

# Foreigner

## Consultation

### Q & A



Public Interest Incorporated Foundation  
Akita International Association

# We gathered the consultations from all foreign nationals living in Akita into one book

There are around 4000 foreign nationals living in Akita Prefecture. Since there are a lot of differences in language, culture, lifestyle, and so on between their home countries and Japan, it is likely that there are many cases where they don't know what to do in certain situations.

At the Akita International Association (AIA) we provide consultation services for those kinds of people. We made this Q&A while referencing the consultation requests we've received until now.

If there is still something you want to know after reading this Q&A, please call or send an e-mail to the AIA.

"Q" is a question from a foreign national, and "A" is the answer to that question

Q. 2 0 Can I drive a car in Japan using a driver's license from my home country?

A. 2 0 Depending on your home country, there are both cases where you can drive in Japan and cases where you cannot. For details ask the Driving License Center.


Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters Driving License Center  
Telephone: 018-863-1111  
Driving License Comprehensive Guidance  
URL: <https://www.police.pref.akita.lg.jp/menkyo?lang=en>

The name, phone number, etc., of a place that can give you more detailed information about your question is also listed.

## More information

(in case of changing a foreign country driver's license into a Japanese driver's license)

After acquiring a driver's license in a foreign country and residing in that country for at least 3 months, it is possible to apply for that license to be changed to a Japanese driver's license if done so before the license's

 More detailed information related to the contents of the question is listed in **more information**. If you want to know even more about the contents, please call the AIA.

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## Q. 1 What is status of residence?



A. 1 Status of residence is a necessary status for you to live in Japan.

Depending on the status of residence type, the conditions of how long you can stay in Japan, what type of job you can do, and so forth, are different.

In cases such as sightseeing for 90 or fewer days, or coming to see family in Japan, you will receive a "Temporary Visitor" status of residence.

## Q. 2 I received a "Residence Card" when I arrived in Japan. At what sorts of times is this card used?

A. 2 Your residence card shows information such as your status of residence type, your period of stay, whether you can work, and so forth. It is proof of your right to be in Japan. It is an incredibly important card, so carry it with you at all times.

Residence Card front	Residence Card back
	

>From the Immigration Services Agency's website, January 1st, 2020

**Q. 3 What should I do when I want to change my status of residence or extend my period of stay?**

A. 3 Depending on factors such as your status of residence or living conditions the needed paperwork will vary. Ask the Immigration Services Agency, an information center, or some other authority for details.

👉 Phone numbers are on page 3.

**Q. 4 My Japanese husband has passed away. Is it possible for me to continue living in Japan?**

A. 4 If your status of residence is "Spouse or Child of Japanese National", then when your current period of stay expires, your status of residence will also become invalid. To find out what procedures are necessary to continue living in Japan, ask the Immigration Services Agency.

👉 Phone numbers are on page 3.

※The same applies to foreign nationals who divorce their Japanese spouse.

**Q. 5 What type of paperwork is necessary in order to continue living in Japan forever?**

A. 5 If you obtain permanent residency, you can live in Japan forever without changing your status of residence or period of stay. Ask the Immigration Services Agency for details about applying for permanent residency.

👉 Phone numbers are on page 3.

**Q. 6 I want to invite my (biological) child from my home country to come live in Japan with me. What should I do?**

A. 6 Children need a visa and status of residence. Ask the Immigration Services Agency, an information center, or some other authority for details.

👉 Phone numbers are on page 3. Depending on the child's age, it is also necessary to think about sending them to school. Check Q.19 (👉 page 20) for details.

## Question counters related to status of residence

- **Sendai Regional Immigration Bureau, Akita Branch Office**  
(consultation only available in Japanese)

Telephone: 018-895-5221

Available days and times: 9:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00 (Weekdays only)

- **Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents** (consultation available in foreign languages)

Telephone: 03-3202-5535/03-5155-4039

Available days and times: 9:00-16:00 (Weekdays only)

※Unavailable weekends and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month

Available days by language

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chinese	○	○	○	○	○
English	○	○	○	○	○
Portuguese	○				
Vietnamese				○	○
Bengali		○			
Indonesian		○			
Spanish			○		○

- **Immigration Information Center** (consultation available in foreign languages)

Telephone: 0570-013904 (If calling from overseas or using IP or PHS phone service, dial 03-5796-7112)

Available days and times: 8:30-17:15 (Weekdays only)

Available languages: English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, etc.



**More information**

**(differences between visa and status of residence)**

Visa: Visas are obtained from a Japanese embassy or consulate in the home country before arriving in Japan, and is issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Status of residence: Status of residence is obtained when entering Japan, and is issued by the Immigration Services Agency.



**More information**

**(differences between "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" and "Permanent Resident" status of residence)**

	<b>Spouse or Child of Japanese National</b>	<b>Permanent Resident</b>
Period of Stay	6 months, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years (Renewal is necessary)	Unlimited (Renewal not needed)
In the case of divorce or the death of the Japanese spouse	In this case the status of residence cannot be renewed, so a new status of residence must be obtained in order to continue residing in Japan. ※After the divorce or death, you can stay in Japan until the current status of residence expires.	This does not affect your status of residence, so you can continue to stay in Japan.

