220-8511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okinawa Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>098-047-1248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>092-872-1551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansai Airport District Immigration Services Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>075-756-1212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kofu District Immigration Services Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>055-431-1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiroshima Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>082-221-1112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takamatsu Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>087-325-3033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>092-382-1718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naka District Immigration Services Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>080-3830-0300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nagasaki Regional Immigration Services Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>095-862-3311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himeji Regional Immigration Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>080-080-8800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foreign Residents Support Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Residents Support Center (FRC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03-346-3301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information Center

Established in the Sagamihara Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, the Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau, the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau, and the Naha Regional Immigration Services Bureau.

Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice

If you have any questions, please contact: Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice

+81-3-5971-11-11, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

TEL 03-3540-4111 (main switchboard)
In this new era of Reiwa, a fresh start for the immigration and residency management administration.

In 2019, the number of foreign tourists visiting Japan exceeded 30 million, reaching a record high, and the number of foreign tourists visiting Japan is expected to increase even further in the future. Moreover, last year, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan for a mid to long term period also reached a record high of 2.9 million, and similarly, it is expected that the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan will increase even further in the future.

In this way, with the increase in foreign nationals entering and residing in Japan, the Immigration and residency management administration is becoming increasingly more important.

In addition, in the end of the Heisei era and the beginning of the Reiwa era, big changes have taken place in immigration and residency management administration. While the jobs-to-applicants ratio was more than 1.6 times (2018), due to the declining birthrate and aging population, the working-age population (15-64 years old) has been decreasing year-by-year standing at less than 60% of the total population, and labor shortages have become a serious problem. In order to respond to this urgent issue, in the industrial fields where human resources need to be secured, there is a need to construct a framework as quickly as possible for the acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals who have certain expertise and skills. Therefore, the “Bill for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice” was submitted to the 197th Extraordinary Session of the National Diet and was enacted. The Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice has been reorganized as the “Immigration Services Agency”, which is an external office of the Ministry of Justice, and as well as engaging in conventional measures to address the various existing issues such as the implementation of smooth and strict immigration examinations, the proper management of foreign residents, and protection of genuine refugees, the Agency also has been assigned the new duty of realizing a society of harmonious co-existence with foreign nationals.

This 2020 edition of the “Immigration Control and Residency Management” introduces the conventional basic policies divided into Part 1 - Work of Immigration Services Agency, and the basic matters of the policies which have seen a number of changes in the past few years as Part 2 - Recent immigration control policies. It is our hope that you will be able to gain a better understanding of immigration through this brochure.
Work of Immigration Services Agency
Equitable immigration control for all persons

To ensure those who cross borders can travel smoothly

In this age of globalization, Japan is endeavoring to open its doors to the world to the maximum extent possible. This thought does not mean that foreign nationals, without being subject to any restrictions or without being checked, may enter Japan freely and get a job to live in Japan. Whether or not to grant permission for landing and residence to foreign nationals is determined by confirming their purpose of entry and length of stay, and by examining the possibility of risks to the livelihood of Japanese nationals in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. The administration work conducted by the immigration offices responsible for the abovementioned procedures becomes even more important as interactions between people get increasingly promoted. The Immigration Services Agency’s work is not only to ensure that those who intend to visit Japan for a valid purpose can enter Japan smoothly and stay without any worries, but to protect the lives and safety of Japanese nationals, as well as the industrial interests and benefits in the lives of Japanese nationals from foreign nationals who should not be permitted to stay in Japan.

Changes in the number of foreign travelers visiting Japan and Japanese nationals who departed from Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of foreign travelers visiting Japan</th>
<th>Number of Japanese nationals who departed from Japan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1,723,861</td>
<td>3,138,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1,723,861</td>
<td>3,138,977</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>3,138,977</td>
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<td>2002</td>
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<td>3,138,977</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>1,723,861</td>
<td>3,138,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>3,138,977</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>1,723,861</td>
<td>3,138,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,723,861</td>
<td>3,138,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,723,861</td>
<td>3,138,977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of foreign travelers visiting Japan” published by the Tourism Agency is the “number of foreign nationals entering Japan” published by the Ministry of Justice excluding the number of foreign nationals entering Japan with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident,” “Spouse or child of Permanent Resident,” and “Long-Term Resident” as well as the number of foreign nationals entering Japan with the status of residence of “Special Perm. Resident.” The number of Japanese nationals who departed from Japan is the number of Japanese who obtained legal residence abroad.

Landing Permission

On August 1, 2019
1. To stay in Japan for a short period for the purpose of sightseeing, business, family visits, etc.
2. Permitted to stay for 90 days
3. Landed at Haneda Airport

Immigration examination of foreign nationals

In connection with the acceptance of foreign nationals in Japan, we have continued to hold discussions and exchanges of opinion with the related ministries and agencies as well as the concerned organizations to establish rules while giving consideration to Japan’s role in the international community and geographical/historical background, and carefully assessing the current state and trend of societies both inside and outside the country.

