

AIC Japan

COMPLETE USER MANUAL

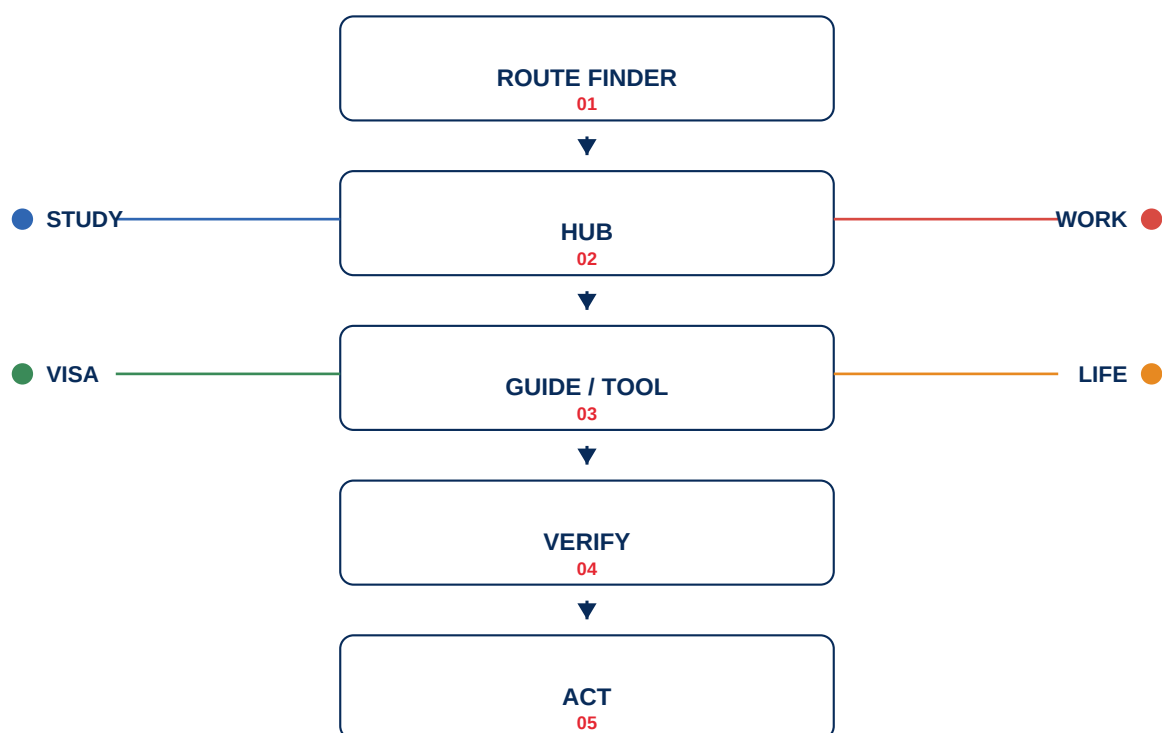
How to Use AIC Japan to Study, Work, Live and Build Your Future in Japan

● STUDY

● WORK

● VISA

● LIFE



2026 Edition

How to Use This Manual

This manual is designed to be used, not simply read from beginning to end.

Start with the section that matches your current decision. Use the route pages to identify what kind of question you have. Follow the relevant AIC Hub when you need focused guidance. Use Guides and Tools when you need more detail, comparison or planning support.

Some information changes too quickly to belong permanently in a manual. Current deadlines, procedures, provider terms and institution-specific requirements therefore remain online.

THREE-LAYER USE MODEL



You do not need to use every page. Use the pages that help you make your next useful decision.

	AIC JAPAN aicjapan.com/
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Contents and Update Note

This manual is organised around six practical stages:

PART I: START HERE	Understand how AIC works and how to use information safely.
PART II: CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE	Separate Study, Work, Visa and Residence, Life in Japan and Smart Life decisions.
PART III: USE THE AIC ECOSYSTEM	Move from the right Hub to the right Guide, Tool or official resource.
PART IV: FROM INFORMATION TO ACTION	Use AIC guidance for study, work, residence and practical-life preparation.
PART V: PERSONALISED SUPPORT	Decide when free guidance is enough and when structured support may be useful.
PART VI: MY AIC JAPAN ACTION PLAN	Turn what you have learned into your own next actions.

Edition 2026.1

Web pages, procedures, services and institutional requirements can change after publication. Check the current AIC website and the responsible source before acting on changing information.



AIC Purpose and Boundaries

AIC Japan is a guidance and decision-support platform for people trying to understand Japan-related choices. Its role is to make difficult information easier to navigate, connect related resources and help you prepare a sensible next step.

AIC can help you understand options, compare routes, organise questions, find current resources and prepare for decisions.

AIC CAN HELP Understanding or comparing options: Yes Organising preparation: Yes Finding where to verify: Yes	AIC CANNOT DECIDE Making an institutional decision: No Guaranteeing an outcome: No
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AIC is not a university, employer, immigration authority, municipality, lender or service provider. It does not decide whether you will receive admission, a scholarship, a professor response, a Certificate of Eligibility, a visa, employment, Specified Skilled Worker acceptance, permanent residence, naturalisation or another institutional outcome.

AIC helps you prepare for a decision.
The responsible organisation makes its own decision.

Use AIC to improve the quality of your preparation, not to replace the organisation that controls the outcome.

	AIC JAPAN aicjapan.com/
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Free-First and Language Access

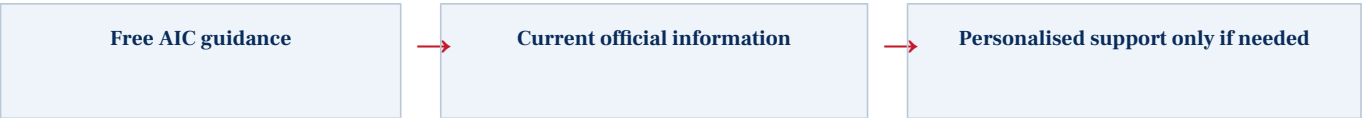
Start with free guidance.

AIC's Hubs, Guides, tools and official-resource pathways are designed to help you understand as much as possible before you consider personalised support. If a free resource answers your question and you can complete the next step yourself, you do not need to move further.

AIC publishes in English (EN) and Bangla (BN) where practical. Use the language that helps you understand the decision most accurately. The Bangla edition is not intended to replace the English factual master word for word. It is a localised edition designed to communicate the same decision logic naturally.

When an official source is available only in Japanese or English, use AIC to understand what you need to check, then return to the responsible source for the current requirement.

HELP LADDER

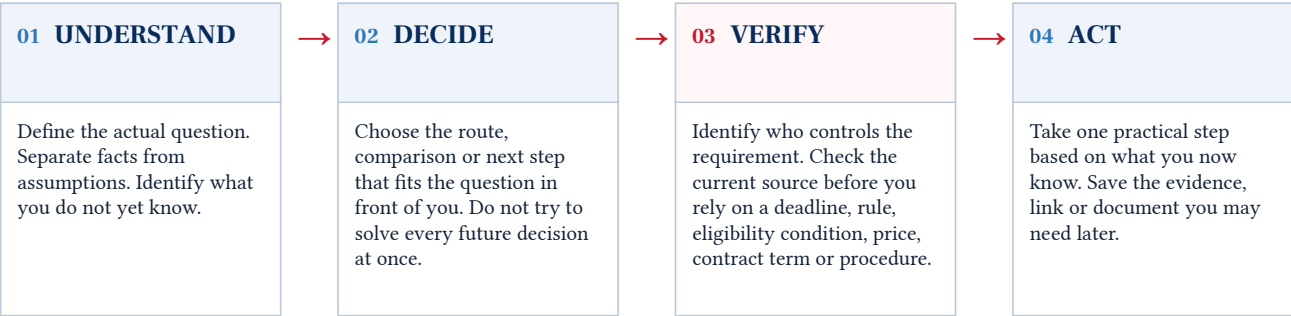


Free first does not mean basic first. It means use what you can independently before paying for help you may not need.