• "Permanent Resident" refers to the right to reside in Japan indefinitely while retaining foreign citizenship.

Apply at the Immigration Services Agency. This is one type of status of residence.

• "Naturalization" refers to a foreign national obtaining Japanese citizenship, thereby becoming a Japanese person.

Apply at the Legal Affairs Bureau.

Akita Regional Legal Affairs Bureau, Family Registration Division

Telephone: **018-862-1129**

Available days and times: 8:30-17:15 (Weekdays only)





### More information

(related to education and bringing children from overseas)

Before bringing a child to Japan from overseas think carefully about the following issues:

- ①The child's age
- ②The child's Japanese language ability
- ③Education in Japan

## **Q.7 My family and friends want to come to Japan for sightseeing. What kind of paperwork is needed?**

A.7 Whether a visa is needed depends on your family or friend's nationality.

Ask an embassy or consulate in your home country (👉 page 6).

## **Q.8 Can I renew my passport in Japan?**

A.8 Procedures for renewal or extension of duration for passports may be done in Japan at an embassy or consulate of your home country. Check with an embassy or consulate of your home country (👉 page 6) for details.

Furthermore, in Akita and Iwate Prefectures, as well as other places, there exist "one-day consular service events" for China and the Philippines. At these events, you can renew your passport, consult with the consulate, and receive other services in Akita and Iwate Prefectures, and other places.

Ask a consulate about when and where one day consular service events are taking place.

## Contact information for embassies and consulates

Country	Name of Embassy or Consulate	Phone Number
China	Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Sapporo	011-563-5563
Philippines	Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines	03-5562-1600
South Korea	Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea in Sendai	022-221-2751
United States of America	U.S. Consulate-General in Sapporo	011-641-1115 011-641-1116 011-641-1117
Vietnam	Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Japan	03-3466-3311 03-3466-3313 03-3466-3314
Thailand	Royal Thai Embassy in Japan	03-5789-2433
Indonesia	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	03-3441-4201

For embassies and consulates of other countries, check the list of "Foreign Missions in Japan".

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign Missions in Japan List

URL: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb\\_cons/protocol/index.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/protocol/index.html)

**Q.9 I lost my passport.  
Who should I notify?**

**A.9** If you lose your passport, or it is stolen, or so on, immediately go to the nearest police box (place where there are police officers). Then, contact an embassy, consulate, or other authority of your country in Japan (👉 page 6) and tell them about what happened.



**More information**

**(transfer of endorsement for passports)**

If your passport has an endorsement such as for entry or re-entry into Japan, the renewed passport will not have this endorsement. It is possible to have the Immigration Services Agency transfer such endorsements to the new passport (In the case this is not noted on the new passport, it will be necessary to carry both passports until the end of the period of stay).



## Q. 10 Teach me about paperwork for international marriage.

A. 10 When marrying in Japan, submit a registration of marriage to your city hall, or other public office in your town, village, or other location. Also be sure to inform your country's embassy, consulate, or other authority (👉page 6). Necessary procedures differ by country.



### More information

#### (marriage of a foreign national to a Japanese national)

When a foreign national marries a Japanese national in Japan, normally the marriage procedures for both countries must be completed. In cases where the procedures for only one country are completed, there are cases where the other country does not recognize the marriage, leading to various problems.

There is the method of first completing marriage procedures in the Japanese system and then notifying the foreign country, as well as the method of completing marriage procedures in the system of the foreign country and then notifying Japan. Depending on the country there are also cases where the latter procedures become very simple.



### More information

#### (marriage between two foreign nationals)

In the case of marriage between two foreign nationals in Japan, necessary procedures vary greatly depending on country, so be sure to confirm what is necessary with relevant embassies and consulates in Japan (👉page 6).

Furthermore, since there is no problem with also completing marriage procedures in Japan, confirm with your local public office for necessary paperwork when completing marriage procedures in your municipality. Of course, you must also inform your home countries.



## Q. 1 1 What kind of paperwork is needed for a divorce?

A. 1 1 When divorcing in Japan, you must submit a notification of divorce to your city hall, or other public office in your town, village, or other location.

Also be sure to inform your home country's embassy, consulate, or other authority (👉 page 6).

Necessary procedures vary by country.



Consultation relating to procedures in Japan

- Japan Legal Support Center in Akita Telephone: 050-3383-5550/0570-078374  
Available days and times: 9:00-17:00 (Weekdays only)
- Akita Bar Association Legal Consultation Center Telephone: 018-896-5599  
Available days and times: 9:00-17:00 (Weekdays only)
- Free legal consultation center operated by municipalities

## Q. 1 2 My Japanese husband says he is submitting a divorce notification to the government office, but I don't want a divorce. What should I do?

A. 1 2 Even if you don't want to be divorced, if the government office accepts a divorce notification, you will become divorced. If you don't want to be divorced, go to your Japanese husband's place of origin, or the government office of where they live, and submit a request to not accept divorce notification, which will prevent the government office from accepting a divorce notification.