Foreign nationals come to Japan with passports and visas. (31,882,049)
1. Japan’s passport people sitting for landing examination procedures
2. Foreign nationals arriving at a port of entry or departure in Japan applying for landing.
3. An immigration inspector conducts an examination of the applicant to determine whether or not they may be permitted to land Japan by checking their passport, visa and the disembarkation card for foreigner (referred to as “ED card”) that must be filled in, etc.
4. Foreign nationals who are permitted to land receive a landing permit seal in their passports.
5. Foreign nationals are officially permitted to land in Japan.
6. Residency card
7. Certificate of Eligibility
8. Visa
9. Exemption of visas
10. Denial of landing
11. Status of residence
12. Period of stay
13. Permission for special cases of landing

Certificate of Eligibility

A foreign national intending to enter Japan or his or her agent residing in Japan may be certified in advance as eligible for residency through the submission of the necessary application documents to the nearest regional immigration services bureau. A Certificate of Eligibility is issued to the foreign national if he or she is certified through the above-mentioned procedures. By submitting the certificate when applying for a visa or undergoing a landing examination at an airport, etc., in Japan, the examination procedures will go much smoothly.

Visa

A visa may be obtained from an embassy or consulate, and in principle, foreign nationals are required to obtain a visa in order to enter Japan. This is intended to serve as confirmation that the passport possessed by the foreign national is valid, and as an indication of the judgment that there are no likely to be any problems in allowing the foreign national to enter the country.

Exemption of visas

Japan has entered into a visa exemption agreement with a number of countries for the purpose of facilitating the smooth international travel of foreign nationals who are planning to stay for a short period of time. As of January 1, 2018, Japan waived visa requirements for persons holding general passports issued by 64 countries and regions.

Denial of landing

Foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan are required to meet the requirements for landing at the landing examination. Those who do not meet these requirements to landing will be denied landing.

Status of residence

The status of residence is a status granted by an immigration inspector in accordance with the foreign national’s purpose of entry, (for example, “Residence” or “Temporary Residency.”) on the “List of Status of Residence” on page 4 when he/she enters Japan. Foreign nationals can enjoy the activities in the scope of this status of residence.

Period of stay

A period of stay is determined during which the permission allows the foreign national to stay (e.g. 90 days) for each category of status of residence. The period of stay can be extended in Japan without special permission.

Permission for special cases of landing

“Permission for special cases of landing” may be granted to crew members or passengers of an aircraft or a vessel, who have not obtained a visa, in order to allow them to land temporarily in Japan under certain conditions. "Permission for landing includes permission for landing at a port of call, permission for landing for cruise ship passengers, permission for landing in transit, landing permission for crew members, permission for emergency landing, landing permission due to distress, and landing permission for temporary refuge. Approximately 4.36 million foreign nationals were granted special permission for landing in 2019.”
### List of Status of Residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of Residence</th>
<th>Activities authorized to engage in</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Period of Stay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diplomat</td>
<td>Activities on a consular or diplomatic assignment, including official visits, activities related to international relations, or work on cultural or educational programs.</td>
<td>Visa officer</td>
<td>During diplomatic duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>Activities related to the diplomatic, consular, or administrative affairs of a foreign government or international organization.</td>
<td>Consular officer</td>
<td>During diplomatic duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Activities related to teaching, research, or administration at a university, research institution, or educational institution.</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>As specified by the institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>Activities related to the arts, including music, visual arts, literature, etc., provided such activities are in connection with the activities listed in the &quot;Official&quot; column of this Table.</td>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>As specified by the institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Activities</td>
<td>Activities related to religious practices, including religious observance, spiritual guidance, or religious education.</td>
<td>Religious leader</td>
<td>As specified by the institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalist</td>
<td>Activities related to the dissemination of news and other journalistic activities.</td>
<td>Journalist</td>
<td>As specified by the institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly Skilled Professional</td>
<td>Activities related to professional work, including research, technical, or managerial positions.</td>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>As specified by the institution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Business Manager/Accountant/Office Worker
Activities authorized to engage in are subject to registration by a Japanese public prosecutor or equivalent in Japan or to registration by the authorities in the country of residence.  

### Legal/Accounting Services
Activities authorized to engage in include legal counseling, accounting, and other related services.  

### Medical Services
Activities authorized to engage in include medical treatment services, including emergency medical care.  

### Researcher
Activities authorized to engage in include research related to a public or private organization in Japan.  

### Engineer/Scientist/Inventor/Innovator/Specialist
Activities authorized to engage in include research, development, technical assistance, or other related activities.  

### Extra-Corporate Interests/Entrepreneur
Activities authorized to engage in include business or professional activities outside of a public or private organization in Japan.  

### Nursing Care
Activities authorized to engage in include nursing care or related activities.  

### Skilled Labor
Activities authorized to engage in include work related to specific jobs or tasks.  

### Specified Skilled Worker
Activities authorized to engage in include work related to specific jobs or tasks.  

### Confirmation of Return of Japanese nationals
Japanese nationals who have returned to Japan submit their passport to the nearest immigration office immediately.  

