

STUDENT GUIDE

Live & Study
in Japan



GO! GO!

NIHON



Helping students to Live & Study in Japan since 2009



ABOUT US

Go! Go! Nihon was launched in 2009 after our founders Davide and John came to Japan to study Japanese. They experienced how difficult and confusing it was to find a school, accommodation and get a visa. They decided then to create a business that made the process of living and studying in Japan much easier for as many people as possible.

We will help you find the best language school, verify and translate your application documents and guide you through the student visa application process.

Our international team comes from 23 different countries and we speak English, Spanish, Italian, Swedish, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and of course, Japanese.

Together with our sister businesses Go! Go! Hanguk, Go! Go! Espana and Study Trip, every year we help students to achieve their dreams to study abroad.

Since 2009 Go! Go! Nihon have helped more than 11,000 students from over 85 different nationalities to come to live and learn Japanese in Japan.

Even during the challenging time of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we have been able to help hundreds of students to successfully apply for language school and safely arrive in Japan.

THE GO! GO! NIHON APPLICATION PROCESS

Our online enquiry and application platform is designed to help you manage and keep track of your application all in one safe and secure place. Our secure portal allows you to communicate with your application coordinator, ask any questions and complete your application online, you can upload support documentation, save progress and return whenever you need to update anything. We will also use it to send you details about your process, the application timeline and any deadlines.

Our online platform will help you to keep track of your application and deadlines.

One year to 6 months before your intended term start, send an enquiry to us via the Enquiry Form found on our website. We will help you select the best choice for you based on your preferences

Pick your school start your application paper work and pay the application fee, which is part of the school tuition fee and required to reserve your spot. In general, students need 2 weeks to get all their documents to us, assuming the student can access them easily.

The school checks the application. We usually hear back within 1 week, but sometimes it takes a bit longer. If the school has any additional questions, we will work with you to clarify and give the information to them.

1 **12 - 6 months**



2 **7 - 5 months**



3 **4 months**



Once the school is happy with all the details in your application, the toughest part of the process is over - your spot is saved!

Two to three months before school starts, you will have to pay the tuition fee. After the school confirms the payment, they will post you the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) about 1 month before your arrival to Japan.

Check our accommodation options and book your spot.

Once you receive your COE, head to the embassy to convert your COE to a student visa.



4

3-1 months



5

3-2 months



6

2 months



7

1 month



8

**Pack your bags,
it's time to come
to Japan!**



STUDENT VISA

A Japanese student visa offers several benefits, such as being able to study Japanese for up to 2 years, work part-time (up to 28 hours a week), use the Japanese Health Insurance system, open a bank account in Japan and several other perks of being a long-term resident in Japan.

You must be over 18 years old to study at a Japanese language school in Japan and enrol in one of our partner schools for at least 6 months. But don't worry if you're currently under 18 or can't commit for longer than 6 months! We've got shorter term options, including our Study Trip courses where you can spend between two to four weeks in Japan learning the language and experiencing fun cultural activities.

You can study Japanese for up to two years with a student visa, but it's important to check your courses length, as they vary by term.

Japanese language schools terms begin in January, April, July and October each year. Each term lasts three months. The maximum length of time you can get a student visa for is two years. Note that some schools only offer two term start dates, so it's always best to check with us for your chosen school. Many schools start and end their curriculum in April, resetting it every two years. All classes are taught in Japanese even beginner classes, this immersive teaching method is the fastest way to learn Japanese. All schools test regularly throughout each term and also do an exam at the end of each term to check your progress. To level up, you must pass these tests as well as attend class, keep up with classwork and do your homework.

Read our blog article to learn more about how language school terms in Japan work [here](#)

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

In order to study full-time in Japan as a Japanese language student, you ideally need a student visa. This will allow you to study for up to two years. If your country has a working holiday agreement with Japan, you may also apply for language school with a working holiday visa. You will not be able to study long-term on a tourist visa, however we have short Study Trip options for those who cannot commit to long-term study.

We partner with over 25 excellent schools across Japan, each offering their own unique approach. Some focus particularly on helping students pass the JLPT exams, others support students by training them for the Japanese work environment. All schools focus on teaching well-rounded language skills, including conversation and speaking. You can be sure to find the perfect school for your needs.