### More information

#### (international divorce)

In the case that a foreign national and Japanese national, or two foreign nationals, wish to get a divorce in Japan, then divorce procedures must be completed in all countries where marriage procedures were completed. If you only complete the procedures in Japan, but not your home country, then you will still be married in your home country. This will cause various problems, including if you wish to marry again, so don't forget to submit needed documentation. Contact an embassy or consulate in Japan (👉 page 6) for details.



### **More information**

#### **(regarding divorce procedures in Japan)**

##### **There are 4 methods for getting divorced**

① Divorce by agreement

Spouses discuss together and agree to divorce.

② Divorce by mediation

After a family court listens to each spouse individually, spouses discuss together and agree to divorce.

③ Divorce by court judgment

When agreement cannot be reached through discussion, a family court decides on a divorce.

④ Divorce by court order

A family court decides on divorce through a court order.



### **More information**

#### **(status of residence after divorcing a Japanese national)**

When separated by divorce or death from a Japanese spouse, although a "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" status of residence will continue to be valid until it expires, it will be unable to be renewed. If you wish to continue living in Japan, you must obtain a different status of residence. Ask the Immigration Services Agency (☎page 3) for details.



### **More information**

#### **(remarriage)**

In Japanese law, a woman cannot remarry until 100 days have passed since divorce. However, there are exceptions, such as in the case of remarrying the former husband, so check with the public office of your municipality. In the case of a female foreign national performing remarriage procedures in Japan, she must wait for not only the remarriage waiting period in Japan, but also any such waiting period defined in the laws of her home country.

**Q. 1 3 I'm going to divorce my Japanese husband, but I still want to raise my children. What will happen to my children when I get a divorce?**

**A. 1 3** When divorcing, it is necessary to decide if you or your husband will raise your children. Discuss with your husband about who will have custody (the right to raise the children).

- **Japan Legal Support Center in Akita (Lawyer/Law Consultation)**  
Telephone: **050-3383-5550**  
Available days and times: 9:00-17:00 (Weekdays only)  
Address: Hokuto Bank Building 6th floor, 5-1-51 Nakadori, Akita City
- **Japan Legal Support Center Multilingual Information Service**  
Telephone: **0570-078377**  
Available days and times: 9:00-17:00 (Weekdays only)  
Available foreign languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Tagalog



**Q. I 4** I am suffering physical domestic violence from my husband. I can't speak Japanese well, and there is nobody around me who I can consult with, so I don't know what to do.

**A. I 4** Don't worry alone, ask for help. If consulting in Japanese is difficult, there are also places where you can get help in foreign languages.



	Phone Number	Available days and times	Available foreign languages
Consultation Center for Women	018-835-9052 0120-783-251 (*)	8:30-21:00 (Weekdays) 9:00-18:00 (Weekends and holidays)	-
Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters Emergency Number for Women	0120-028-110	24/7	-
Yoriso Hotline	0120-279-338	Available languages vary by day and time. For detailed information, check the Yoriso Hotline Facebook.	English Korean Chinese Tagalog Vietnamese Nepali Portuguese Spanish Thai Indonesian

(\*) Not available outside the prefecture or by cellular phone





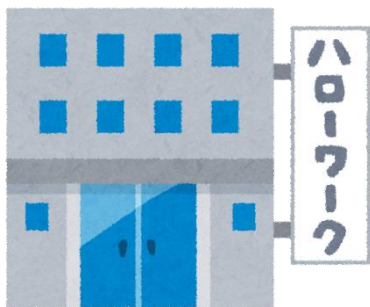
### More information

#### (violence from spouses or significant others)

Domestic violence is not limited to physical abuse. It refers to physical abuse (hitting/kicking/throwing objects), mental abuse (insults/yelling/neglect), sexual abuse (unwanted sexual activity/refusal to cooperate with contraception), economic abuse (not providing living expenses/obstruction of working outside the home), societal abuse (limiting, monitoring, etc. someone's movements, relations with others, etc.) and so on.

### Q. 15 I am looking for a job in Akita. How should I go about my job search?

A. 15 It is possible to consult regarding work at Hello Work (Public Employment Service Center). Consultation is free. Before searching for a job, confirm your status of residence and period of stay, and whether your status of residence allows you to work. 📞 Hello Work phone numbers are on page 14.



You can consult about work

You can search for jobs



### More information

#### (for foreign nationals working in Japan)

For a foreign national to work in Japan, their status of residence must permit them to work. Anyone in violation of this will be working illegally and be subject to punishment. For example, status of residence such as "Student" and "Dependent" do not allow one to work, but if you receive "Permission to Engage in Activity other than that Permitted under the Status of Residence Previously Granted" from the Immigration Services Agency, it is possible to work a part-time job for a limited amount of hours. Even for someone whose status of residence allows them to work, if they want to engage in work outside the field of that allowed by their status of residence (for example: receiving pay

for interpreting under a Skilled Labor status of residence), they will need "Permission to Engage in Activity other than that Permitted under the Status of Residence Previously Granted".