### Confirmation of Departure of foreign nationals
When the foreign national departs from Japan, the immigration inspector confirms the return of a passport.
Residency management of foreign nationals

Enjoy staying in Japan by obtaining an appropriate status of residence

Foreign nationals staying in Japan may engage in activities freely without hindrance within the scope of their status of residence and period of stay, which were determined when they landed in Japan. Those who desire to change their status of residence or extend their period of stay are required to obtain permission from the Immigration Services Agency in accordance with Japanese laws and regulations. While guaranteeing the foreign nationals’ activities and stay in Japan by granting a status of residence and a period of stay as well as taking steps to protect the interests and security of Japanese citizens through the aforementioned examination process, Japan seeks to implement proper residence control of foreign nationals.

For those who wish to leave temporarily for another country and re-enter Japan with the same purpose of stay, it is convenient to obtain re-entry permission*.

* Special re-entry permission

For special re-entry permits, foreign nationals who intend to return to Japan to continue with the same purpose of stay as that of the departure, subject to the period of stay, can re-enter Japan to continue with the same purpose of stay as that of the departure. In special cases, re-entry permission can be issued even when the purpose of stay is already completed. For more details, please contact the nearest Regional Immigration Bureau.

those who wish to stay permanently in Japan Please apply for permission for permanent residence.

I have lived in Japan for a long time, and I would like to spend the rest of my life in Japan.

Those who wish to stay permanently in Japan Please apply for permission for permanent residence.

I was told to submit a permit to engage in employment in Japan by the company for which I am going to work.

Please apply for a certificate of authorization for employment.

Download application forms

http://www.moj.go.jp/tetsuduki/shutsunyukoku.html

Online application procedures

Some procedures of residence application can be submitted online on request from a foreign national, or by a lawyer or parolee or request from an employee or agency meeting certain conditions. You have to go to the regional immigration services office and make a request for use of the online residence application system in advance. Some persons may also submit their request by postal mail. Some procedures of residence application can be submitted online. You have to go to the regional immigration services office and make a request for use of the online residence application system in advance.

The range of statuses of residence that can be applied for online and ability to submit documents online differ. For unsupervised items, when applied for or submitted online it will be necessary to apply again in person or submit materials by postal mail. Plese check with the website in advance, and then take advantage of the convenient online status of residence application system.

Online residence status report


Reference

Changes in the number of foreign residents (As of the end of each year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total number of foreign residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,506,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,506,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,506,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,506,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,506,113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The data represent the total number of foreign residents in Japan. The number of foreign residents includes both residents and non-residents. The data do not include foreign residents living in Japan as family members of Japanese residents. For more information, please visit the website of the Immigration Services Agency.

Information Center

Some foreign nationals do not have full knowledge of the entry and residence procedures or of Japanese laws and social systems owing to differences in lifestyle, manners, customs, language, etc., and therefore, “Foreign Residents’ Immigration Information Centers” are available to provide advice or necessary information to foreign nationals and concerned people residing in Japan. These centers offer guidance on entry-related procedures, residence-related procedures, and guidelines to filling in the various documents related to entry and residence. The centers also provide information on the social insurance system, health care, and other related matters.

These information centers, which have been established at immigration services offices and district offices in Sendai, Takayama, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka, provide phone or face-to-face consultations on entry/stay in Japan for foreign nationals in various languages, including English, Korean, Chinese, and Spanish. Counseling staff members have been assigned to the Sapporo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Hakodate Regional Immigration Services Bureau, and Naha District Immigration services office of Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau to provide the same services as the above information centers.

Note: For more information, please visit the website of the Immigration Services Agency.
Illegal work, smuggling, criminal offenses, etc.

Some foreign nationals illegally enter Japan or stay in Japan beyond the period of stay permitted. It is also the task of the Immigration Bureau to deport such foreign nationals from Japan through procedures based on law and to prevent harm to the safety and interests of Japanese citizens. The Immigration Control Act stipulates the cases requiring deportation.

After reaching a peak of approximately 293,000 foreign nationals in 1993, the increase in the number of foreign residents illegally staying beyond their authorized period of stay was curbed, but there are still approximately 83,000 foreign nationals currently illegally staying in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay, and the majority of them are thought to be working illegally.

The presence of foreign nationals who work illegally in Japan undermines the legal system for accepting foreign nationals, and not only has a negative effect on the Japanese labor market, but also causes various problems transgressing a number of areas such as cultural customs and security, and also gives rise to incidents causing damage such as forced labor in a poor environment.

### Changes in the number of deported foreign nationals (persons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Departed Foreign Nationals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>33,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>27,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>23,931</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>18,241</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>13,224</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>8,721</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>6,455</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>5,790</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>5,542</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6,174</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>7,014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8,145</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>9,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>9,597</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of deported foreign nationals in 2019

- **illégal stay**: 7,979
- **other than those permitted**: 281
- **illegal entry**: 376
- **illegal landing**: 145
- **criminal offenses, etc.**: 816

**Total**: 9,597

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**Illegal Work Prevention Campaign**

An agreement has been made that the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare will cooperate and coordinate in order to promote various countermeasures to stop the illegal employment of foreign nationals and to prevent illegal employment, and in addition, the "Illegal Work Prevention Campaign" is an effort that forms part of the Japanese government’s "Foreign Workers Issues Awareness Month", and educational activities related to the issue of illegal employment of foreign workers are conducted during this month.
Subjects of the residency management system for mid to long-term residents

