

AIC Japan

Quick Start Guide

Find the Right Path for Study, Work, Visa and Life in Japan

2026 Edition

**UNDERSTAND****DECIDE****VERIFY****ACT**

What AIC Japan Helps You Do

UNDERSTAND	DECIDE	VERIFY	ACT
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START HERE

Japan can feel like many separate decisions at once. Study plans, work opportunities, visa procedures, daily life, official checks, and longer-term choices often connect.

AIC Japan helps you make sense of those connections. It gives you a practical starting point, explains the next question to research, and directs you to the right AIC guide or official source.

NEXT ACTION Start with AIC Japan	 https://aicjapan.com/
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How to Use This Guide

1. CHOOSE	2. LEARN	3. VERIFY	4. ACT
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Use this guide in four simple steps.

1. Choose

Start with the route closest to your main goal.

2. Learn

Open the relevant AIC Hub or guide for an understandable overview and practical next steps.

3. Verify

When a decision depends on a current rule, requirement, deadline, institution, employer, or provider, check the responsible official source.

4. Act

Write down your next three actions and one target date. Then return to AIC when your question becomes more specific.

NEXT ACTION

Find My Route



<https://aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/>

Start Here: Route Finder

STUDY

WORK

VISA

LIFE

AIC TOOL

If you are not sure whether your next question is about Study, Work, Visa and Residence, or Life in Japan, begin with AIC Japan Route Finder.

Choose the goal that is closest to your situation. For Study and Work, the tool can ask a few more questions to suggest useful preparation routes. For Visa and Residence, Life in Japan, or Not Sure, it directs you to the most relevant AIC pathway without forcing unrelated questions.

Your result is guidance for further research. It does not decide whether you are eligible, approved, admitted, hired, or granted a visa.

NEXT ACTION

Find My Route



<https://aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/>

Choose Your Main Route

STUDY	WORK	VISA	LIFE	NOT SURE → ROUTE FINDER
STUDY	WORK	VISA	LIFE	

CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE

Study in Japan

Use this route for university, graduate study, research preparation, applications, and study planning.

Work in Japan

Use this route for professional work, Specified Skilled Worker pathways, job preparation, and work-route research.

Visa and Residence

Use this route when your main question is about a procedure, status, residence issue, or official requirement.

Life in Japan

Use this route for arrival, settling in, housing, health, insurance, tax, family, emergencies, and long-term life decisions.

Not sure yet

Use Route Finder. It will show the four pathways without pretending that one is automatically right for you.

You can return and choose another route whenever your question changes.

NEXT ACTION

Find My Route



<https://aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/>

Study in Japan

STUDY

WORK

VISA

LIFE

WHAT THIS HELPS YOU DO

The Study ecosystem helps you explore practical routes into education in Japan. It is useful whether you are considering undergraduate study, language preparation, vocational study, Master's or PhD study, research planning, scholarships, or application preparation.

Start with the Study Hub when you need to understand the route before collecting documents. Use its guides to narrow your question, then check the current requirements of each institution and official source.

For graduate study, AIC can help you compare Master's, Research Student, and doctoral routes. Research Student is not a degree route and does not automatically lead to later admission. University rules, examinations, and decisions remain separate.

NEXT ACTION

Study in Japan



<https://aicjapan.com/study-in-japan/>

Work in Japan

STUDY

WORK

VISA

LIFE

WHAT THIS HELPS YOU DO

The Work ecosystem helps you understand practical routes into work in Japan and the preparation each route may require.

Professional work usually depends on the real job duties, your education or relevant experience, and a legitimate employer relationship. Specified Skilled Worker, often called SSW, is a separate field-based pathway with its own tests, employer, and immigration requirements.

Use the Work Hub to explore the route that best fits your present situation. Use the Job Application Documents guide when you need to understand Japanese application materials such as a rirekisho, shokumukeirekisho, and CV.

Do not rely on a job title alone. Verify the employer, contract, actual duties, and current official requirements before committing money or documents.

NEXT ACTION

Work in Japan



<https://aicjapan.com/work-in-japan/>

Visa and Residence

STUDY

WORK

VISA

LIFE

VERIFY OFFICIALLY

Visa and Residence guidance helps you understand which procedure or question needs further research. It can help you organize the next step, identify supporting information, and find the relevant official source.

It does not replace the responsible authority. Immigration rules, documents, timelines, and decisions can depend on the exact status, activity, family situation, employer, institution, and current policy.

Use AIC to make the question clearer. Then verify the current requirement with the responsible official institution before you apply, pay a fee, change plans, or rely on advice from an unverified source.

AIC VERIFY Use AIC for context, then verify current requirements with the responsible official source.

NEXT ACTION

Visa and Residence<https://aicjapan.com/visa-residence/>

Life in Japan

STUDY

WORK

VISA

LIFE

WHAT THIS HELPS YOU DO

Life in Japan is the practical route for building everyday stability. It is useful when your next question involves arriving, municipal procedures, housing, health, insurance, pension, tax, family, emergencies, or long-term plans.