## List of contact information for Hello Work

Hello Work office (region)	Phone Number	Address
Hello Work Kazuno	0186-23-2173	Arata 82-4 Hanawa, Kazuno City
Hello Work Odate	0186-42-2531	Shimizu 1-5-20 Odate City
Hello Work Takanosu	0186-60-1586	Higashinakatai 26-1 Takanosu, Kitaakita City
Hello Work Noshiro	0185-54-7311	Midorimachi 5-29 Noshiro City
Hello Work Oga	0185-23-2411	Shinhamacho 1-3 Funagawa, Funagawa Port, Oga City
Hello Work Akita	018-864-4111	Barajima 1-12-16 Akita City
Hello Work Plaza Atorion	018-836-7820	Nakadori 2-3-8 Akita City (Atorion 3rd Floor)
Hello Work Plaza Goshono	018-889-8609	Jizoden 3-1-1 Goshono, Akita City (Akita Terrsa 3rd Floor)
Hello Work Honjo	0184-22-3421	Tajirino 18-1 Ishiwaki, Yurihonjo City
Hello Work Omagari	0187-63-0335	Omagarisumiyoshicho 33-3 Daisen City
Hello Work Kakunodate	0187-54-2434	Kodate 32-3 Kakunodatemachi, Semboku City
Hello Work Yokote	0182-32-1165	Asahikawa 1-2-26 Yokote City
Hello Work Yuzawa	0183-73-6117	Shimizucho 4-4-3 Yuzawa City

**Q. I 6 I have learned that my hourly wages are lower than Akita Prefecture's minimum wage. Is it because I'm a foreign national?**

**A. I 6** In Japan, there is a law known as the "Minimum Wage Act" (which dictates that it is unlawful to pay workers wages below a predetermined minimum wage). Foreign and Japanese nationals are both protected equally under this law. Please consult with someone if you have worries such as your wages being below minimum wage, if you are being made to work during breaks, or so on.

**• Akita Labour Bureau, General Labor Consultation Corner**

Telephone: **018-862-6684** (Japanese only)

Available days and times: 8:30-17:15 (Weekdays only)

**• Telephone Consultation Service for Foreign Workers**

Available Language	Phone Number	Available days	Available Times
English	<b>0570-001701</b>	Monday-Friday	10:00-15:00  (With a break from 12:00-13:00)
Chinese	<b>0570-001702</b>		
Portuguese	<b>0570-001703</b>		
Spanish	<b>0570-001704</b>		
Tagalog	<b>0570-001705</b>	Tuesday-Friday	
Vietnamese	<b>0570-001706</b>	Monday and Friday	
Myanmar	<b>0570-001707</b>	Monday and Wednesday	
Nepali	<b>0570-001708</b>	Tuesday and Thursday	

## If you are a Technical Intern

### Consultation in various languages by the Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT)

Available Language	Available days and times	Phone Number	Consultation Site URL
Vietnamese	Monday–Friday 11:00–19:00	0120–250–168	<a href="https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/vi/">https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/vi/</a>
Chinese	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00–19:00	0120–250–169	<a href="https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/cn/">https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/cn/</a>
Indonesian	Tuesday and Thursday 11:00–19:00	0120–250–192	<a href="https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/id/">https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/id/</a>
Filipino	Tuesday and Saturday 11:00–19:00	0120–250–197	<a href="https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/phi/">https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/phi/</a>
English	Tuesday and Saturday 11:00–19:00	0120–250–147	<a href="https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/en/">https://www.support.otit.go.jp/soudan/en/</a>

Unavailable New Year Holidays (December 29th–January 3rd) and other holidays



### More information

#### (laws related to labor)

Labor standards laws apply to any foreign national working in Japan.

Labor Standards Act: Specifies labor conditions such as wages, pay to employees during business suspension, working hours, etc., at the time of contracting.

Minimum Wage Act: Prevents wages below the minimum wage established for the relevant area.

(As of October 3rd, 2019, minimum wage in Akita Prefecture is ¥790 per hour)

Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance Act: Provides for compensation via Worker's Accident Compensation Insurance in events of work related or commuting accidents.

A labor standards leaflet has been published (in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese) regarding labor condition troubles that people may experience. The leaflet may be downloaded from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's homepage, or you can ask a nearby Labour Standards Inspection Office.

☎ Phone numbers are on page 17

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's homepage (Labor Standards Act page)

URL: [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/english/labour\\_standards\\_index.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/english/labour_standards_index.html)



### More information

#### What happens if I quit my job?

Various kinds of procedures are necessary after quitting a job. For details, ask a nearby Hello Work (☎page 14), or the Akita Labor Bureau, Employment Security Department, Employment Security Division (Telephone: 018-883-0007).



### More information

#### (Labor Standards Inspection Offices)

Labor Standards Inspection Offices in each area offer labor related consultation regarding matters such as failure to protect labor laws, unjust dismissal, failure to pay wages, and so on.