	AIC JAPAN aicjapan.com/
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Understand, Decide, Verify, Act

Use this four-step method whenever a Japan-related question feels complicated.



UNDERSTAND → DECIDE → VERIFY → ACT → repeat

Then repeat the loop when the next decision appears.

A useful plan does not begin with certainty. It begins with a well-defined question, a sensible route and a clear point of verification.

	OFFICIAL RESOURCES aicjapan.com/official-resources/
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Route Finder and Japan Guides

Route Finder and Japan Guides solve different problems.

ROUTE FINDER

Use Route Finder when your question is:

“Where should I start?”

It helps you identify the most useful starting route, such as Study, Work, Visa and Residence, Life in Japan or a mixed situation. A route result is orientation, not a judgement of eligibility.

AIC JAPAN ROUTE FINDER

Find your most suitable route to Japan

Compare study, SSW, professional employment, company transfer and preparation routes based on your education, experience, Japanese ability, budget and goal. You will receive a starting direction, an alternative and the gaps to work on next.

Up to 9 short questions

No personal data stored

Official-source framework

No visa guarantees



ROUTE FINDER

aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/

JAPAN GUIDES

Use Japan Guides when your question is:

“What related information should I explore?”

Japan Guides helps you discover articles and resources around a topic once you have enough context to explore more deeply.

Japan Guides

Practical guides for studying, working and living in Japan.

AIC Japan publishes easy-to-understand guides for foreign residents, international students, workers, dependents, families and newcomers who want reliable information about Japan.

Study in Japan

Start here if you are planning to study in Japan, apply to universities, understand scholarships or prepare for student life.

Recommended guide:
[How to Start Studying in Japan: A Beginner's Roadmap](#)

[View all Study in Japan guides](#)

Work in Japan



JAPAN GUIDES

aicjapan.com/japan-guides/

A practical sequence is:

Unsure where to begin? → Route Finder

Know your general route but need information? → Hub

Want to explore a connected subject? → Japan Guides

Do not use a long list of articles to replace a route decision. First identify the question, then explore the information that serves it.

TOOL COMPARISON

Need	Start with
I do not know my route	Route Finder
I know my route	Relevant Hub
I want related reading	Japan Guides
I need an official requirement	Responsible source

AIC Japan | UM-01 | EN 2026.1 | 7

Official Verification Rule

Remember this rule:

If the information can change your application, legal status, money, deadline, contract, travel or formal obligation, verify it at the source before acting.

The correct source depends on the decision.

A university or programme confirms its own admission requirements and deadlines. An employer confirms its own role, contract and employment conditions. The responsible immigration authority confirms immigration procedures and requirements. A municipality confirms its local procedures. A bank, mobile operator, landlord or other provider confirms its own current terms.

AIC can help you understand what to ask and where to look. It cannot turn a general explanation into an official confirmation for your individual case.

Before submitting, paying, signing, booking or relying on a changing rule, ask:

Who controls this requirement, and have I checked the current version?

VERIFY BEFORE YOU:

Submit	Pay	Sign	Travel	Rely on a changing requirement
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OFFICIAL RESOURCES

aicjapan.com/official-resources/

Start Here Action Check

Before choosing a route, complete this short check.

1	1. What am I trying to do? Write the goal in one sentence.
2	2. What decision is stopping me now? Do not write the entire journey. Write the next unresolved decision.
3	3. Is that decision mainly about Study, Work, Visa and Residence, Life in Japan or a mixture?
4	4. What information do I already have? Separate confirmed facts from things you have only heard or assumed.
5	5. What will require official verification later?

Example:

“My goal is to enter a Master's programme in Japan. My immediate decision is whether I should apply directly to a degree programme or investigate a Research Student route first.”

That is more useful than writing:

“I want to go to Japan.”

A clear next question makes the rest of AIC easier to use.

	ROUTE FINDER aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/
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Choose Your Main Route

Choose the route that matches the decision you need to make next.

01	STUDY Choose this when your immediate question concerns education, programmes, universities, research preparation, applications or funding.
02	WORK Choose this when the next decision concerns employment, career preparation, employers, job documents or a work pathway such as professional employment or Specified Skilled Worker.
03	VISA AND RESIDENCE Choose this when the immediate question is about status, immigration procedure, residence-related documentation or an official requirement connected to staying in Japan.
04	LIFE IN JAPAN Choose this when the issue concerns living in Japan, settlement, municipality-related orientation, housing or longer-term practical life.

One person may use several routes over time. That does not mean every route should be opened at once.

Choose by the next decision, not by your entire future.

ROUTE-CHOICE COMPARISON

Goal → immediate question → main route

	ROUTE FINDER aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/
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Study Route Decisions

Use the Study route when education is the decision that comes first.

Begin by identifying five things:

Level:	language study, undergraduate, Master's, PhD or another programme type.
Field:	what you actually want to study or research.
Language:	whether you are looking for English-taught, Japanese-taught or other programme options.
Timing:	the intake period and preparation window that matter to you.
Route:	whether your target normally involves direct degree application, research preparation, professor contact or another institution-defined process.

For graduate study, do not assume every applicant needs the same route. A Master's applicant, PhD applicant and prospective Research Student may need different preparation. Professor contact may be important in some contexts and unnecessary or structured differently in others.

The Study Hub should help you organise these questions. Each university and programme remains responsible for its own requirements.



STUDY IN JAPAN
aicjapan.com/study-in-japan/

Work Route Decisions

Use the Work route when your immediate problem is employment or preparation for an employment pathway.

First identify which type of question you have.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT	SPECIFIED SKILLED WORKER (SSW)	TRANSFER / OTHER ESTABLISHED PATH
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Professional employment: roles that depend mainly on your education, experience and the employer's requirements.

Specified Skilled Worker (SSW): a distinct work pathway that may involve field-specific skills, language requirements and immigration conditions that must be checked through current responsible sources.

Company transfer or another established employment path: start with the employer and the exact route being considered rather than assuming the rules are the same as ordinary job hunting.

Then separate four tasks:



Do not mix them together. A strong CV does not answer an immigration question, and a possible residence route does not mean an employer will hire you.

Use the Work Hub to prepare the employment side. Verify employer and immigration requirements separately where each applies.



WORK IN JAPAN

aicjapan.com/work-in-japan/

Visa and Residence Route

Use the Visa and Residence route when the question is about a status, procedure or official residence requirement.

Typical questions include:

- Which procedure should I research?
- Which authority or institution handles this part?
- What current documents or conditions need to be checked?
- Does my study, work or family situation create a separate residence question?
- What must be confirmed before I submit or rely on the process?

PROCEDURE CHECK



Keep the boundary clear.

A university may control admission, but immigration authorities control immigration decisions. An employer may offer a job, but that does not itself settle every residence question. AIC can organise the research path, but it cannot determine your eligibility or predict the result.

This manual deliberately avoids detailed changing immigration procedures. Use the Visa and Residence Hub for orientation, then verify current requirements with the responsible official source.

	VISA AND RESIDENCE aicjapan.com/visa-residence/
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Life in Japan Route

Use the Life in Japan route when the main question is how to live, settle or manage practical life in Japan.

This may include:

- arrival and initial setup
- municipality-related orientation
- housing decisions
- healthcare, insurance or pension guidance
- everyday administrative preparation
- practical family or household questions
- longer-term life decisions

LIFE BOUNDARY MAP

Residence status/procedure	→	Visa and Residence
Resident systems/settlement	→	Life in Japan
Commercial/digital services	→	Smart Life

The Life route is different from Visa and Residence. A residence-status procedure belongs primarily to Visa and Residence. What you need to do as a resident after arrival may belong primarily to Life in Japan.

It is also broader than Smart Life. Life covers resident systems and practical settlement. Smart Life focuses on commercial and digital everyday services.

When a Life question involves a municipality, contract, provider, lender or other responsible organisation, use AIC for orientation and verify the specific requirement directly.



