

# Matsudo International School

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## Course Types

### Pre-college Foundation Course

Students who wish to further their studies in Japan take this foundation course to equip them with the necessary Japanese language skills need to partake in lessons in vocational schools and universities, which conducted fully in Japanese. After graduation students will be able to achieve JLPT certification as well as have the proficiency in the language of Japanese to find employment in Japan.

Our foundation course has 4 intakes, with lessons beginning in April, July, October and January respective to their entry requirements.

Intake	January	April	July	October
Application Period	Jul ~ Aug	Sep ~ Oct	Jan ~ Feb	March ~ April
Duration	15 months	24 months	21 months	18 months
Recommended JLPT Level	3	-	4	Between 3 ~4

The recommended JLPT level (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) corresponds with the duration of the course. The shorter the course, the higher the recommended level is. This however, is just a guide and does not restrict students with a higher or lower JLPT level to sign up if there is a suitable class ongoing at the moment.

Please refer to our Enrolment Guidance document for more information.

### Regular Course

Regular course is for students who wish to study Japanese in Japan using the tourist VISA or other valid VISAs. The student is allocated to one of the ongoing classes appropriate for his or her level for the desired duration. This is best suited for students who wish to study for a period of less than 6 months, such as those who wish to have a jump-start in Japanese or brush up their Japanese effectively over a short period of time.

### Holiday Course

This is new course spans 2 weeks and involves sight-seeing and cultural exchange elements. After lessons, students will be brought to participate in various activities such as visit to Ryougoku Museum & Asakusa, kimono-making experience, traditional pottery and a 2D1N hotspring trip to Nikkou or Hakone.

### Application Process at a Glance

#### Application Process for Pre-college Foundation Course

1. Application to Matsudo International School  
Send in your application to us before the closing date stated on the application brochure. We will then screen the documents and apply to the Immigration Bureau of Japan. An application fee of 20,000 JPY (non-refundable) is to be paid in full before we proceed with the application with the Immigration Bureau of Japan.
2. Receive certificate of eligibility from Matsudo International School  
Once the application has been approved, we will send the necessary admission documents to you.
3. Apply for VISA at Embassy of Japan  
You can then apply for the student VISA document in your home country with your certificate of eligibility and passport.
4. Payment of school fees and housing rent  
After you select your preferred form of accommodation, you can proceed to pay for the rent and school fees via bank transfer, according to the details on the invoice issued to you.
5. Flight to Japan  
Inform us about your flight timing and details 1 week ahead of time so that we can prepare for your arrival in Japan. See you in Japan!

### Application Process for Regular Course

1. Email or call us with the following details:
    - Japanese Proficiency Level (JLPT, J.Test, NAT Test, BJT, EJU or equivalent). We also accept beginner entries! (Beginner classes start in April and October)
    - Intended duration and date of study.
  2. We will then discuss with you your preferred form of accommodation and the availability of a class suitable for your level. Once you have decided on the accommodation you prefer, please settle the payment 2 weeks before your arrival in Japan.
  3. Inform us about your flight timing and details. Do also inform us if you require pick-up from the airport to our school by our school staff. The pickup service costs ¥10,000.
  4. Finalise your application and pay the tuition fees upfront at our school. Please bring along your passport and 2 passport-sized photos. We look forward to seeing you soon!
- Additional Note: To ensure a smooth journey in your study here with us in Japan, please be reminded to purchase travel insurance and plan a budget.

### Comparison of VISAs

Here is the comparison between a student VISA against a tourist VISA.

Item	Student VISA	Tourist VISA
Application	Prior application required.	No prior application required.
VISA Duration	Maximum of 2 years	Maximum of 6 months*
Part-time Work	Up to 20 hours a week.	Not allowed.
Alien Registration	Available.	Available. (More than 3 months of stay)
Health Insurance	Available.	Not available.
Bank Account	1 month to 6 months after entry.	Not available.
Mobile Phone	Available.	Not available.
Other services	No major problems.	Difficult to apply.

\*Depends on the nationality of the student.

Possessing a student VISA will allow the student to stay in Japan for a longer period of time at one go without having to return back to his or her own country. This is the ideal VISA for students who wish to seek further education in Japan as he or she can set up a firm foundation in day to day life in Japan, as well as have medical insurance coverage from the Japanese government. An initial duration of 1 year is given, can be extended for another year.

Coming on a tourist VISA is recommended for students who wish to study with us on a short-term basis, over a

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period of 6 months or less. No prior application is needed, unlike the student VISA. An initial duration of 90 days is given, and can be extended to 180 days. Studying long term using the tourist VISA is also possible. However, this would require the student to return home once every time his or her VISA expires.

### Alien Registration Card

Foreigners with the intention of staying in Japan for more than 90 days are obligated to register with the town council of the respective area they live in. This serves as an identification card for foreigners in Japan, and allows one to sign up for various services such as a bank account and mobile phone services.