Name	Phone Number	Jurisdiction
Akita Labor Standards Inspection Office	018-865-3671	Akita City Oga City Katagami City Minamiakita District
Odate Labor Standards Inspection Office	0186-42-4033	Odate City Kazuno City Kitaakita City Kazuno District Kitaakita District
Noshiro Labor Standards Inspection Office	0185-52-6151	Noshiro City Yamamoto District
Honjo Labor Standards Inspection Office	0184-22-4124	Yurihonjo City Nikaho City
Omagari Labor Standards Inspection Office	0187-63-5151	Daisen City Semboku City Semboku District
Yokote Labor Standards Inspection Office	0182-32-3111	Yokote City Yuzawa City Ogachi District

**Q. I 7 I want to go to the hospital, but I can't speak Japanese.**

**A. I 7 If you cannot go to the hospital with someone who can speak Japanese, you can use the Multilingual Medical Questionnaire.**

This questionnaire is designed for foreign nationals living in Japan to be able to explain their injuries, sicknesses, and so forth to doctors when they go to a hospital. It is divided into 11 medical departments and translated into 18 languages.

You can find it by searching for "multilingual medical questionnaire" on the internet, or by visiting the URL below.

URL: <http://www.kifjp.org/medical/>




Available Languages:

- |                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Indonesian                | Korean     |
| Tagalog                   | Russian    |
| Persian                   | Thai       |
| English                   | Vietnamese |
| Spanish                   | French     |
| Portuguese                | German     |
| Cambodian                 | Arabic     |
| Japanese                  | Croatian   |
| Lao                       | Nepali     |
| Chinese (Beijing Dialect) |            |



## Q. 18 Tell me about Japan's public health insurance program.

A. 18 There are two kinds of public health insurance in Japan (insurance for illness, injury, etc.): Employee Health Insurance and National Health Insurance. Those working at a place like a company will be enrolled in Employee Health Insurance, while others will be enrolled in National Health Insurance. Anyone who is enrolled in either will receive a Health Insurance Card. If you bring your Health Insurance Card with you to the hospital when suffering from injury, illness, or so on, you will only have to pay 30% of the hospital fees.

Health Insurance Card front	Health Insurance Card back
<p>健康保険 本人（被保険者） 00111 被保険者証 平成26年 6月25日 交付</p> <p>記号 21700023 番号 21</p> <p>氏名 姓 太郎 名 太郎 生年月日 平成 元年 5月 10日 性別 男 資格取得年月日 平成 26年 6月 1日</p> <p>事業所名称 ○○ 株式会社 保険者番号 01010016 保険者名称 全国健康保険協会 ○○支部 保険者所在地 ○○市○○区○○町○○-○○</p> 	<p>注意事項 保険医療機関等において診療を受けようとするときは、必ずこの証をその窓口で渡してください。</p> <p>住所 _____ 備考 _____</p> <p>※ 以下の欄に記入することにより、臓器提供に関する意思を表示することができます。記入する場合は、1から3までのいずれかの番号を○で囲んでください。</p> <p>1. 私は、脳死後及び心臓が停止した死後のいずれでも、移植の為に臓器を提供します。 2. 私は、心臓が停止した死後に限り、移植の為に臓器を提供します。 3. 私は、臓器を提供しません。 (1又は2を選んだ方で、提供したくない臓器があれば、×をつけてください。)</p> <p>【心臓・肺・肝臓・腎臓・膵臓・小腸・眼球】</p> <p>〔特記欄〕 署名年月日： _____ 年 _____ 月 _____ 日</p> <p>本人署名(自筆)： _____ 家族署名(自筆)： _____</p>

>From the Japan Health Insurance Association's homepage, January 1st, 2020



### More information

#### (Japan's public health insurance program)

In Japan, there are cases where if you complete some paperwork you may get money back from the hospital. On the other hand, there are cases where even if you are enrolled in insurance your hospital bill may not become cheaper. Please make effort to properly understand the insurance system.

※For those whose country has a social security agreement with Japan relating to the public health insurance program, enrollment is not required.

### Applicable Countries

- Germany
- United Kingdom
- Belgium
- France
- The Netherlands
- Czech Republic
- Spain
- Ireland
- Switzerland
- Hungary
- Luxembourg
- South Korea
- India
- Philippines
- Australia
- United States
- Canada
- Brazil

## Q. 19 Is it possible to enroll my child from my home country into Japanese schools?

A. 19 Although procedures differ depending on the age of the child, children can be enrolled in elementary schools, middle schools, and so on.

### When the child is 6-15 years of age

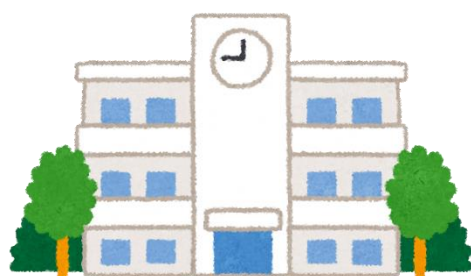
In Japan, this is the age range for compulsory education. Although it is not compulsory for children who are foreign nationals, if you wish, children may study at Japanese elementary and middle schools. In the case of wishing to transfer in partway through the school year, consult with the Board of

Education of your municipality. 📞 Board of Education phone numbers are on page 22

### When the child is 15-18 years of age

When transferring to a high school within Akita Prefecture from a high school in another prefecture or foreign country, consult with the Akita Prefectural

Bureau of Education, Senior High School Education Division (Telephone: 018-860-5161).