LIFE IN JAPAN

aicjapan.com/life-in-japan/

Smart Life Boundary

Smart Life is part of practical life in Japan, but it has a narrower purpose.

Use Life in Japan when you need orientation around settlement, housing, municipality-related matters, resident systems or longer-term practical living.

Use Smart Life when you are comparing everyday commercial or digital services, such as:

- mobile and internet
- banking and payments
- useful digital services
- practical service setup

LIFE IN JAPAN	SMART LIFE
resident systems	commercial services
settlement	service setup
housing orientation	mobile/internet
practical life	banking/payments

Smart Life helps you decide what to compare, not which company you are guaranteed to qualify for or which provider will always be best.

Prices, campaigns, availability, eligibility checks and contract terms can change quickly. Those details should remain on current web pages or provider sites rather than inside a durable manual.

RESIDENT SYSTEM VS SERVICE-CHOICE TEST

A useful test is:

Is this about living within a resident system? → Life in Japan

Is this about choosing an everyday service? → Smart Life



SMART LIFE

aicjapan.com/category/smart-life/

Not Sure and Multi-Route Choices

Many Japan journeys involve more than one route.

A prospective student may also be thinking about future work. A job seeker may need a residence-status question answered. A new resident may need both municipal guidance and a mobile service.

Do not solve every route at the same time.

Use this sequence:

PRIORITY DECISION TREE



- 1. Find the nearest decision.** What must be decided first?
- 2. Choose the route that owns that decision.**
- 3. Add one secondary route only if it directly affects the first.**
- 4. Delay future questions until they become relevant.**

Example:

If you have not yet chosen a suitable Master's route, detailed post-graduation job planning may be premature. Study comes first. Work becomes secondary only where it affects the current study decision.

When the order is genuinely unclear, use Route Finder to identify a starting point.

Multiple goals are normal. Multiple simultaneous priorities usually create confusion.

	ROUTE FINDER aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/
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Route Questions and Red Flags

Before relying on advice, ask whether the information actually belongs to your route and whether it can be verified.

Red flags include:

- ❑ someone promises admission, scholarship, visa, job or another institutional result
- ❑ an old screenshot, social post or personal story is treated as a current rule
- ❑ one person's experience is presented as if it applies to everyone
- ❑ a provider recommendation appears without current terms or comparison criteria
- ❑ a Study question is answered only with immigration speculation
- ❑ a Work question assumes that having a possible residence route guarantees employment
- ❑ a Visa or Residence question is answered without identifying the responsible authority
- ❑ urgent payment is requested before the service, scope or conditions are clear
- ❑ advice does not match your actual level, timing, route or situation

When one of these appears, stop.

Return to the relevant Hub, define the exact question and verify the point that controls your decision.



OFFICIAL RESOURCES
aicjapan.com/official-resources/

Route-to-Action Checklist

After choosing your route, complete this checklist before moving deeper.

☐	I can state my immediate goal in one sentence.
☐	I know my main route: Study, Work, Visa and Residence, or Life in Japan.
☐	I have identified a secondary route only if it affects the current decision.
☐	I have opened the relevant AIC Hub.
☐	I have saved one Guide or Tool that answers my current question.
☐	I know which information is stable guidance and which detail may have changed.
☐	I have identified at least one responsible source I may need to check.
☐	I have written one next action I can complete.
☐	I have avoided making a decision based only on a promise, social post or another person's experience.

If you cannot complete the first three items, return to Route Finder.
If you cannot identify the responsible source, use Official Resources before acting.

	ROUTE FINDER aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/		OFFICIAL RESOURCES aicjapan.com/official-resources/
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Study / Work / Visa / Life Decision Prompts

Use these prompts when your question still feels too broad.

STUDY • What level am I targeting? • What field or programme am I looking for? • What language and timing matter? • Do I need programme research, professor research, application preparation or funding research? • Which institution will confirm the requirement?	WORK • What role or employment pathway am I targeting? • What evidence or experience do I need to present? • Which application documents are appropriate? • Is there a separate immigration or SSW question? • What must the employer confirm?
VISA AND RESIDENCE • What exact status or procedure am I researching? • Which authority controls it? • Which current requirement must be verified before action?	LIFE IN JAPAN • Is this about arrival, municipality, housing, resident systems or practical living? • Is part of the question actually a Smart Life service choice? • Who controls the final local, contractual or provider detail?



ROUTE FINDER
aicjapan.com/japan-route-finder/

Ecosystem Map

AIC works best as a sequence, not as a collection of unrelated pages.

PRIMARY ECOSYSTEM FLOW

ROUTE FINDER	Use it when you do not know where to begin.
↓	
HUB	Use the relevant Hub to organise the subject around your route.
↓	
GUIDE OR TOOL	Use a Guide when you need deeper explanation. Use a Tool when you need to compare, decide, plan or record something.
↓	
OFFICIAL VERIFICATION	Check changing requirements with the authority, institution, employer, municipality or provider responsible for them.
↓	
ACTION	Complete the next useful step based on current information.

You may enter the system later if you already know your route. For example, a graduate applicant who already knows the Study route can go directly to the Study Hub.

The important principle is not to read everything. It is to move from the right question to the right resource and then to a verified action.



AIC JAPAN

aicjapan.com/

The Study Hub and Work Hub should not be used interchangeably.

HAND OFF WHEN NEEDED

STUDY DECISION → STUDY HUB	EMPLOYMENT DECISION → WORK HUB
IMMIGRATION PROCEDURE → VISA AND RESIDENCE	SETTLEMENT / PRACTICAL LIFE → LIFE IN JAPAN

	STUDY IN JAPAN aicjapan.com/study-in-japan/		WORK IN JAPAN aicjapan.com/work-in-japan/
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Visa, Life and Smart Life Hubs

Visa and Residence, Life in Japan and Smart Life may appear in the same personal journey, but they answer different questions.

VISA AND RESIDENCE Status / procedure Use this Hub when the issue is your status, an immigration or residence procedure, required evidence, or another matter controlled by the responsible authority.	LIFE IN JAPAN Resident systems / settlement Use this Hub for settlement and resident life, such as arrival, municipality-related orientation, housing, healthcare, insurance, pension and practical living.	SMART LIFE Commercial / digital service Use this area when the decision concerns everyday commercial or digital services, such as mobile connectivity, internet, banking or payments.
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Status or procedure → Visa and Residence | Resident system or settlement → Life in Japan | Commercial or digital service → Smart Life

One situation can move between all three.

ONE RESIDENT JOURNEY

For example, a new resident may first verify a residence procedure, then complete local settlement tasks, and later compare a mobile service.

The key is to separate the questions rather than treating everything connected with living in Japan as one route.



VISA AND RESIDENCE
Current guidance



LIFE IN JAPAN
Current guidance



SMART LIFE
Current guidance

Official Resources

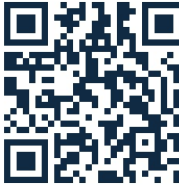
Official Resources is the verification layer of the AIC ecosystem.

Use AIC first when you need an explanation, route or set of questions. Move to the responsible source when the answer will affect an application, procedure, deadline, contract, payment or formal obligation.

Use this source hierarchy:

1. THE ORGANISATION THAT CONTROLS THE DECISION For example, the exact university, employer, municipality, authority, landlord, bank or service provider involved.
2. THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT OR INSTITUTIONAL SOURCE Use this for current rules, procedures, forms and official guidance.
3. AIC EXPLANATION AND DECISION SUPPORT Use this to understand context, prepare questions and organise your next step.
4. INFORMAL SOURCES Personal experiences, communities and social posts may reveal useful questions, but they should not override current primary information.

When sources conflict, do not choose the answer you prefer. Identify who actually controls the decision and verify there.



OFFICIAL RESOURCES
Scan for current guidance

Japan Guides and Cornerstone Guides

A Hub helps you choose the right area. A Guide helps you understand one issue inside that area.

Use Japan Guides when you want to discover a related topic, understand a practical issue or follow a focused explanation.