Specifically, the mid to long-term residents who are subject to this residency management system are foreign nationals who do not come under the following conditions:

- Persons granted permission to stay for three months or less
- Persons granted the status of residence of "Temporary Worker"
- Persons granted the status of residence of "Diplomat" or "Official"
- Staff members of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Office of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Persons who have a residence in Japan under the "Right of Residence for Personal Reasons" or "Right of Residence for Business Purposes"
- Persons who have obtained a permanent resident certificate
- Persons with no status of residence

Flow of the procedures in the residency management system for mid to long-term residents

Immigration examination
In addition to having a seal affixed to their passports, mid to long-term residents will be issued with a residence card. The residence card will be issued to all persons who apply for a residence permit while they are in Japan, at the time of issuance of the residence permit, or upon entry into Japan through the land or sea border points of entry.

The notification concerning the organization to which the applicant belongs or concerning the spouse may be made through the internet.

Extension of the period of validity of the residence card or the special permanent resident certificate

Foreign nationals who have been issued with a residence card or a special permanent resident certificate are required to submit an application for extension of the period of validity of the residence card or the special permanent resident certificate to the Regional Immigration Services Office within 30 days prior to the expiration date of the period of validity.

As a member of the international community

Japan became a party to the "Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention)" in 1981, and has established a system for recognition of refugee status. The definition of a refugee is a “person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”.

Upon an application for recognition of refugee status from a foreign national staying in Japan, the foreign national is examined to ascertain whether or not he/she is a refugee. When the foreign national is recognized as a refugee, he/she is provided protection as stipulated in the convention; for example, recognized refugees may be issued a "refugee travel document" to travel abroad.

The number of applicants applying for refugee status in Japan in 2019 was 10,395, a small change from only 118 fewer than the previous year. The number of those who were recognized as refugees in 2019 was 44 (of whom 1 was recognized as a refugee after filing an objection). The number of those who were not recognized as refugees but were allowed to stay in Japan owing to humanitarian grounds was 37.

In addition, Japan accepts refugees through resettlement and provides settlement support. In addition, a decision was made in FY2015 to accept Myanmar refugees, who had been given temporary asylum in Thailand, as a Pilot Project for third-country resettlement, and provided settlement support. In addition, a decision was made in FY2015 to accept Myanmar refugees, who had been given temporary asylum in Thailand, as a Pilot Project for third-country resettlement, and provided settlement support. In addition, a decision was made in FY2015 to accept Myanmar refugees, who had been given temporary asylum in Thailand, as a Pilot Project for third-country resettlement, and provided settlement support. In addition, a decision was made in FY2015 to accept Myanmar refugees, who had been given temporary asylum in Thailand, as a Pilot Project for third-country resettlement, and provided settlement support.
Recent immigration control policies | Acceptance of new foreign nationals and efforts to realize a harmonious society of coexistence

Establishment of the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”

In order to respond to a growing labor shortage, for industries that face difficulties in securing human resources even after national efforts to improve productivity and to secure domestic human resources, on April 1, 2019, the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” were established to accept foreign nationals who have a certain level of expertise and skill in industrial fields and who are immediately ready to work.

![Image](image.png)

Status of residence “Specified Skilled Worker”

- **Specified Skilled Worker (i)**: Status of residence for foreign nationals engaging in work requiring skills which need considerable knowledge or experience belonging to specified industrial fields.
- **Specified Skilled Worker (ii)**: Status of residence for foreign nationals engaging in work requiring proficient skills belonging to specified industrial fields.
- **Specified Industrial Fields (14 Fields)**: Nursing care, Building management, Marine products, Agriculture, Industrial machinery industry, Electric, electronics and information industry, Construction industry, Shipbuilding and ship industry, Automotive industry, Aviation industry, Accommodation industry, Agriculture, Fishery and Aquaculture, Manufacturing of food and beverages, Food service industry.
- **Points of Specified Skilled Worker (i)**: Period of stay approval for a period of 1 year, 6 months or 4 months, up to 5 years in total. Skill level confirmed by exam or, foreign nationals who have completed technical intern training (3) are exempt from taking exams, etc.
- **Points of Specified Skilled Worker (ii)**: Period of stay approval for 3 years, 1 year or 6 months. Skill level confirmed by exam or, foreign nationals who have completed technical intern training (3) are exempt from taking exams, etc.
- **Skill level for residence permission**: A specified skilled worker (i) requires proficiency equivalent to 3 years education by exams, etc. Foreign nationals who have completed technical intern training (3) are exempt from exams, etc.
- **Accommodation of family members**: Not permitted.
- **Eligibility for support by accepting organization or registered support organization**: Not necessary.

![Image](image.png)

Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals

(Adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals)

The government has been making efforts to create communities where foreign nationals will be able to live comfortably based on the “Comprehensive Measures for Foreign Nationals as Residents” compiled in 2004, and on the establishment of the “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” (implemented from April 2019), from the perspective of more strongly and comprehensively promoting the measures for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals. In December 2018, the government has come together to compile “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Comprehensive Measures”), which include measures related to various aspects of daily life such as work environment, education, medical care and housing. Furthermore, in December 2019, the “Comprehensive Measures” were revised, and included measures to prevent the concentration of specified skilled workers in metropolitan areas and expanded measures related to employment support for international students. Another revision in July 2020 expanded measures related to Japanese language education and children of foreign nationals.