In addition to attending classes, you're expected to self-study every day to ensure you keep up with the course content. You are also expected to complete any homework that you are assigned. Note that your student visa is tied to your school, so if you lose your spot at your school due to bad attendance, bad behaviour and/or low grades, your student visa will also be revoked. Keeping this in mind will help you determine which school intensity level will best suit your goals and learning abilities. Ask our team if you're unsure about this!

COE : Certificate of Eligibility

After you have decided on a school based on the information from Go! Go! Nihon, your application process starts. We check, correct and translate your application and documents for the school. Once Japanese immigration approves your application, they will issue a Certificate of Eligibility (COE), which you need to take to your nearest Japanese embassy in order to convert it to a student visa before you arrive in Japan.



ACCOMMODATION IN JAPAN

Finding a home in a foreign country can be daunting, especially if you don't speak the language (yet!) which is why we're here to help.

We work with trusted partners, vet the accommodation and ensure the process of finding the perfect place to live is as seamless as possible.

Our accommodation partners offer many different options depending on your requirements. The cost can differ depending on where you are located and the type of accommodation. A share house costs between 50,000 yen to 70,000 yen per month in Tokyo, while a private apartment costs between 80,000 yen to 100,000 yen per month in Tokyo.

When you choose to find accommodation through our partners, you can avoid the typical challenges and any hidden costs that can be associated with renting a place to live in Japan as a foreigner. Some of these difficulties include finding a guarantor and a landlord who is willing to rent to foreigners.

Most accommodation providers won't take tenants more than one month before they're due to move in, so finding a place to live through Go! Go! Nihon is a reliable and stressfree way to ensure you have a place to live once you arrive in Japan.



Apartment

Apartments are the best option when it comes to privacy and having your own space.



Share house

Share houses offer a good balance between quality and price and gives you a chance to make more friends. Since many Japanese people also live in the sharehouses, you'll make Japanese friends and get to practise your Japanese.



Host family

Living with a host family is the best way to fully immerse yourself in the culture and daily life in Japan. Breakfast and dinner are included and you'll get to truly experience what home life is like in Japan.



Dormitory

Dormitories are an affordable option. You'll also get to spend a lot of time with your classmates and create lasting friendships!

LIFE IN JAPAN

What's it like to Live & Study in Japan?

Matthew came to study in Japan from England. Read about his experience.

Where did you study?

I went to Yoshida Institute of Japanese Language for my first two years. I started as a complete beginner

(I had no idea about anything), then after two years, I finished at JLPT N2 level. I now work in Japan as a software developer for a Japanese company that makes HR software.

Do you recommend studying Japanese in Japan?

My time at language school was really a blast and I don't think I met a single person who regretted coming, even if they decided it wasn't for them. And if you've already decided to learn Japanese, I don't think there's a better way than going to a language school.

How was your experience at school? What did you like the most?

It was the best. It wasn't necessarily the school itself – after nine months or so it's difficult to approach school with the same enthusiasm as when you first started – but it's the lifestyle that you can build around it.

School hours were less than 4 hours a day, leaving so much extra time to be with friends, visit places or do random things. In those two years, I made so many friends and memories, I'm really grateful for that.

Did you make any Japanese friends?