### Monthly Expenses

These are figures of the average cost of living in Japan:

	Item	Cost (¥)	Remarks
a	Accommodation	¥24,000 ~ 50,000	Depends on type and location
b	Food	¥15,000 ~ 60,000	3 meals a day (cooking at home ~ take out)
c	Transportation	¥0 ~ 20,000	Depends on your travel
d	Mobile Phone	¥3,000 ~ 9,000	Depends on your usage
e	Internet	¥3,000 ~ 5,000	Type of service / provider
f	Utility Bills	¥5,000 ~ 10,000	Depends on season / personal usage
g	Books and Stationery	> ¥3,000	Textbooks may be included in school fees
h	Medical / Hospitalization Insurance	> ¥2,000	-
i	Personal Expenses	¥20,000 ~ 50,000	Depends on lifestyle

Here are the prices of some of the common items you might buy:

	Item	Cost (¥)	Remarks
a	1 can of soft drink	¥120	300ml
b	Instant Noodles (cup)	¥150	
c	Instant Noodles (5 pack)	¥400	
d	1 sack of rice (5kg)	¥1,500	
e	1 loaf of bread	¥200 ~ 250	Depends on type / brand
f	1 dozen eggs	¥250	
g	Yoshinoya Beef Bowl	¥430	Size – large
h	1 bentou	¥300 ~ 800	Depends on size and type
i	1 McDonalds Meal	¥500 ~ 800	Depends on type
j	Movie Ticket	¥1,000 ~ ¥1,600	Depends on date

Examples of the train fares to common destinations in Japan from our location:

	Destination	Cost (¥)	Remarks
a	Narita Airport	¥910	1 hour 20 minutes
b	Matsudo	¥140	10 minutes
c	Ueno	¥430	30 minutes
d	Akihabara	¥430	40 minutes

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e	Harajuku	¥590	1 hour
f	Shinjuku	¥590	1 hour
g	Ikebukuro	¥520	45 minutes
h	Roppongi	¥580	1 hour
i	Ginza	¥590	50 minutes

Point of embarkation: Yabashira Station (Shin Keisei) / Shin Yahashira (JR Musashino Line)

On the average, you would require ¥120,000 to ¥200,000 a month (sum inclusive of rent) for living expenses, depending on what kind of lifestyle you want while studying in Japan.

The common currency in Japan is the Japanese Yen (¥), which comes in coin denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500 yen and note denominations of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 yen. Major credit and debit cards such as Visa and Mastercard are accepted in most shops. Cirrus-enabled ATM cards can also be used to withdraw cash at Citibank ATM machines or Seven Bank ATM machines located in 7/11 convenience stores.

### Part-time Work (arubaito)

In Japan, overseas students on the student VISA are allowed up to 20 hours of part time work per week after acquiring their alien registration card (ID card for foreigners) and applying for the part time work permit. This can help ease the cost of living.

Assuming a student works in a restaurant for 5 hours a day, 4 times a week, earning ¥800 per hour, he would be able to earn ¥64,000 per month. Rates for part time work vary from region to region, with hourly rates varying from the usual ¥800 to ¥1,200 in city areas.

Arubaito jobs commonly available are hall staff in restaurants, cashier in fast food restaurants, convenient stores, departmental stores and such.

### Requirements to studying in Universities and Vocational School

To be accepted by a university or vocational school in Japan, the following is required:

1. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (or equivalent)

Vocational schools and universities require students to have a minimum of JLPT2 and 1 respectively.

2. Fluency

Lessons in vocational schools and universities are conducted fully in Japanese. Communication with the tutors as well as peers plays an important part in school life. Interviews are also part of the entry process for vocational schools and universities as well.

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### Facilities at our school



We have 4 classrooms that can accommodate up to 60 students in total, running in 2 sessions.



Our student corner has 2 Internet-enabled computers as well as a small selection of books, comics and magazines in Japanese. In our pantry area we have a vending machine offering a variety of Japanese drinks as well as a fridge, microwave and basic crockery for our students to use freely.

### Accommodation

Matsudo International School rents apartments as student dormitories for accommodation. The following basic necessities are provided in the dormitory.

1	Futon set
2	Kitchen utensils (forks, spoons, knives, cups, frying pans etc.)
3	Microwave
4	Gas stove
5	Rice cooker
6	Refrigerator
7	Washing machine
8	Cleaning equipment (broom, mop etc)
9	Storage (cupboards, racks etc)
10	Slippers

Other miscellaneous items such as cupboards may be available.

Optional services such as phone line, cable television and ADSL/optic fiber internet can be arranged.

The school rents different types of apartments depending on the student's needs. In Japan, apartment types

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are referred to by the number and types of room. D refers to dining space, K refers to kitchen, L refers to living space and S refers to service area. Normally, one room apartments commonly used by individuals are 1K or 1DK. Some students opt to share 2DKs or 3DKs with other students to lower costs. You can consult us for your preferred form of accommodation.

These are examples of apartments in Japan.



You can discuss your preferred form of accommodation with us once you have submitted your application to us.

Home-stay is also available, but however is subjected to availability.

There are also other student accommodations known as guest houses. These places offer private bedrooms and shared living space and kitchen. These types of accommodations are usually rented by both local Japanese students and foreign students alike.