### **More information**

**(regarding support for foreign children and students who require Japanese language education (restricted to compulsory/public education))**

Local government bodies provide the following types of support for foreign children and students who need Japanese language education.

While taking normal enrolled classes, extra teaching staff, Japanese language guidance instructors, or similar individuals will enter the class to accompany and provide guidance for the foreign students. Alternatively, they may receive guidance, language instruction, and so on in other classrooms during normal class periods.

For details regarding this sort of support, ask the Board of Education of each municipality (☞page 22).



### **More information**

**(regarding children's Japanese language skills)**

For children whose native language is not Japanese, language barriers may become a large obstacle for studying at Japanese schools. Although Japanese language ability is a basic assumption for study at school, the language used in classes, textbooks, and so forth, will differ from the language one hears in everyday life. Besides feeling disoriented due to factors such as lifestyle environment changes, as well as culture and customs differences, language problems can become a psychological burden on children and may have a large impact on their individual character. If you feel support is needed for their Japanese language learning, consult first with the school.

## List of Akita Prefecture Boards of Education

Information current as of April 1st, 2019

Board of Education Name	Phone Number	Fax Number
Akita Prefectural Board of Education	018-860-5111	018-860-5851
Akita City Board of Education	018-888-5803	018-888-5804
Noshiro City Board of Education	0185-73-2757	0185-73-6459
Yokote City Board of Education	0182-32-2402	0182-32-4034
Odate City Board of Education	0186-43-7111	0186-54-6100
Oga City Board of Education	0185-24-9100	0185-24-9156
Yuzawa City Board of Education	0183-73-2161	0183-72-8515
Kazuno City Board of Education	0186-30-0290	0186-30-1140
Yurihonjo City Board of Education	0184-32-1306	0184-33-3381
Katagami City Board of Education	018-853-5361	018-853-5277
Daisen City Board of Education	0187-63-1111	0187-63-7131
Kitaakita City Board of Education	0186-62-6616	0186-63-2678
Nikaho City Board of Education	0184-38-2259	0184-38-2252
Semboku City Board of Education	0187-43-3381	0187-54-1727
Kosaka Town Board of Education	0186-29-2342	0186-29-4436
Kamikoani Village Board of Education	0186-60-9000	0186-77-3223
Fujisato Town Board of Education	0185-79-1327	0185-79-2227
Mitane Town Board of Education	0185-87-2115	0185-87-3052
Happo Town Board of Education	0185-77-2816	0185-77-3230
Gojome Town Board of Education	018-852-5372	018-852-5370
Hachirogata Town Board of Education	018-875-5812	018-875-5950
Ikawa Town Board of Education	018-874-4424	018-874-2924
Ogata Village Board of Education	0185-45-3240	0185-45-2661
Misato Town Board of Education	0187-84-4914	0187-85-3102
Ugo Town Board of Education	0183-62-2111	0183-62-3334
Higashinaruse Village Board of Education	0182-47-3415	0182-47-2119

## Q.20 Can I drive a car in Japan using a driver's license from my home country?

A.20 Depending on your home country, there are both cases where you can drive in Japan and cases where you cannot. For details ask the Driving License Center.

**Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters Driving License Center**

Telephone: 018-863-1111

**Driving License Comprehensive Guidance**

URL: <https://www.police.pref.akita.lg.jp/menkyo?lang=en>



### More information

(in case of changing a foreign country driver's license into a Japanese driver's license)

After acquiring a driver's license in a foreign country and residing in that country for at least 3 months, it is possible to apply for that license to be changed to a Japanese driver's license if done so before the license's expiration date. At that time, in the case that driving skills, knowledge, and so forth are confirmed, and it is recognized that there are no impediments to your driving ability, you may be exempted from parts of written and/or practical tests (28 countries and one region, among them the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Germany, France, and Taiwan, are exempted from written and practical tests).

For the application, a Japanese translation of the foreign driver's license provided by a foreign government office, an embassy or consulate of the home country in Japan, or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF), will be necessary.

※If your case does not fall under that outlined above, you must acquire a Japanese driver's license. At a driving school in Japan, you must take lessons and undergo practical tests, and take a written test at the Driving License Center. In Akita Prefecture it is possible to take the test in Japanese (with furigana included) or in English.

For questions regarding the test at the license center, ask the Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters Driving License Center examiner (telephone: 018-862-7570).



### More information

(regarding foreign language textbooks when obtaining a driver's license in Japan)

“RULES OF THE ROAD” (Published by JAF) is sold in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese. Exam questions are mostly taken from this textbook.