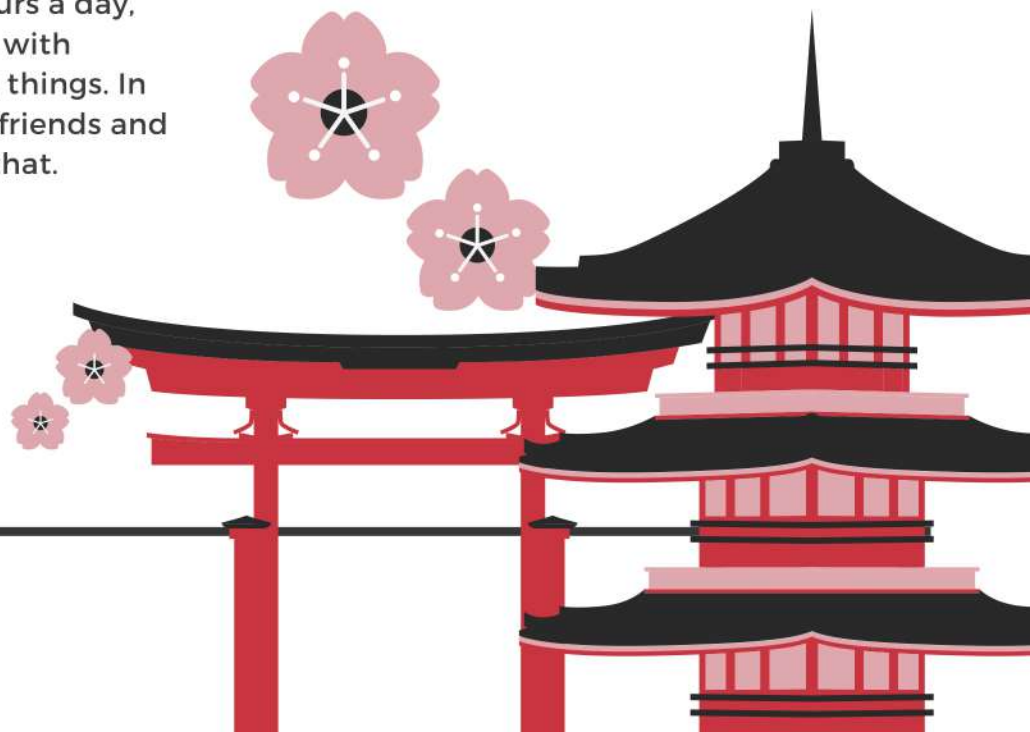
Some of my best friends are Japanese. It was difficult at first because of the language and it's still difficult now because of how busy Japanese people can be, but once you make a couple of Japanese friends it opens the door to make a lot more. Recently I joined a futsal club with only Japanese people – if you want to make Japanese friends you could do a lot worse than joining a sports club.

Have you travelled around Japan?

I've been to Nagoya, Nagano, Kanazawa, Nozawa, and Nikkō, but not much further than that. The best one was Nozawa because you can visit the monkeys in hot springs.

What is, in your opinion, the biggest lesson you have learned after living and studying in Japan?

I always thought it takes time to build a deep friendship, but some of the people I've met here I only knew for 3 months but they became some of my closest friends. It's incredibly valuable to live somewhere with the possibility to meet so many people.





COST OF LIVING

You must be able to show Japanese immigration you have enough money in your bank account to live and study in Japan.

For a 6-month course, you will require on average at least ¥1,000,000 yen. It's mandatory to provide a bank statement that shows that you or your sponsor have this amount and a stable income. This value can vary across Japan and is subject to change term-to-term. We will always advise you on the latest information for your area and case when you get in touch with us.

Our schools have different fees for their courses. On average, they cost between ¥400,000 to ¥500,000 yen for 6 months of classes. You can see the prices and details of each school on our website: [HERE](#)

We have many different accommodation options, depending on your requirements. Depending on which city and type of accommodation you choose prices can vary quite a lot from between ¥50,000 to ¥100,000 per month. You can see all the details of our options on our website: [HERE](#)

Food

Eating out in Japan is fairly affordable and the convenience store offers some meals and snacks at very reasonable prices. Some food and approximate example prices:

- ¥150-200 for onigiri (rice ball)
- ¥700 on average for ramen at a restaurant
- ¥450 to ¥550 for an obento (packed lunch)
- ¥700-800 in a Family Restaurant (Jonathan, Denny's etc.)
- On average it is possible to have a decent breakfast, lunch and dinner at ¥1,000 a day, of course, bulk buying and cooking can mean you can spend even less.

Transport

The cost of your transport between your home and school depends heavily on how far you live from your school and what line, or lines, you need to take. On a rough average, you can expect to pay ¥6,000 to ¥7,000 per month for the home-to-school route.

Health Insurance

It normally costs between ¥2,000 to ¥4,000 per month for student visa holders

Remember with a student visa you can work up to 28 hrs a week to help you to manage the costs of your time here. Please read more about working part-time on a student visa in our [article here](#)



WORK IN JAPAN

Part-time

We partner with businesses and job agencies that share job listings for roles that fit around students' study schedules. To find out about the roles available join our Facebook jobs page and sign up to our newsletter to see which jobs are available.