Major measures of the Immigration Services Agency

1. **One-stop consulting counter**
   Financial assistance through the “consulting services for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals” (referred to below as “consulting services”) is provided to local municipalities for the measures for preparation and expansion of the one-stop consulting counters through which local governments provide information and advice so that a foreign national living in Japan can make questions or consult about various matters related to life such as residence procedures, employment, medical care, education, childbirth, child care or child education, and be able to receive appropriate information or advice to quickly reach a place that offers advice and consultations. In FY2019, there have been applications for consulting services from 346 local governments. It is expected that the one-stop consulting counter that has received a subsidy will provide appropriate information to the persons seeking advice through consultations offered in numerous languages and through coordination with the relevant organizations.

2. **Guidebook on Living and Working**
   The Immigration Services Agency has prepared a cross-government “Guidebook on Living and Working” in 14 languages for the basic information (residence procedures, labor-related laws and regulations, social insurance, crime prevention measures, public health, cultural living conditions, pass, drivers’ license) not only for the residents of the Agency but also for the foreign nationals who have or intend to stay in Japan.

3. **Collaboration with groups involved in support for foreign nationals (supporters of foreign nationals)**
   In April 2015, “Accepting Environment Coordinator” were assigned to the regional immigration services bureaus, and officers of the regional immigration services bureaus are sent to the one-stop consulting counter based on a request from local governments and information and training will be provided to the officers of the local government in cooperation with the regional immigration services bureaus.

By promoting multiculturalism policies in each region through facilitating the establishment of councils for the realization of a harmonious society of coexistence with foreign nationals in each prefecture, useful information such as good practices obtained through efforts by Accepting Environmental coordinators are deployed through local governments.

4. **Foreign Residents Support Center**
   The Foreign Residents Support Center (FRES) was opened in July 2003 inside a building (1) in front of the JR Yotsuya Station in Shinjuku City. The operations of FRES support foreign nationals who are seeking advice, employers of foreign nationals and local governments that are taking efforts to support foreign nationals. FRES also houses agencies for four ministries in addition to the Immigration Services Agency and the Tokyo Immigration Office enabling coordination and effective support for foreign residents.

![Image](image.png)

Looking for more information about immigration? Check out our guidebooks on living and working in Japan:

http://www.moj.go.jp/nyukokinbun/kouhou/nyukokukinbun10_00055.html

*Visas are subject to change when a website is updated.*
Facilitation of the immigration procedures ("Bio-Cart", facial recognition automated gate, automated system) 

In recent years, there has been a rapid increase in the number of foreign visitors coming to Japan, and there have been times when foreign nationals coming on a business trip or for travel purpose have found the immigration examination booths at the airports to be congested leading to long waiting times in the queues for the course of the immigration examinations. In addition, in order to speed up the acquisition of personal identification information in the area of the landing examination booths so as to further facilitate the immigration procedures, equipment for the acceptance of fingerprints and facial photographs, known as "Bio-Cart", which utilize the time spent waiting in line for landing examinations were introduced in October 2016, and are in operation at 20 airports and seaports. In addition, with the aim of further facilitating strict yet smooth examinations through streamlining the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals using facial recognition technology and allocating more immigration officers to the examinations for foreign nationals, facial recognition automated gates are being in the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals in the landing and departure examination areas of New Chitose, Narita, Haneda, Chubu, Kansai, Fukuoka and Naha Airport. The facial recognition automated gates confirm the identity of the individual by comparing the facial image in the K-chip of the K passport with the facial image taken by the camera at the facial recognition automated gates. If confirmation is completed and there is no problem, the individual is able to pass through the gates. Advance registration is not required in order to be able to use the facial recognition automated gate, but the requirements for gate users are to be in possession of an ID passport, to be able to operate the machine by themselves, to be 135 cm or more in height, and in addition, in the case of a foreign national, it is necessary to be staying in Japan and intending to depart with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" (excluding those departing from Japan through a recently permit). In addition, Japanese nationals and foreign nationals who meet certain requirements are additionally using a "Bio-Cart", which recognizes people by using the automatic gate system by registering in advance. Automated gates has been installed at the Narita, Haneda, Chubu and Kansai Airports.

Structure of the “Bio-Cart”

"Bio-Cart", which acquire the personal identification information (fingerprints and facial photo) of foreign nationals while they are waiting in line, can fasten the immigration examination procedure.

1. Wait in the immigration line and proceed until you come to the "Bio-Cart".
2. You will provide your fingerprints and facial photo. (The system will check the validity of the document.)
3. Take your passport and proceed to the examination booth.

How to operate the facial recognition automated gate

1. The passport reader scans 2.3 and reads the passport.
2. The facial recognition process will start.
3. The passenger exits the gate when it opens.