JAF Akita Branch telephone: 018-864-8492

**Q. 2 | I want to learn more about living in Japan, but reading Japanese is hard. Is it possible to learn about life in Japan in my home country's language?**

**A. 2 | Please read the Multilingual Living Information provided by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR). Necessary information for living in Japan is provided in various languages, as well as simple Japanese.**

CLAIR Multilingual Living Information  
URL: <http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/>



**Q.2 2 I am looking for someone who will translate or interpret for me. Where can I be introduced to such people?**

**A.2 2** The Akita International Association (AIA) can introduce people who can translate, interpret, and provide other services. First, contact the AIA with the time, place, and contents of your request. There is a fee for these services.

Akita International Association (AIA) telephone: 018-893-5499

For those who wish to request for work from an AIA community supporter

URL : <http://www.aiahome.or.jp/en/pages/page-1488462840-183>

**Q.2 3 I have received a My Number. At what sorts of times is this used?**

**A.2 3** Every resident of Japan has a 12 digit personalized My Number. It is used for various procedures, including pension, taxes, and medical care. Even as a foreign national, if you have a certification of residence in Japan, you will have a My Number issued to you.

Various information about you can be learned through this number. It is a very important number, and if it is not clear what someone needs it for, you should not teach it to someone else. The card with your My Number written on it is also precious, so do not lose it.

• **Questions related to the My Number system**

Telephone: 0120-0178-26

Available days and times: 9:30-22:00 (Weekdays)

9:30-17:30 (Weekends and holidays)

Available languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese

• **If you lost the card with your My Number written on it**

Telephone: 0120-0178-27

Available days and times: Always available, any time, any day

Available languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese

• **Cabinet Secretariat: My Number (Social Security/Tax Number) System**

URL: <https://www.cao.go.jp/bangouseido/foreigners/english.html>

It is possible to read explanations in 21 foreign languages, including English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, and many others



## Various procedures that can be done at city halls (public offices)

Various procedures are necessary for life in Japan. You can complete procedures listed in the table below at municipal government offices. There are also places where you can seek consultation.

Residency Registration (informing the public office of your residency)	Entering schools such as elementary or middle schools, or transferring in partway through the school year	Notification of Death (informing the public office of a death, such as that of a family member)
National Pension (pension that everyone is enrolled in)	Marriage/divorce notifications (informing the public office of marriage or divorce)	Procedures for enrolling in day-care
National Health Insurance (public health insurance for those not working at a company)	Notification of birth (informing the public office of the birth of a child)	Various other types of consultation



## Introduction of AIA regional foreigner consultation staff

Consultation staff available for foreign nationals to consult about their troubles and worries. Please consult with the consultation staff for the region you live in. (Consultation staff as of April 1st, 2020)

Region	Name and phone number of consultation staff	Available days and times				
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Kazuno City Kosaka Town	Tomoko Ito 090-3644-5194	9 : 00- 17 : 00	9 : 00- 17 : 00	-	9 : 00- 17 : 00	9 : 00- 17 : 00
Odate City Akita City Kamikoani Village	Mikiko Kobayashi 090-4319-3695	10 : 00- 16 : 00	-	10 : 00- 16 : 00	-	-
Noshiro City Happo Town Fujisato Town Mitane Town	Yuko Kitagawa 090-3640-0459	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00
Oga City Katagami City Ikawa Town Gojome Town Hachirogata Town Ogata Village	Kiyoko Kudo 090-4045-8690	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00	10 : 00- 17 : 00
Akita City	Hisae Kobayashi 090-3983-8498	11 : 00 16 : 00	-	11 : 00 16 : 00	11 : 00 16 : 00	11 : 00- 13 : 00
Yurihonjo City Nikaho City	Eiko Fujishima 090-2360-4817	9 : 30- 17 : 00	9 : 30- 17 : 00	13 : 00- 17 : 00	9 : 30- 17 : 00	9 : 30- 17 : 00
Daisen City Semboku City Misato Town	Mitsuaki Suzuki 090-2276-1113	10 : 00- 16 : 00	10 : 00- 16 : 00	10 : 00- 16 : 00	10 : 00- 16 : 00	10 : 00- 16 : 00
Yokote City	Mikiyo Fujiwara 090-7880-0011	9 : 00- 17 : 00	9 : 00- 17 : 00	13 : 00- 17 : 00	9 : 00- 17 : 00	-
Yuzawa City Ugo Town Higashinaruse Village	Mayuko Kurata 090-4550-1211	10 : 00- 16 : 00	10 : 00- 16 : 00	-	10 : 00- 16 : 00	-





## Places to study Japanese language (list of Japanese language classrooms)

※Japanese language classroom information may change. For details and the most recent information, ask using the various phone numbers provided. (Information in the below table is current as of May 1st, 2019)