You do not need to solve every life question at once. Start with the issue that affects your next step. A newcomer may need an arrival checklist. An established resident may need help understanding a practical change, a household decision, or a longer-term plan.

Life in Japan is broader than commercial and digital services. If your question is specifically about mobile service, home internet, banking, or everyday payments, continue with Smart Life.

NEXT ACTION

Life in Japan



<https://aicjapan.com/life-in-japan/>

Smart Life

STUDY

WORK

VISA

LIFE

AIC TOOL

Smart Life helps foreign residents make practical everyday service decisions in Japan.

Use it when you need guidance about:

- mobile and connectivity
- home internet
- bank accounts
- everyday payments

These choices can affect how easily you settle into daily life, but they are different from municipal procedures, immigration processes, health systems, tax, family matters, or wider life planning.

Start with the Smart Life Hub. Then open the specific guide that matches your need. Service terms, prices, availability, and eligibility can change, so use the website and the provider's current information before you sign up.

NEXT ACTION

Smart Life



<https://aicjapan.com/smart-life-japan/>

Verify Important Information Officially

VERIFY OFFICIALLY

Good guidance should make official verification easier, not replace it.

Use AIC Japan first when you need a clear explanation, a route map, a checklist, or a reliable place to begin. Use Official Resources when the next step depends on a current rule, requirement, deadline, institution, employer, or authority.

This is especially important for immigration procedures, applications, eligibility, tests, employer conditions, public services, and any decision that could affect your money, documents, or status.

Be cautious with messages that promise a guaranteed visa, job, admission, scholarship, professor reply, or official outcome. A responsible source will explain what to verify and who makes the final decision.

AIC VERIFY Use AIC for context, then verify current requirements with the responsible official source.

NEXT ACTION

Official Resources



<https://aicjapan.com/official-resources/>

Use Japan Guides When You Need a Wider View

WEBSITE DEEP DIVE

Japan Guides is AIC Japan's wider discovery library. Use it when you have chosen a broad direction but need to find a related guide, compare connected topics, or continue beyond one Hub.

Route Finder answers a different question: where should I start? The main Hubs answer: what should I explore next in this route? Japan Guides helps you discover the wider set of practical resources once your question becomes more specific.

For example, you may begin with Life in Japan, continue to Smart Life, and then use Japan Guides to find related planning, housing, arrival, or long-term guidance.

NEXT ACTION

Japan Guides



<https://aicjapan.com/japan-guides/>

When Personalized Support May Help

PERSONALIZED HELP

Start with AIC Japan's free guides and tools. They are designed to help you understand your route, prepare better questions, and take the first practical actions independently.

Personalized support can be useful when you have already used the guidance but need help applying it to your own study profile, research goal, documents, or timeline.

Study and Research Advisory is currently available for structured study-related support. AIC can guide, prepare, review, and help you organize next steps. It does not guarantee admission, scholarships, professor replies, visas, or any institutional decision.

There is no need to request advisory simply because a topic feels complex. First use the relevant Hub, guide, and official source. Then decide whether targeted support would genuinely help.

NEXT ACTION

Study and Research Advisory



<https://aicjapan.com/aic-study-advisory/>

Quick Decision Map

STUDY		WORK		VISA		LIFE
STUDY → STUDY HUB	WORK → WORK HUB	VISA → VERIFY	LIFE → LIFE HUB	SMART LIFE → SERVICES	OFFICIAL → RESOURCES	NOT SURE → ROUTE FINDER

CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE

I want to study in Japan
Start with Study in Japan.

I want to work in Japan
Start with Work in Japan.

I need visa or residence information
Start with Visa and Residence, then verify with the responsible authority.

I already live in Japan and need practical help
Start with Life in Japan.

I need mobile, banking, home internet, or payment guidance
Start with Smart Life.

I need authoritative verification
Start with Official Resources.

I am not sure which route fits
Start with Route Finder.

You are not locked into the first route you choose. The purpose is to find a useful next question, not to label your future permanently.

NEXT ACTION

Find My Route



<https://aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/>

Your Next Three Actions

NEXT 3 ACTIONS

Use this page after choosing your route.

My goal

What am I trying to do in Japan?

My route

Study, Work, Visa and Residence, Life in Japan, or another route I need to compare.

My next three actions

1. Choose and open my recommended AIC resource.
2. Verify one important requirement with the responsible source.
3. Complete one realistic preparation task.

My target date

When will I review my progress?

My saved guide

Which AIC guide will I return to?

My verification point

Which official source, institution, employer, or authority must I check?

Small, clear actions are more useful than a long plan you cannot begin.

My next action

My verification point

My date

NEXT ACTION

Find My Route



<https://aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/>

Your Next Useful Step

You do not need every answer before you begin.

Choose one route. Open one useful AIC resource. Verify what matters. Take the next practical action.

When your question becomes more specific, return to AIC Japan and continue from there.

NEXT ACTION

Find My Route



<https://aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/>