How to use the automated gates

1. The passport reader scans 2.3 and reads the passport.
2. If fingerprints is judged as not accepted, the system will inform you of the reason.
3. The passenger exits the gate when it opens.

Points-based system for highly-skilled foreign professionals

Amidst continuing globalization, the number of foreign nationals working in various fields in Japan is growing. In Japan, in order to enable its economy and bolster its international competitiveness, it must generate new innovation by not only fully utilizing its domestic human resources but also actively accepting highly-skilled foreign professionals who possess a broad range of skills. In an era where Japan must compete with other nations for human resources, the system of "points-based preferential immigration treatment for highly-skilled foreign professionals" seeks to promote the acceptance of highly-skilled foreign nationals to Japan by creating an environment that allows highly capable and skilled foreign nationals to live comfortably in Japan. The "system of points-based preferential immigration treatment for highly-skilled foreign professionals" is a system which recognizes particularly outstanding human resources (highly-skilled foreign professionals), who meet the requirements of certain employment statuses, through a "points-based system" and who wish to apply for recognition, and provides them with preferential treatment in terms of immigration procedures and requirements. Under the system, the activities of highly-skilled foreign professionals are classified into three categories: "advanced academic research activities", "advanced specialized (technical) activities", and "advanced business and management activities" with points being awarded in such areas as academic background, business career background and promoted annual income in accordance with the particular characteristics of each category. Those persons whose total points meet a set total are granted preferential immigration treatment.

A new status of residence named "Highly Skilled Professional I" for highly-skilled human resources was established from April 1, 2015, and moreover, a further status of residence named "Highly Skilled Professional II" was established for foreign nationals who have resided in Japan for a certain period of time with the aforementioned status of residence of "Highly Skilled Professional I", substantially using the restrictions on their activities and granting an unlimited period of stay.

Activity category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity category</th>
<th>Example of eligibility</th>
<th>Point total for recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced academic research activities</td>
<td>Foreign researchers involved in fundamental research or research on advanced technologies, etc.</td>
<td>At least 70 points totaled from points based on academic background, business career background, and annual income as well as special considerations regarding research performance, acquired qualifications, rank or position, and other factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced specialized (technical) activities</td>
<td>Foreign nationals that utilize specialized skills and know-how to acquire new markets or lead the development of new products and technologies, etc.</td>
<td>At least 70 points totaled from points based on academic background, business career background, and annual income as well as special considerations regarding research performance, acquired qualifications, rank or position, and other factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced business and management activities</td>
<td>Foreign nationals that utilize their abundant practical management experience to develop the global businesses of Japanese companies, etc.</td>
<td>At least 70 points totaled from points based on academic background, business career background, and annual income as well as special considerations regarding research performance, acquired qualifications, rank or position, and other factors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foreign nationals who have been permitted entry and residence as a highly-skilled professional, are entitled to the following types of preferential treatment.

Highly Skilled Professional I

| Permission for multiple purposes of activities | Grant of the "five-year" permission to engage in all of the activities of status of residence based on employment (see Page 6 "List of Status of Residence") |
| Grant of the "five-year" permission to engage in all of the activities of status of residence based on employment (see Page 6 "List of Status of Residence") | |
| Eligibility for the spouse of the highly-skilled foreign professional to work | |
| Eligibility for the parents to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions | |
| Eligibility for a domestic worker to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions | |
| Preferential processing of entry and residence procedures | |

Highly Skilled Professional II

| Permission for multiple purposes of activities | In conjunction with the activities of "Highly Skilled Professional I", permitted to engage in all of the activities of status of residence based on employment (see Page 6 "List of Status of Residence") |
| Grant of the "five-year" permission to engage in all of the activities of status of residence based on employment (see Page 6 "List of Status of Residence") | |
| Eligibility for the spouse of the highly-skilled foreign professional to work | |
| Eligibility for the parents to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions | |
| Eligibility for a domestic worker to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions | |
| Preferential processing of entry and residence procedures | |
Recent immigration control policies

Act on Technical Intern Training

"The Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees" (Act No. 68 of 2014, hereinafter referred to as "Act on Technical Intern Training") was established on November 28, 2014, promulgated on November 28, 2015 and entered into force on November 1, 2017 (The provision on the establishment of the Organization for Technical Intern Training were enforced from the date of promulgation). The Act on Technical Intern Training provides for a system for the accreditation of technical intern training plans and the licensing of supervising organizations in relation to the technical intern training, and through establishing the Organization for Technical Intern Training to handle the administrative affairs relating to the technical intern training, aims to ensure proper technical intern training and protection of the technical intern trainees.

1. Establishment of the system for licensing of the supervising organizations and the system for accreditation of the technical intern training plans

These persons who intend to conduct the supervision business are required to acquire a license in advance, and those who intend to conduct the technical intern training (technical intern training implementing organizations) are required to prepare a technical intern training plan for each technical intern, and to receive accreditation to the effect that the technical intern training plan is appropriate.

Procedures for licensing of supervising organizations and accreditation, etc. of technical intern training plans, etc.