HUB	GUIDE	CORNERSTONE / DEEP DIVE	CURRENT VERIFICATION
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Hub → relevant Guide → deeper cornerstone resource when needed

Some subjects need more structure. A cornerstone or deep-dive guide brings the major decisions of that subject together, often with comparisons, checklists, sequences or links to current supporting resources.

Do not start with the longest resource simply because it contains more information. Start with the question you need to answer.

A PRACTICAL READING PATH

For example, a graduate applicant may begin in the Study Hub, open a guide about graduate routes, and only then use a deeper resource on university selection or research preparation.

Changing requirements, current deadlines and institution-specific rules should remain on maintained web resources or the responsible institution's current pages.



JAPAN GUIDES
Scan for current guidance

Tools and Planners

A Guide helps you understand. A Tool helps you do something with what you understand.

GUIDE	TOOL
UNDERSTAND	CHOOSE / COMPARE / PLAN / RECORD

Use a tool when you need to:

choose between routes	compare options
identify missing information	organise preparation
record evidence	turn a goal into next actions

Route Finder is one example. It helps organise the starting decision rather than simply giving the reader more articles.

Checklists and planners serve a different purpose. A checklist can show what is still missing. A planner can put tasks into a sensible order. A comparison tool can expose differences that are difficult to see in normal prose.

Do not continue reading indefinitely when the next problem is already clear.

ASK
Do I still need to understand, or do I now need to choose, plan or record?

If the second answer is true, move from the Guide to the appropriate live Tool.

Only tools confirmed as publicly available should appear as active destinations in this edition.



ROUTE FINDER
Scan for current guidance

AIC Japanese Learning

Japanese is not a separate Japan route. It is a capability that can strengthen several routes at different stages.

AIC LEARNING				
A cross-route capability				
STUDY Japanese may support admission, classroom participation, research communication, student life or preparation for a future career.	PROFESSIONAL WORK The language level that matters depends on the role, workplace and communication demands. Japanese may expand the range of jobs a candidate can realistically investigate.	SSW AND JFT Language preparation can be directly connected to the testing and practical communication required for the path being researched.	DAILY LIFE Japanese can make municipality visits, healthcare, housing, shopping, emergencies and everyday communication easier to manage.	LONG-TERM INTEGRATION Language development can support independence, relationships, workplace growth and participation in Japanese society.

AIC's public learning area is currently presented as AIC Learning. Use current AIC learning resources according to your actual goal rather than assuming every learner needs the same course or examination.

Current lessons, levels, access arrangements and learning products remain online.



AIC LEARNING
Scan for current guidance

Free, Member and Subscription Access

FREE GUIDANCE
FOUNDATION / DEFAULT STARTING POINT
Free guidance is the foundation of AIC Japan.
You should be able to understand the main issue, identify the correct route and find the responsible verification source without being forced into a paid plan.



OPTIONAL ACCESS MEMBER / SUBSCRIPTION AIC may also provide organised member or subscription access where a current public AIC page specifically makes that option available. Such access is an access layer, not a fifth route.	OPTIONAL SUPPORT HUMAN ADVISORY Human advisory: consider separately when your defined question genuinely requires individual support.
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Where available, additional access may provide greater convenience, continuity, structured resources, learning content or tools. It should add value around the free foundation rather than hide basic official information.

Do not assume that an access option described in an older post, screenshot or message is still available.

- Free resources: use them as the default starting point.**
- Member or subscription access: use only options currently listed on an official AIC page.**
- Check the current website for availability, access conditions and terms.



AIC JAPAN
Scan for current guidance

How the AIC Ecosystem Connects

The AIC ecosystem is designed around decisions, not around forcing every reader through the same sequence.

A typical journey can look like this:



You do not need every layer. An experienced resident may go directly to a Life Guide. A graduate applicant may already know the Study route. A user who only needs an official form may move quickly to verification.
Use the shortest reliable path that solves your actual problem.



AIC JAPAN
Scan for current guidance

Study Journey Through AIC

Consider a student who wants to study in Japan but has not yet chosen the right programme.

1. ROUTE
The immediate decision is educational, so the reader enters the Study route.
2. STUDY HUB
The reader identifies the relevant level, such as undergraduate, Master's or PhD, and narrows the question.
3. RESEARCH
The reader compares programmes, teaching language, academic fit, timing and other factors relevant to the goal.
4. GUIDE OR TOOL
A focused guide explains the issue. A checklist, planner or decision tool helps organise the shortlist or preparation.
5. OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY VERIFICATION
The reader confirms the current programme, eligibility rules, documents, language requirements and deadline directly with the university.
6. PREPARATION AND ACTION
The reader prepares only for verified requirements.

Japanese Learning can support language readiness throughout the process.

OPTIONAL SUPPORT
If a serious research or application question remains difficult after free guidance, personalised Study Advisory may be considered. It is optional and does not determine the institution's decision.



STUDY IN JAPAN
Scan for current guidance

Work and SSW Journey Through AIC

The Work route contains more than one employment pathway.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT Start with the Work Hub, then clarify: target role → employer fit → evidence and documents → interview preparation → employer conditions	SPECIFIED SKILLED WORKER An SSW candidate also begins in the Work route, but the research path is different: field → skills requirement → language requirement → employer → employment conditions → immigration verification
TWO-PATH WORK MAP Professional employment: Role → Employer → Documents → Interview → Status verification if needed SSW: Field → Skills → Language → Employer → Conditions → Immigration verification	

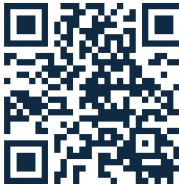
Japanese Learning may support workplace communication and broaden practical job options where the role requires it.

If the employment plan creates a residence-status question, verify that separately through the responsible immigration information.

Do not treat SSW as ordinary job searching with an extra test.

For both paths, the employer controls its recruitment decision. Responsible authorities control immigration decisions.

Human support, where available and appropriate, should only help organise a defined problem. It cannot replace the employer, testing body or responsible authority.



WORK IN JAPAN
Scan for current guidance

Life and Resident Journey Through AIC

A resident journey often moves from official setup to practical independence.

ARRIVAL	LIFE HUB	RESIDENT SYSTEM / GUIDE
↓		
RESPONSIBLE VERIFICATION	SMART LIFE, IF NEEDED	ACTION
ARRIVAL AND SETTLEMENT Start in the Life in Japan Hub to identify the first practical areas that apply to your situation.		RESIDENT SYSTEMS For municipality-related procedures, healthcare, insurance, pension or similar matters, use AIC to understand the issue and confirm the current requirement with the responsible organisation.
SPECIFIC LIFE GUIDE Move into a focused guide when you need help with housing, healthcare, local systems or another practical subject.		SMART LIFE Once official and settlement priorities are understood, use Smart Life for commercial decisions such as mobile connectivity, internet, banking or payment services.
JAPANESE LEARNING Build practical language alongside the journey when communication affects independence in daily life.		

The sequence will differ by person. A long-term resident may enter directly at housing or Smart Life. A new arrival may need official setup first.
The objective is not to complete every AIC section. It is to complete the next practical task correctly.



LIFE IN JAPAN
Current guidance



SMART LIFE
Current guidance

Graduate Route Selection

Graduate study in Japan does not follow one universal entry sequence.

DIRECT MASTER'S

Research this route when you are ready to apply for a Master's degree programme and the university accepts direct degree applications through the process relevant to you.

RESEARCH STUDENT

A Research Student route is generally non-degree and can be useful in particular university, laboratory or preparation contexts. It is not automatically required before a Master's or PhD, and it does not guarantee later degree admission.

DIRECT PHD OR DOCTORAL STUDY

Research this option when your academic background and target programme allow doctoral-level entry under the university's current rules. Programme structures vary, so confirm the exact degree and entry requirements.

BEFORE CHOOSING A ROUTE, COMPARE

Current degree	Research readiness	Target programme	Supervisor/ Lab context	Admission process	Timing
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Do not select Research Student simply because another applicant used it. Determine which routes the actual university offers and which one fits your academic objective.