Municipality	Classroom Name	Study days and times	Location	Phone Number
Kazuno City	Kazuno City Japanese Language Classroom	Saturday 13:30-15:30	Kazuno Exchange Center	☎0186-30-0292
Odate City	Odate City Japanese Language Classroom	Monday 17:30-19:30 Wednesday 10:00-12:00	Northern Akita Gender Equality Center	☎0186-43-7027
Kitaakita City	Kitaakita City Japanese Classroom	Sunday 10:00-12:00	Kitaakita Fureai Plaza	☎0186-62-1130
Kamikoani Village	Fureai Class	Monday 19:00~	Kamikoani Lifelong Learning Center	☎0186-60-9000
Noshiro City	Noshiro City Japanese Language Studies Class	Tuesday 19:00-21:00 Thursday 10:00-12:00	(Tuesday) Noshiro Central Community Center (Wednesday) Noshiro House for Working Women	☎0185-89-2148
Fujisato Town	Fujisato Town International Exchange Association Japanese Language Classroom	Wednesday (Twice a month) 10:00-12:00	Fujisato Three-Generation Exchange Building	☎0185-79-1327
Mitane Town	Japanese Language Classroom	Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 10:00-12:00 Every 2nd and 4th Friday 10:00-12:00	Hachiryu Community Center	☎0185-85-2177
Oga City	Oga City Japanese Language Classroom	Saturday (Twice a month) 10:00-12:00	Oga Central Community Center	☎0185-23-2251
Katagami City	Katagami City Japanese Classroom	Sunday (2 or 3 times a month) 10:00-12:00	Katagami Tenno Community Center	☎018-878-4111
Hachirogata Town	Japanese Language Classroom Hachirogata	Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Thursday (April-December, March) 19:00-21:00	Hachirogata Roman Village	☎018-875-2092

Municipality	Classroom Name	Study Days and Times	Location	Phone Number
Akita City	Akita City Japanese Language Classroom	Thursday 18:30-20:00	Au, Akita City Community Center 4th Floor Research Rooms 1 and 2	☎018-888-5464
	Japanese Language Classroom Nijiasu	Wednesday (3 times per month) 10:00-11:30	Call to confirm location	☎018-834-7936
	Japanese Language Classroom Jalsa	Wednesday 14:30-16:00	Call to confirm location	☎018-835-2009
	Iroha Club	Tuesday 17:50-19:15	Atorion Building 6th Floor Harmony Plaza	☎018-864-1706
Yurihonjo City	Yurihonjo City Japanese Classroom	Friday (April-December) 18:45-20:45	Cultural Community Center Kadare	☎0184-22-0900
Nikaho City	Nikaho City Japanese Classroom and Cultural Exchange	Saturday (4 times per month) 9:00-11:00	Kisakata Community Center	☎0184-43-7510
Daisen City	Daisen Semboku Area Japanese Language Classrooms	Tuesday 19:00-21:00	Omagari Exchange Center	☎0187-63-1111 (Extension: 339)
Semboku City		Thursday 10:00-12:00		
		Sunday 10:00-12:00		
		Misato Town	Tuesday 10:00-12:00	
Yokote City	Yokote City Japanese Language Classroom	Friday 10:00-12:00	Wai Wai (Y2) Plaza	☎0182-35-2162
	Volunteer Japanese Language Classroom	Tuesday/Friday 17:00-21:00	Southern Akita Gender Equality Center	☎0182-23-5337
Yuzawa City	Yuzawa City Japanese Classroom (Yuzawa)	Wednesday (April-December) 10:00-12:00	Yuzawa City Hall Main Building 3rd Floor Meeting Room	☎0183-73-2163
		Every 3rd Friday (April-December) 19:00-21:00		
	Yuzawa City Japanese Classroom (Ogachi)	Thursday (April-December) 19:00-21:00	Ogachi Cultural Building Audio Visual Hall	

## List of various consultation counters

Consultation counters with a ★ are available in foreign languages. The others are only available in Japanese.

Consultation Topics	Consultation Counter Name	Phone Number	Available days and times
▶Consultation in foreign languages (English, Chinese, Korean)	Akita International Association (AIA)	018-884-7050	★Thursday 13 : 00-15 : 00
▶When you don't know who to contact		018-893-5499	Weekdays 9:00-17:45
▶Regarding status of residence	Sendai Regional Immigration Bureau, Akita Branch Office	018-895-5221	Weekdays 9 : 00-12 : 00 13 : 00-16 : 00
	★Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents	03-3202-5535 03-5155-4039	Weekdays 9 : 00-16 : 00
▶Passport Renewal ▶Bringing family/friends to Japan, etc.	Embassies and Consulates within Japan	See page 7	-
▶Suffering domestic violence from a husband/lover	Akita Prefectural Consultation Center for Women	018-835-9052	Weekdays 8 : 30-21 : 00 Weekends and Holidays 9 : 00-18 : 00
▶Regarding compulsory education	Boards of Education for each municipality	See page 23	—
▶Regarding advancing to High School	(Public) Akita Prefectural Bureau of Education, Senior High School Education Division	018-860-5161	—
▶Searching for work	Hello Work in each region	See page 15	—
▶Suddenly laid off	Labor Standards Inspection Offices in each region	See page 18	—
▶Unpaid wages			
▶Wishing to study Japanese	Japanese language classrooms in each region	See pages 30-31	



## Foreigner Consultation Q&A

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Akita International Association (AIA)

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Homepage: <http://www.aiahome.or.jp/>