There are roles available for every Japanese level, from beginner to advanced, and some roles don't need Japanese at all!

Post-Study Work Opportunities

For many students, the goal after finishing language school is to find full-time work. In order to work full-time in Japan, you need two important things:

- JLPT N2-equivalent Japanese language skills
- A bachelor's degree or 10 years relevant work experience.

If you have successfully achieved the language skills but need the degree, then further study in Japan is a great way to do this. We partner with both vocational schools and higher education partners and many of our language schools also offer support in this respect. If you have both of these requirements, then you're all set to start applying for work after finishing school. Your school or education institute may be able to help you connect with employers.

For many students, the goal after finishing language school is to find full-time work. In order to work full-time in Japan, you need two important things:

- JLPT N2-equivalent Japanese language skills
- A bachelor's degree or 10 years relevant work experience.

Follow us on our jobs in Japan group to be kept up to date about opportunities and read blog articles on working in Japan part-time: [here](#)



JLPT TEST

JLPT : The Japanese Language Proficiency Test

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is the standard exam that Japanese learners sit in order to assess their language proficiency. The test is administered every year around the world, making it the most recognised Japanese language test in the world.

The test can be taken in Japan twice a year at various locations around the country. The JLPT tests vocabulary, grammar, reading and listening skills and it is offered in five levels: N5, N4, N3, N2 and N1.

N5 and N4 measure basic understanding of Japanese, while N2 and N1 assess more advanced knowledge of everyday Japanese in a range of scenarios.

N3 is like the bridge between the lower JLPT levels and the advanced levels.

Why you should get the JLPT certificate

As well as helping Japanese learners gauge where their language levels are at, the JLPT is also used as a benchmark by Japanese employers who hire foreigners to determine candidates' language skills. It is normal for companies in Japan to require non-native employees to have passed, or at least know the equivalent of, N2 and above.

This is also the case with students who wish to go on to study at universities and vocational colleges in Japan since you will need a high level of Japanese language skill to keep up with your classes.

Therefore, JLPT N2 is often the gold standard for Japanese learners who want to continue on to work or higher education in Japan.

What JLPT N5-N1 looks like

What you need at each level (approximately)

N5

100 kanji

800 vocabulary words

~3 months full-time study

N4

300 kanji

1500 vocabulary words

~5/6 months full-time study

N3

650 kanji

3700 vocabulary words

~9/12 months full-time study

N2

1000 kanji

6000 vocabulary words

~ 2 years' full-time study

N1

2000 kanji

10,000 vocabulary words

~2 + years' full-time study

STUDY TRIP

If signing up for six months of study sounds a bit too much at the moment, we have two other options that can also help you come to Japan and study Japanese.

Using a tourist visa, you can come to Japan for 90 days* and spend that time learning Japanese with one of our short-term partners. Our schools offer courses tailored to several levels from beginner to advanced.

*Note that not all countries are granted a 90-day tourist visa for Japan.

You can read more about these options on our website:

<https://gogonihon.com/en/study-trips/>

Study Trip courses are an ideal opportunity for people from all around the world to get a taste of life in Japan for a 2 to 4-week period. They are the perfect combination of studying at a language school, while also taking part in cultural activities and experiencing daily life in Japan. They are especially helpful for those who are not yet 18 and are too young to apply to study at a Japanese language school in Japan. Additionally, those who don't have 6 months or more to spare can also benefit from Study Trips to learn the language and experience the country and culture at the same time.

Language lessons, cultural activities, accommodation, health insurance, constant support



Studytrip.com
A life-changing experience

We handle everything from the school, to accommodation, to all the activities, so you don't need to worry about a thing except booking your flights. You can just relax and enjoy Japan with the knowledge that our Study Trip team will help you make the most of your time here.

Find out more about these trips: [HERE](#)

Follow us



ONLINE LEARNING

For those unable to travel to Japan, don't worry! We also partner with the best Japanese language schools to offer online courses directly to students all over the world!