GRADUATE ROUTE COMPARISON

Direct Master's	Research Student	Direct doctoral route
Compare purpose, degree status, preparation need, institutional structure and next research step.		



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

University, Programme and Supervisor Research

Do not choose a graduate destination from the university name alone.

Research in this order:

1. UNIVERSITY FIT

Does the institution offer the field, environment and graduate structure you need?

2. PROGRAMME FIT

Check the exact degree, curriculum, teaching language, intake, academic expectations and application route.

3. FACULTY / LAB FIT

In research-based fields, identify the department, laboratory, centre or research group where your subject actually belongs.

4. SUPERVISOR FIT

Where supervision is central, examine the professor's recent research, methods, themes and whether your proposed direction genuinely connects.

5. OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS

Only after establishing academic fit should you treat the current admission guide, documents, deadlines and contact instructions as your application framework.



Professor contact is not a universal first step. Some programmes require or encourage it; others use formal admissions procedures differently.

Research the programme's actual process before deciding whom to contact.



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

Professor Research and Contact

Professor contact should begin with research fit, not with an email template.
First check whether supervisor research is relevant to the programme and whether the institution provides instructions about contact.

THEN INVESTIGATE

RESEARCH THEMES

What questions has the professor actually been working on?

RECENT WORK

Read enough recent publications or project information to understand the current direction.

METHODS AND ENVIRONMENT

Does the laboratory or research group use approaches that connect realistically with your preparation?

YOUR FIT

Can you explain a specific connection between your background, proposed question and the professor's work?
If contact is appropriate, write a concise and authentic message. Explain who you are, why the research connection matters, and what you are asking.

Do not send a generic message to many professors with only the name changed.
A well-prepared email may improve clarity. It cannot guarantee a reply, supervision or admission.
Institution instructions always take priority.

BEFORE-CONTACT TEST

Programme permits / needs contact?	Research understood?	Genuine fit?	Specific question?	Contact
------------------------------------	----------------------	--------------	--------------------	---------



Contact a Japanese Professor
<https://aicjapan.com/2026/08/09/contact-japanese-professor-graduate-email/>

Research Proposal and SOP Preparation

A research proposal and a Statement of Purpose serve different purposes.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL The proposal explains the research you want to undertake. It should make the reader understand: research question → significance → relevant context → proposed method → feasibility → fit with the research environment	STATEMENT OF PURPOSE The SOP explains your academic direction and why the programme makes sense for your development. It may connect: background → preparation → academic interests → motivation → programme fit → future direction
--	--

The exact structure and length depend on the programme or supervisor's instructions.

Do not turn either document into a collection of impressive phrases.

A universal template cannot decide what a particular university expects. Start from the institution's instructions, then build a coherent document around your real evidence.

PROPOSAL VS SOP COMPARISON

Proposal = A proposal answers primarily: What do you want to investigate and how?	SOP = An SOP answers primarily: Why does this academic path make sense for you?
--	--



Research Proposal Guide
<https://aicjapan.com/2026/08/09/research-proposal-japan-masters-phd/>

Funding Research and Admission Planning

Do not treat “Can I get admitted?” and “How will I finance this?” as the same question.

Build five separate lines of research:

ADMISSION	TUITION AND FEES	SCHOLARSHIP	LIVING COST	RESEARCH FUNDING
What must you satisfy to enter the programme?	What will the institution charge, when are payments due, and what reductions or exemptions are actually documented?	Which current schemes can you research, who administers them, and when do they operate?	Can your budget support housing, food, insurance, transport, study costs and an emergency reserve?	Where relevant, does the programme, laboratory or external scheme provide research-specific support, and under what conditions?

KEEP ANOTHER DISTINCTION CLEAR

Official minimum requirement is not the same as a competitive profile.

Meeting a stated minimum may allow an application. It does not predict selection.

Build the admission timeline and funding timeline together, but verify each through its own current source.

FIVE-PART PLANNING DISTINCTION

Admission decision	Funding / affordability research
Academic fit, requirements and selection.	Costs, support sources and budget feasibility.



Graduate Funding / MEXT
<https://aicjapan.com/2026/08/09/mext-scholarship-graduate-japan-research-students-2027/>

Job Preparation and Japanese Application Documents

Job preparation should begin with the role, not with a blank CV.

First identify:

Role fit: what work you are targeting and what evidence shows you can do it.

Employer research: what the organisation does, what the position requires and what working conditions must later be confirmed.

Then prepare the documents the application actually needs.

RIREKISHO (履歴書)

A structured Japanese employment-history and personal-information document commonly used in Japanese recruitment.

SHOKUMUKEIREKISHO (職務経歴書)

A more detailed professional work-history document used to explain responsibilities, skills and achievements.

CV OR RÉSUMÉ

Format and purpose vary by employer and role. Follow the employer's instructions rather than assuming one international format is always sufficient.

Interview preparation should connect your evidence to the role, company and reason for applying.

Japanese-language preparation matters where the work, interview or workplace requires it.

These documents support the employer's evaluation. None guarantees an offer.

APPLICATION PROCESS

ROLE	EMPLOYER	REQUIRED DOCUMENT
↓		
EVIDENCE	INTERVIEW	WRITTEN CONDITIONS



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

SSW Verification

Treat Specified Skilled Worker as a structured pathway that requires several separate checks.

Before relying on an SSW plan, verify:

STABLE FRAMEWORK The checks stay stable.	VERIFY CURRENT DETAIL Use current official sources for changing detail.
--	---

1. FIELD OR SECTOR	Identify the exact field you are researching through current official information.
2. SKILLS REQUIREMENT	Confirm the skills test, qualification or recognised route that applies.
3. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT	Check the accepted current language requirement and any relevant test route.
4. EMPLOYER	Verify that the job and employer are genuine and that the work matches the pathway being researched.
5. EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS	Read the written conditions, including duties, pay, working time and other important terms.
6. IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS	Confirm the current residence-status procedure and required evidence.
7. OFFICIAL SOURCE	Save the current official pages used for the decision.

Do not build an SSW plan from an old sector list, recruitment advertisement or another person's experience.

Passing a test does not guarantee employment or immigration approval.



WORK IN JAPAN



OFFICIAL RESOURCES

Visa and Residence Verification

When a visa or residence question becomes important, stop thinking in general categories and identify the exact procedure.

Use this verification record:

STABLE METHOD The checks stay stable.	VERIFY CURRENT REQUIREMENT Use current official sources for changing detail.
---	--

STATUS OR PROCEDURE	What exactly are you researching?
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	Which authority or institution controls this part?
CURRENT REQUIREMENTS	What does the current official information say?
DOCUMENTS	Which documents or evidence are requested for the procedure relevant to you?
TIMING	What submission window, validity period or other timing issue must be checked?
EVIDENCE SAVED	Save the current official page, instructions or document list you relied on.
NEXT ACTION	Write the next step only after the required points are clear.

Do not use an old checklist simply because the procedure has the same name.

AIC can help you identify the right research path and understand terminology. The responsible authorities determine requirements and individual outcomes.



VISA AND RESIDENCE



OFFICIAL RESOURCES

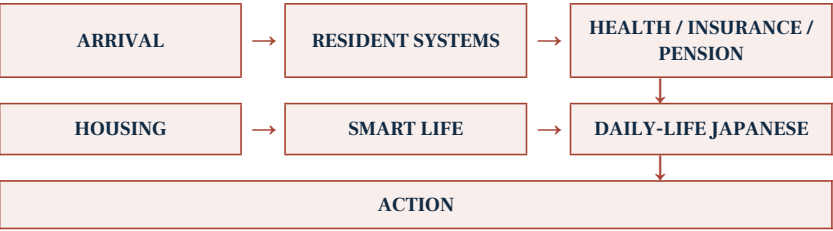
Arrival, Settlement, Housing and Smart Life

When you arrive or begin a new stage of life in Japan, separate priorities by who controls them.