- Licensing organization
  - License application submitted by a supervising organization

- Accreditation, etc. of the technical intern training plans
  - Formulation of a technical intern training plan
  - Application for accreditation of the technical intern training plan

- Organization for Technical Intern Training
  - Preliminary screening of the system of the organization
  - Application for accreditation of the technical intern training plan

- Organization for Technical Intern Training
  - Examination of the contents of the plan and the appropriateness of the acceptance system

- Issues
  - Violations of the rights of human beings of technical intern trainees cannot be allowed under any circumstances

- Measures against trafficking in persons

Efforts for 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 to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" (commonly referred to as the "Protocol on Trafficking in Persons"), which 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, and in order to ensure strong promotion of these measures, established the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons in December 2014.

The Immigration Bureau has also been working closely with the related ministries and agencies based on the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons newly formulated in December 2014, and moreover, through strengthening its relations with the relevant foreign organizations, international organizations and NGOs, the Immigration Bureau 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.

2. Measures against international terrorism

To secure safety in Japan

Terrorism is a threat faced by individuals and the international community. In the wake of the terrorist attacks which occurred in the U.S. on September 11, 2001, Japan has been taking various measures to secure the safety of its citizens.

In relation to preventing terrorism, the Immigration Services Agency has been implementing a variety of initiatives with the cooperation of the related organizations in order to prevent the entry of terrorists at the border such as through the implementation since 2007 of strict landing examinations utilizing fingerprints and other personal identification information, advance passenger information (API) and passport name records (PNR).

Measures for the prevention of terrorism

- Strict inspection of the applications for the "Certificate of Eligibility"
- Collaboration with overseas diplomatic establishments in the area of entry and stay inspections
- Mandatorily provision of personal identification information such as fingerprints by foreign nationals (except for special permanent residents) at the time of the landing examination (November 2007)
- Enhancement and reinforcement of examination of forged or altered documents
- Implementation of examinations utilizing the stolen and lost travel documents database search system of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL) (August 2009)
- Duty of the captain of a vessel or aircraft to report advance passenger information (API) (February 2007)
- Systematic acquisition of passenger name records (PNR) (January 2005)
- Implementation of visa on arrival system (January 2004)
- Establishment of the grounds for deportation of foreign terrorists (June 2006)
- Implementation of patrols in the airport transport areas
- Implementation of crosschecking of facial photographs provided by the foreign nationals at the time of the landing examination and facial images of terrorists and other suspet persons (October 2016)

Measures against international terrorism

http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokuranri/kouhou/nyuukokuranri05_00014.html

http://www.otti.go.jp/
Recent immigration control policies

Basic Plan for Immigration and Residency Management

This is a plan which forms the basis of measures on control of the entry and residence of foreign nationals, in accordance with the provisions of Article 61-10 of the Immigration Control Act. It includes: (1) measures related to foreign nationals entering into and residing in Japan; (2) matters relating to guidelines for control of the entry and residence of foreign nationals; and (3) other measures to be determined by the Minister of Justice. The Basic Plan for Immigration and Residency Management was formulated in April 2019, envisaging a period of about two years.

Overview of the Basic Plan for Immigration and Residency Management (Formulated in April 2019)

- Based on the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, the Minister of Justice determines the basic plans for immigration and residency management policies.
- Along with the “Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration and Refugee Recognition Act” and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice” (both promulgated), and the Ministry of Justice being assigned the duty of equitable control of the “residence of foreign nationals” in addition to the Act in immigration, the name of the basic plan was changed from the “Basic Plan for Immigration Control” to the “Basic Plan for Immigration and Residency Management.”

The Policies of specific measures

1. Smooth acceptance of foreign nationals vitalizing the Japanese economy and society

- Promotion of the acceptance of foreign nationals in technical and professional fields (clarification of occupations, simplified procedures).
- Promotion of the assimilation and high-valued professionals (after graduation with the relevant government agencies and proactive private initiatives).
- Realization and management of the status of residence of “Skilled Work Permit” with the collaboration of the relevant government agencies, accurate and continuous monitoring of the situation of residence and conditions of all regions with labor shortages, education and analysis of elements, and the formulation, implementation, and guidance by immigration inspectors and officers in the management of the sending country through a bilateral agreement in order to reduce malicious brokers, establishment of a mechanism for the awareness of the implementation of the social insurance program and support for cultivation of a program for promotion of the acceptance of foreign nationals.
- Promotion of the maintenance of the smooth operation of a system for promotion of the acceptance of foreign nationals.
- Job support for international students (expansion of internship training programs). (Other) (Useful to support the study of students, etc.)

2. For the national debate on the acceptance of foreign nationals in light of the declining birthrate and aging population

- Efforts such as improving the birthrate, productivity and utilization of potential labor force are necessary.
- For the acceptance of foreign nationals, it is necessary to effectively and cooperatively take measures to wide range of fields, such as improving productivity and utilizing the potential labor force of women, young people and the elderly, and to conduct an examination on the assumption that such measures will be taken.
- If a field where a need arises for new human resources is a field that can be judged as a technical line of research or the like, it will be given to the impact on the industry and other factors.
- Regarding the acceptance of foreign nationals in other fields, consideration will be given to the national concerns from a wide range of aspects such as social costs, the impact on overall employment and the impact to the industrial structure.
- Regarding the acceptance of foreign nationals in the field, it is necessary for the government to conduct a broad ranging examination taking into account the situation of the status of residence of “Skilled Work Permit” as a determinant factor for labor shortages.