Whether you are new to Japanese and need a course that teaches you the basics, or you are looking for a way to improve your current level, our language school partners have created each course to help you learn as effectively as possible.

Each course has lessons tailored specifically for remote online learning. Some offer one-to-one Skype calls, others use pre-recorded lessons with interactive drills so you can study at your own pace. They're all designed to help you learn Japanese quickly and effectively from the comfort of your own home.

Example course : Go! Go! Nihon & Akamonkai Japanese Language school have developed a great online 12 week course designed to help you understand the basics of Japanese, complete 150 hours of study and cover all the material for JLPT N5.

YOUR JAPANESE JOURNEY STARTS HERE

If you're serious about learning Japanese, buy our Akamonkai bundle!



AKAMONKAI 12-WEEK BEGINNER COURSE



Created with the largest Japanese Language school in Tokyo, this 12-week Beginner Course is designed to help you understand the basics of Japanese and cover all the material for JLPT N5. With the interactive online lessons you will learn Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji, grammar and more. When you complete the 150 hours of study, you will also get an immigration-recognised certificate. This course is a great way to start your Japanese language journey wherever you are!

AKAMONKAI PRE-INTERMEDIATE 12- WEEK COURSE



This pre-intermediate 12-week course will help you become more accomplished in communicating in Japanese and get ready to take the JLPT N4 exam. Start by refreshing your JLPT N5 knowledge through review lessons. Then move on to learn how to read and write 180 new kanji and study 1,350 vocabulary words. As this course was created with Akamonkai, the largest Japanese language school in Tokyo, you will also receive an official certification after you complete the course.

JAPANESE ONOMATOPOEIA COURSE



Onomatopoeia is one of the Japanese language's most intriguing features. It helps you to build your Japanese language fluency, understand more about the culture and sound more natural when speaking. Improve your Japanese and learn all about this fascinating topic in this online course created with noted illustrator and author Toriko Kino!

COMMUNICA INSTITUTE KANSAI-BEN COURSE



vLearn the basics of Kansai-ben, the regional dialect spoken in the Kansai area. Perfect for those who want to live or travel in the Kansai region, it introduces you to the dialect, grammar and pronunciation differences compared with standard Japanese. For students at JLPT N5 level or higher, it's a great way to broaden your understanding of Japanese.

TOKYO GALAXY JLPT N3 EXAM PREP ONLINE COURSE



Tokyo Galaxy's JLPT N3 Exam Prep Online Course is designed to help you practise the JLPT N3 exam. It mimics sections of the JLPT N3 exam and familiarises you with how the exam works, as well as gives tips and explanations about the different sections of the exam. This course is perfect for anyone who has already self-studied or taken a JLPT N3 course, who now wants to prepare to take the JLPT N3 exam.

INTERCULTURAL BUSINESS JAPANESE COURSE BUNDLE



Created with the largest Japanese Language school in Tokyo, this 12-week Beginner Course is designed to help you understand the basics of Japanese and cover all the material for JLPT N5. With the interactive online lessons you will learn Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji, grammar and more. When you complete the 150 hours of study, you will also get an immigration-recognised certificate. This course is a great way to start your Japanese language journey wherever you are!

GO! GO! NIHON JAPANESE CRASH COURSE



Designed to give you basic practical Japanese language skills, our course will teach you the foundations of the language (including how to read hiragana and katakana), essential phrases for daily life in Japan (such as ordering at a restaurant or asking for directions), an understanding of Japanese culture and etiquette. Over the 10 days of this crash course, you will learn through a combination of written lessons, audio recordings, role-play and guided practice videos, infographics and also cultural activity videos.

We are always adding new online courses so find all the latest options and get more information here: japaneseonline@gogonihon.com

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact our team directly. We have years of experience in helping people from all over the world successfully apply for language school and their student visas.

Read our blog for articles on learning Japanese, life in Japan, Japanese culture and more.



<https://www.facebook.com/learn.Japanese.study.Japan>



<https://www.instagram.com/gogonihon/>



<https://twitter.com/gogonihon>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/GoGoNihonGo>



<https://www.tiktok.com/@gogonihon>



Live & Study in Japan

gogonihon.com