1. ARRIVAL PRIORITIES	Keep your essential identity, residence, study or employment information accessible and identify the first official tasks relevant to your situation.
2. MUNICIPALITY AND RESIDENT SYSTEMS	Use AIC Life guidance for orientation, then confirm local procedures and required documents with your municipality or responsible organisation.
3. HEALTHCARE, INSURANCE AND PENSION	Understand which system or question applies to you, then verify the current requirement through the appropriate responsible source.
4. HOUSING	Check the property, costs, contract, move-in conditions, responsibilities and local arrangements before signing or paying.
5. SMART LIFE	After essential settlement needs are clear, compare mobile, internet, banking, payments and other everyday services using current provider information.
6. JAPANESE FOR DAILY LIFE	Identify the communication tasks that are difficult and build practical Japanese around them.

AIC helps organise the sequence. Municipalities, institutions, landlords, insurers, banks and service providers confirm their own requirements and terms.

SETTLEMENT PRIORITY SEQUENCE





LIFE IN JAPAN



SMART LIFE



OFFICIAL RESOURCES

When Free Guidance Is Enough

You do not need additional support simply because the decision feels important.

Free AIC guidance is enough when you can:

- identify your main route
- explain the issue in your own words
- find the relevant Guide or Tool
- separate stable guidance from changing detail
- identify the organisation responsible for verification
- complete the next practical action yourself

FREE-GUIDANCE READINESS CHECK

ROUTE KNOWN	ISSUE UNDERSTOOD	GUIDE / TOOL IDENTIFIED
-------------	------------------	-------------------------

VERIFICATION SOURCE KNOWN	NEXT ACTION POSSIBLE
---------------------------	----------------------

A useful test is:

Do I know what I need to do next, where I need to verify it and what evidence I should keep?

YES → CONTINUE INDEPENDENTLY

If the answer is yes, continue independently.

You may return to AIC when the next decision appears. That does not mean you need a paid service. Self-service is the intended outcome when the available guidance already solves the problem.



AIC JAPAN
<https://aicjapan.com/>

When Member or Subscription Access May Help

Member or subscription access is not a Japan route and is not required to understand essential AIC guidance.
If AIC currently offers a public member or subscription option, consider it only when the additional access clearly solves a problem that free resources do not.

OPTIONAL ACCESS

NOT A ROUTE	NOT A REQUIRED NEXT STAGE	NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR FREE GUIDANCE
-------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------------

Depending on the current public service, added access may support areas such as:

- structured learning
- organised resource access
- continuity between sessions
- extended tools
- member resources
- learning-platform access

Use this decision:

Does a free resource solve the problem?

YES → Stay with free guidance.

NO → Does a current AIC access option add useful structure for this exact need?

YES → Consider the current public option and review its terms.

No clear added value? → Stay free

Do not rely on an old price, campaign, screenshot or plan description. Availability and access conditions belong on the current website.



When Human Advisory May Help

Human advisory is most useful when the problem requires structured judgement about your own situation.

It may help when:

- several realistic routes need to be compared against your background
- your academic or professional evidence needs to be organised
- documents need structured review
- a research direction needs careful development
- your preparation contains gaps or inconsistencies that are difficult to assess alone

Do not request human support only because you feel uncertain.

First identify what kind of problem you have.

Information problem	Use the relevant AIC Guide or Tool.
Verification problem	Use the responsible university, authority, employer or provider.
Personal preparation problem	Human advisory may be useful if a current AIC service covers it.

Advisory can improve preparation and structure. It cannot replace the organisation that makes the final decision.



**STUDY & RESEARCH
ADVISORY**
<https://aicjapan.com/aic-study-advisory/>

Study and Research Advisory

AIC Study & Research Advisory is for applicants who have already used free Study resources and need help applying that guidance to their own academic background, goal and timeline.



Current public advisory areas include:

WHAT ADVISORY MAY HELP YOU PREPARE

PROFILE ASSESSMENT	Identify strengths, gaps and realistic preparation priorities.
MASTER'S / PHD ROADMAP	Organise route choices, preparation stages, timing and decision points.
UNIVERSITY / PROFESSOR SHORTLIST	Build a research-based shortlist from academic background, interests and goals.
DOCUMENT REVIEW	Review materials such as an SOP, research-interest summary, research plan or proposal, and CV within the confirmed scope.
APPLICATION AUDIT	Check preparation, required materials, consistency and obvious gaps.

AIC can guide, compare, organise and review.

It cannot guarantee admission, scholarship, professor response, COE, visa or another institutional outcome.

Always check the current advisory page before requesting support because available modules and scope can change.



**STUDY & RESEARCH
ADVISORY**

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

Prepare a Useful Support Request

Before requesting human support, prepare the information below.

☐ 1. MY MAIN GOAL	What am I trying to achieve?
☐ 2. MY CURRENT STAGE	Where am I now in the process?
☐ 3. MY RELEVANT BACKGROUND	Academic or professional information that affects the question.
☐ 4. MY TARGET ROUTE	Study, Work or another route connected to the request.
☐ 5. WHAT I HAVE ALREADY RESEARCHED	Guides, programmes, universities, employers or official sources already checked.
☐ 6. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE	List only the materials relevant to the task.
☐ 7. MY EXACT UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS	Write specific questions rather than “Please guide me.”
☐ 8. IMPORTANT TIMING	Target intake, application window or another relevant date.

A well-prepared request makes it easier to confirm whether the issue fits the current advisory scope.

Do not send unnecessary personal documents before you know what is actually required.



STUDY & RESEARCH
ADVISORY

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

Privacy and Realistic Boundaries

Share only the information needed for the agreed task.

Before sending documents or personal details:

- confirm what support you are requesting
- check what information is actually necessary
- remove or avoid unrelated sensitive information where possible
- understand what the confirmed service includes
- keep copies of important documents and correspondence
- use the current AIC privacy information when submitting a request

BEFORE SHARING INFORMATION

NEED	SCOPE	MINIMUM RELEVANT INFORMATION
CONFIRM BOUNDARIES		SUBMIT

A review, shortlist, roadmap or document check is guidance and preparation support. It does not make AIC part of the university, employer, scholarship body, immigration authority or other institution.

Do not assume that using an advisory service creates special access, influence or priority with an outside organisation.

The responsible organisation still evaluates its own application, document, request or case.

Good support should make your preparation clearer and more organised without creating a false impression of control over the final outcome.