3. Efforts to optimize the technical intern training program

- Promotion of the preparation of bilateral agreements and strengthening of operations (elimination of improper sending organizations by sending a report to the sending country and other mean and taking necessary measures in response to reports of misconduct related to the implementation organization).
- Strengthening of support and protection for technical intern trainees through dissemination of information on the support systems for technical intern trainees such as consultations in the mother tongue conducted by the Organizations for Technical Intern Trainees, prevention of disappearances starting with the consultation, and enhancement of efforts for cases of misconduct.
- Strengthening of the system of implementation of examinations and issuance inspections in cooperation with the relevant organizations (Implementation of combined and multipurpose initiatives such as strengthening of the initial status when receiving notification of a disappearance, investigation of the cause by conducting prompt on-site inspection, on-site inspections, misconduct, thorough and vigorous implementation of examinations and on-site inspections, etc. such as prevention of the excessive supervising organizations and revocation of the accreditation of technical intern training plans, and suspension of organizations and laws other than the Act on the technical Intern Training).

4. Efforts for the acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals

- Promotion of “Comprehensive Measures for the Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (implementation of relevant measures, accurate understanding of the status of Implementation, cooperation with local governments through the offices in charge of coordination, and the enhancement of the acceptance of the citizens and foreign nationals and sharing this information with the relevant government agencies, and proactive transmission of information).
- Proper operation of the residency management system and strengthening of the residential information system, strengthening of the residential basic book system, implementation of the information collection and analysis system, and reform of the alien registration system to include additional appropriate information links with the relevant government agencies such as multiple use of the information, increased convenience through online application procedures, etc.

5. Efforts to realize a tourism-oriented country

- Streamlining of examination work by utilizing the latest technology (implementation of support systems and experts using Big Data, utilization of biometric recognition gates in the immigration procedures for foreign nationals).
- Response to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (implementation of smooth and prompt immigration procedures through the use of equipment such as Big Data, the flexible assignment of immigration officers, thorough implementation of counterterrorism measures at the border with the cooperation with the relevant government agencies, etc.)
- Facilitation of the immigration procedures for foreign nationals, overseas ship passengers, etc.
- Other initiatives to contribute to the realization of a tourist-oriented country (expansion of those eligible to undergo examinations through the use of the automated gates, use of electronic entry and departure cards and certificates of eligibility, advance screening in the country of departure, consideration of pre-travelers at the airport at the time of departure, promotion of tourism and establishment of entity examinations for foreign nationals who have a history of non-payment of their medical expenses, etc.)

6. Promotion of border measures toward the realization of a safe and secure society and countermeasures, etc. against illegal residents

- Implementation of control measures for the use of immigration examination, effective operation of sending examinations utilizing personal identification system, and covering the main foreign country.
- Promotion of measures against illegal resident’s residence (registration, collection of personal information, etc.) with the cooperation of the relevant organizations, utilization of KOOD’s List and Stolen Travel Document Database search system, coastal patrol, etc.)
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7. Promotion of appropriate and prompt protection of refugees

- Efforts for prompt and adequate protection of refugees in genuine need of asylum (strengthening of protection measures through a process that requires proper scrutiny of the refugee’s claim, examination of the possibility of it being an asylum claim, determination of the status of protection measures based on the facts of the claim to prevent abuses of asylum seekers, etc.)
- Acceptance of refugees through country-removal resettlement

8. Other items

- Development of the immigration and residency management structure, training for officers, enforcement of international cooperation, consideration for acts of human trafficking, consideration of ways to grant permission for permanent residence
Immigration officers and organization of the Immigration Services Agency

To play a significant role in the age of internationalization

The number of officers who engage in immigration control administration is 3,464 (fixed number estimated for the end of FY 2020). They are actively working in various offices all over Japan, contributing to securing national security, increasing stability for life in Japan and supporting economic, cultural and social development through immigration control of the entry and residence of foreign nationals. In particular, the work behavior of officers who have face-to-face interaction with foreign nationals significantly affects the impression of Japan that foreign visitors receive. These officers need to deal with foreign nationals not only with a strict attitude but also in a sophisticated manner that is acceptable by international standards. The following staffs are engaged in immigration control duties:

- **Administrative officers of the Ministry of Justice**
  Officers who support the organization by engaging in general administration work

- **Technical officers of the Ministry of Justice**
  Officers, including doctors, nurses, etc., who are indispensable in immigration control administration which directly relates to people

- **Immigration inspectors**
  Specialists who conduct various examinations, including examinations for immigration and examinations for statuses of residence

To promote immigration control all over the country

Structure of the Immigration Services Agency: The Immigration Services Agency is established as an external bureau of the Ministry of Justice to implement immigration control administration. In addition, there are regional immigration services bureaus (8 bureaus), district immigration services offices (7 offices), branch offices (51 offices), and immigration centers (2 centers).