

Category of foreign workers in Japan

Eligible to work in Japan as follows based on Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

Foreign nationals who are eligible to work

(So called “professional or technical fields”)

- The range is decided by respective occupations with consideration of influence on industries and national life.
→ Roughly classify into “advanced professionals”, “college graduated white-collar worker or engineer”, and “ability proper to foreigner”
- Remuneration receiving activities are permitted according to respective statuses of residence

Foreign nationals reside based on status

(Long-term resident (mostly Japanese descent), permanent resident, spouse or child of Japanese national, etc.)

Designated activities

(Technical internship program, applicant of EPA nurse or EPA certified care worker, servant for diplomat, working holiday program, etc.)

- Activities which are specifically designated for foreign individuals by the Minister of Justice.
- Technical intern enters Japan with status of residence “Trainee” which is not under employment contract. One year later of entry, the status change over to status of residence “Designated activities” which is under employment contract.

Permission for extra-status activities (e.g. part-time work by foreign college student)

- (College student: within 28 hours per week, precollege student: within 4 hours per day)

Major statuses of residence which adjust to professional or technical fields	
Status of residence	Examples
Engineer	Mechanical engineer, system engineer
Specialist in Humanities	Office work on planning, sales, accounting
International service	Foreign language teacher, interpreter, translator, designer
Intra-company transferee	Transferee from overseas office and same activities as above two statuses
Skilled labor	Foreign cook, foreign architect, processing of gem, aircraft pilot, sport instructor
Professor	College professor
Investor/business manager	Foreign-affiliated company manager
Legal/accounting service	Lawyer, certified public accountant
Medical service	Physician, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, x-ray technician
Researcher	Researcher at government institute or enterprise
Instructor	Foreign language teacher at high school or junior high school

- • • college graduated white-collar worker or engineer
- • • ability proper to foreigner required occupation
- • • advanced professionals