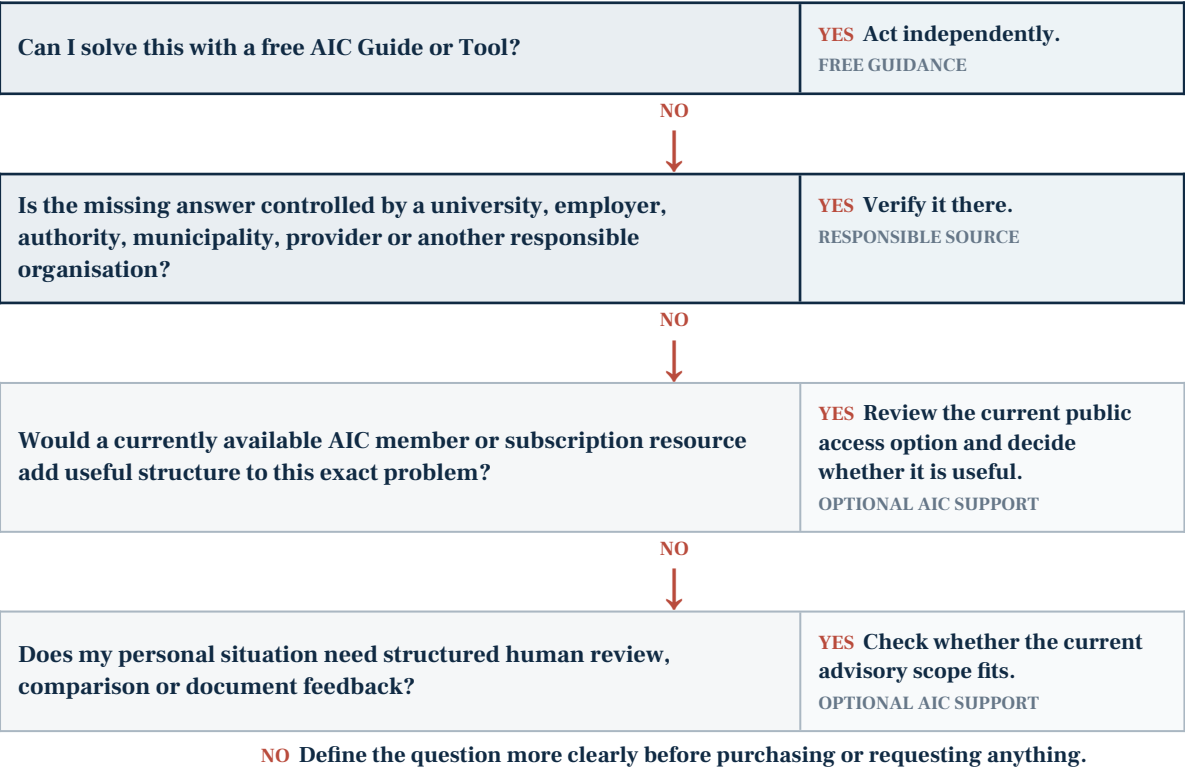


**STUDY & RESEARCH
ADVISORY**

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

Support Decision Check

Start at the top and stop as soon as the problem is solved.



The purpose of this decision tree is not to move you toward paid support.
It is to identify the **least complicated reliable way** to solve the problem.

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How to Use Your AIC Japan Action Plan

Use Pages 49 to 61 as your working plan.
You do not need to complete every page at once.

Work through this sequence:

1. GOAL What am I trying to achieve?	2. ROUTE Which route owns my next decision?	3. EVIDENCE What do I know, and what can I prove?
4. VERIFICATION What must be confirmed by a responsible source?	5. NEXT THREE ACTIONS What can I do now?	6. DEADLINE Which real date matters?
7. REVIEW What changed, and what should I do next?		

Update the plan when your situation or verified information changes.
The objective is not to predict your whole future. It is to keep your **next decision clear**.



AIC JAPAN
<https://aicjapan.com/>

My Goal and Main Route

MY MAIN JAPAN GOAL

MY IMMEDIATE DECISION

What do I need to decide next?

MY MAIN ROUTE

☐ Study	☐ Work	☐ Visa and Residence	☐ Life in Japan
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MY SECONDARY ROUTE, ONLY IF IT DIRECTLY AFFECTS THIS DECISION

☐ None	☐ Study	☐ Work	☐ Visa and Residence
☐ Life in Japan			

WHY THIS IS MY CURRENT PRIORITY

ROUTE CHECK

If I cannot explain why this route owns my next decision:

☐ Return to Route Finder



ROUTE FINDER

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

My Current Situation and Evidence

CONFIRMED / EVIDENCED

WHAT I ALREADY KNOW

Facts I believe are confirmed:

EVIDENCE OR DOCUMENTS I ALREADY HAVE

Examples: official guideline, transcript, contract, test result, email, notice.

UNVERIFIED / TO RESEARCH

WHAT I HAVE ONLY HEARD OR ASSUMED

Information that I have not yet verified:

WHAT I STILL NEED TO RESEARCH

WHAT HAS CHANGED RECENTLY, IF ANYTHING

New deadline, new document, new goal, changed rule, changed personal situation:

EVIDENCE CHECK

- ☐ I can distinguish a fact from an assumption.
- ☐ I know which assumption needs verification first.



OFFICIAL RESOURCES

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

My Next Three Actions

01	ACTION 1
ACTION What exactly will I do?	
WHY IT MATTERS Why is this useful now?	
RESOURCE / SOURCE Which AIC resource, official source or other responsible source will I use?	
TARGET COMPLETION DATE _____	
RESULT What happened or what did I learn?	
02	ACTION 2
ACTION What exactly will I do?	
WHY IT MATTERS Why is this useful now?	
RESOURCE / SOURCE Which AIC resource, official source or other responsible source will I use?	
TARGET COMPLETION DATE _____	
RESULT What happened or what did I learn?	
03	ACTION 3
ACTION What exactly will I do?	
WHY IT MATTERS Why is this useful now?	
RESOURCE / SOURCE Which AIC resource, official source or other responsible source will I use?	
TARGET COMPLETION DATE _____	
RESULT What happened or what did I learn?	

My Deadline and Checkpoints

OFFICIAL / VERIFIED DATE

MY TARGET DATE

The date I am working toward:

OFFICIAL DEADLINE I VERIFIED

RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION

DATE I VERIFIED THE DEADLINE

SOURCE SAVED

☐ Yes ☐ No

MY PLANNING CHECKPOINT

PREPARATION CHECKPOINT 1

Task

TARGET DATE _____

PREPARATION CHECKPOINT 2

Task

TARGET DATE _____

MY REVIEW DATE

When will I reopen this plan and check for changes?

DEADLINE CHECK

- ☐ I know whether the date is official or only my personal target.
- ☐ I know the time zone or submission condition if it matters.
- ☐ I will recheck if the official information changes.

My Saved AIC Resources

RESOURCE REGISTER

RESOURCE TYPE	WHAT I SAVED	WHY I SAVED IT
HUB		
GUIDE		
TOOL / PLANNER		
JAPANESE LEARNING RESOURCE		
OFFICIAL RESOURCES DESTINATION		
MEMBER / SUBSCRIPTION RESOURCE, ONLY IF CURRENTLY RELEVANT		

MY PRIMARY AIC DESTINATION

The page I expect to return to most:

RESOURCE CHECK

- ☐ Each saved resource supports my current route or decision.
- ☐ I have not saved material simply because it looks interesting.
- ☐ I will check the current website if a saved destination changes.



AIC JAPAN

<https://aicjapan.com/>



JAPAN GUIDES

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

My Official Verification Points

VERIFICATION RULE

For every important item, I should be able to answer:

Who controls this requirement?

What current source did I check?

What evidence did I save?

VERIFICATION RECORD 1

QUESTION _____
RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION _____
OFFICIAL SOURCE _____
DATE CHECKED _____
REQUIREMENT CONFIRMED _____
EVIDENCE SAVED _____
NEXT ACTION _____

VERIFICATION RECORD 2

QUESTION _____
RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION _____
OFFICIAL SOURCE _____
DATE CHECKED _____
REQUIREMENT CONFIRMED _____
EVIDENCE SAVED _____
NEXT ACTION _____

VERIFICATION RECORD 3

QUESTION _____
RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION _____
OFFICIAL SOURCE _____
DATE CHECKED _____
REQUIREMENT CONFIRMED _____
EVIDENCE SAVED _____
NEXT ACTION _____

VERIFICATION RECORD 4

QUESTION _____
RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION _____
OFFICIAL SOURCE _____
DATE CHECKED _____
REQUIREMENT CONFIRMED _____
EVIDENCE SAVED _____
NEXT ACTION _____

VERIFICATION RECORD 5

QUESTION _____
RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION _____
OFFICIAL SOURCE _____
DATE CHECKED _____
REQUIREMENT CONFIRMED _____
EVIDENCE SAVED _____
NEXT ACTION _____



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

My Open Questions and Decision Log

DECISION LOG 1

UNRESOLVED QUESTION _____

WHY IT MATTERS _____

ROUTE _____

WHO CAN ANSWER IT? _____

INFORMATION FOUND _____

DECISION MADE _____

DATE _____

DECISION LOG 2

UNRESOLVED QUESTION _____

WHY IT MATTERS _____

ROUTE _____

WHO CAN ANSWER IT? _____

INFORMATION FOUND _____

DECISION MADE _____

DATE _____

DECISION LOG 3

UNRESOLVED QUESTION _____

WHY IT MATTERS _____

ROUTE _____

WHO CAN ANSWER IT? _____

INFORMATION FOUND _____

DECISION MADE _____

DATE _____

DECISION LOG 4

UNRESOLVED QUESTION _____

WHY IT MATTERS _____

ROUTE _____

WHO CAN ANSWER IT? _____

INFORMATION FOUND _____

DECISION MADE _____

DATE _____

BEFORE I RESEARCH AGAIN

- ☐ Have I already answered this question?
- ☐ Has the responsible source changed?
- ☐ Am I researching because new information appeared, or because I am uncertain about a decision I already made?

