

If you are an international student and you are considering submitting an application for refugee recognition, please read the following.

February 2018

Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

Previously, in principle, the operations of the Ministry of Justice permitted foreign nationals residing legitimately in Japan, who had submitted applications for refugee recognition, to work in Japan after 6 months had passed from the time of the submission of their applications, but from January 15 of this year, the management of the status of residence for applicants, who are undergoing the refugee recognition procedures, has been revised.

Specifically, in the case of an international student, if you applied for refugee recognition after being expelled or dropping out from your educational institution, or graduating from your educational institution, in principle, you will not be permitted to work in Japan even after 6 months have passed from the time of the submission of your application.

(Note 1. It is possible for you to apply for refugee recognition during the period of your studies in Japan.)

(Note 2. You will be permitted to work only if there is a high likelihood that you are a refugee as defined under the 1951 Refugee Convention, or if there is a high likelihood that humanitarian consideration needs to be given due to the situation in your home country.)

If you feel like the educational institution where you are a student has committed an act violating any laws or regulations, please contact your nearest regional immigration bureau.