Do I Need Additional AIC Support?

OPTION	WHEN USEFUL	WHAT IT CAN SOLVE	WHAT IT DOES NOT SOLVE	MY DECISION
FREE SELF-SERVICE	I know my route and can use Guides, Tools and official sources myself.	Understanding, planning, basic comparison and next actions.	It does not make institutional decisions.	☐ Use free
CURRENT MEMBER / SUBSCRIPTION ACCESS	A current public option adds structure, continuity, learning or tools I genuinely need.	The specific additional access described in the current plan.	It does not replace official requirements or guarantee outcomes.	☐ Consider
HUMAN ADVISORY	My defined personal situation needs structured review or judgement within the current service scope.	Preparation, comparison, review and organisation.	It does not create institutional influence or guarantee a result.	☐ Consider

MY DECISION

- ☐ Free guidance is enough for now.
- ☐ I will check current member/subscription access.
- ☐ I will check whether advisory fits my question.
- ☐ I need to define the problem more clearly first.

	AIC JAPAN https://aicjapan.com/		STUDY & RESEARCH ADVISORY https://aicjapan.com/aic-study-advisory/
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Study Route Comparison Worksheet

OPTION 1	
ACADEMIC GOAL _____	DEGREE / NON-DEGREE _____
LANGUAGE TO INVESTIGATE _____	RESEARCH / SUPERVISOR RELEVANCE _____
OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS TO VERIFY _____	FUNDING QUESTION _____
NEXT ACTION _____	
OPTION 2	
ACADEMIC GOAL _____	DEGREE / NON-DEGREE _____
LANGUAGE TO INVESTIGATE _____	RESEARCH / SUPERVISOR RELEVANCE _____
OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS TO VERIFY _____	FUNDING QUESTION _____
NEXT ACTION _____	
OPTION 3	
ACADEMIC GOAL _____	DEGREE / NON-DEGREE _____
LANGUAGE TO INVESTIGATE _____	RESEARCH / SUPERVISOR RELEVANCE _____
OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS TO VERIFY _____	FUNDING QUESTION _____
NEXT ACTION _____	
OPTION 4	
ACADEMIC GOAL _____	DEGREE / NON-DEGREE _____
LANGUAGE TO INVESTIGATE _____	RESEARCH / SUPERVISOR RELEVANCE _____
OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS TO VERIFY _____	FUNDING QUESTION _____
NEXT ACTION _____	

COMPARISON CHECK

- ☐ I am comparing exact programmes or routes, not university names alone.
- ☐ I have separated degree and non-degree options.
- ☐ I know whether supervisor research matters for each option.
- ☐ I have not treated a scholarship possibility as admission.
- ☐ My next action comes from a current official requirement.



STUDY IN JAPAN

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

Work and SSW Route Comparison Worksheet

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT	
TARGET ROLE / FIELD	SKILL EVIDENCE
JAPANESE / LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT TO INVESTIGATE	EMPLOYER
DOCUMENTS / TESTS	IMMIGRATION VERIFICATION
NEXT ACTION	
SPECIFIED SKILLED WORKER	
TARGET ROLE / FIELD	SKILL EVIDENCE
JAPANESE / LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT TO INVESTIGATE	EMPLOYER
DOCUMENTS / TESTS	IMMIGRATION VERIFICATION
NEXT ACTION	
COMPANY TRANSFER / OTHER APPLICABLE ESTABLISHED ROUTE	
TARGET ROLE / FIELD	SKILL EVIDENCE
JAPANESE / LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT TO INVESTIGATE	EMPLOYER
DOCUMENTS / TESTS	IMMIGRATION VERIFICATION
NEXT ACTION	

ROUTE CHECK

- ☐ I know which employment path I am actually researching.
- ☐ I have separated employer selection from immigration verification.
- ☐ I know what language evidence needs to be investigated.
- ☐ I have not assumed that a test result guarantees a job.
- ☐ I have not assumed that a job possibility guarantees immigration approval.

	WORK IN JAPAN https://aicjapan.com/work-in-japan/		OFFICIAL RESOURCES https://aicjapan.com/official-resources/
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Resident Settlement Checklist

ARRIVAL

- ☐ Essential identity and residence documents accessible
- ☐ Study or employment information accessible
- ☐ First official priorities identified

MUNICIPALITY

- ☐ Local procedures checked with my municipality
- ☐ Important notices and deadlines saved

HEALTH, INSURANCE AND PENSION

- ☐ I know which system or question applies
- ☐ Current requirement verified with the responsible source

HOUSING

- ☐ Costs understood
- ☐ Contract and important conditions reviewed
- ☐ Move-in responsibilities confirmed

BANKING AND PAYMENTS

- ☐ Current requirements checked with provider

MOBILE AND INTERNET

- ☐ Need identified
- ☐ Current terms compared before applying

JAPANESE FOR DAILY LIFE

- ☐ Communication situations I need to improve identified

FAMILY / HOUSEHOLD

- ☐ Relevant household needs listed

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- ☐ Important local emergency contacts and procedures saved

FINAL CHECK

- ☐ Official and provider requirements verified where needed



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



SMART LIFE
<https://aicjapan.com/category/smart-life/>



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

Graduate Preparation Sequence

Work through the sequence in order. Return to an earlier step when new evidence changes your plan.

01	CLARIFY MY ACADEMIC GOAL
What degree or research outcome am I seeking?	
☐ Complete	
02	DEFINE MY FIELD OR RESEARCH INTEREST
☐ Complete	
03	CHOOSE THE ROUTE TO RESEARCH
Direct Master's, Research Student, doctoral route or another programme-defined option.	
☐ Complete	
04	RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES AND PROGRAMMES
☐ Complete	
05	RESEARCH SUPERVISOR OR LAB, WHERE RELEVANT
☐ Complete	
06	VERIFY OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS
☐ Complete	
07	PREPARE PROPOSAL, SOP AND OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
☐ Complete	
08	RESEARCH FUNDING SEPARATELY
☐ Complete	
09	SUBMIT OR CONTACT ACCORDING TO PROGRAMME RULES
☐ Complete	
10	REVIEW THE RESULT AND DECIDE THE NEXT STEP
☐ Complete	

	STUDY IN JAPAN https://aicjapan.com/study-in-japan/		GRADUATE STUDY https://aicjapan.com/study-in-japan/graduate/
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Action Plan Review and Reset

WHAT DID I COMPLETE?

WHAT CHANGED?

WHICH ASSUMPTION PROVED WRONG OR INCOMPLETE?

DID ANY OFFICIAL INFORMATION CHANGE?

☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, what changed?

IS MY MAIN ROUTE STILL CORRECT?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

WHAT IS MY NEXT DECISION?

DO I NEED TO RETURN TO ROUTE FINDER?

☐ No ☐ Yes

MY NEW NEXT THREE ACTIONS

1.
2.
3.

NEXT REVIEW DATE



ROUTE FINDER

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

MY PERSONAL ROUTE SNAPSHOT

MY GOAL

MY MAIN ROUTE

☐ Study ☐ Work ☐ Visa and Residence ☐ Life in Japan

MY NEXT DECISION

MY NEXT THREE ACTIONS

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

MY MOST IMPORTANT VERIFICATION POINT

RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION

MY SAVED AIC DESTINATION

MY REVIEW DATE

You do not need every answer before you begin.

Understand the question.

Decide the next useful route.

Verify what matters.

Take one practical action.

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