

PLAZA NEWSLETTER(October 2025)

Mid-September has passed, and mornings and evenings have grown a bit cooler. And when it comes to autumn events, moon viewing comes to mind. This year's Mid-Autumn Full Moon is said to be on October 6th. It's also a time when the moon appears especially beautiful, so even though I rarely look up at the sky, I think I'll try gazing at the moon this year. It seems that the moon-viewing culture is also found in China, Vietnam, Korea, and other countries, and it's interesting to see how the food and ways of spending the day differ from country to country.

Now then, allow us to partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 51 consultations in August and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : I am a foreigner. I have lost my job and am currently unemployed. Is there any volunteer work I can do to help me put my child in daycare? Is it okay if it's unpaid?

A : Volunteer work without pay is not recognized as a requirement for child care placement. Even when salary is provided, you must work at least 13 days or 52 hours per month and submit a certificate of employment. Since the volunteer positions offered by the KIF does not qualify for a certificate of employment. We supported with finding employment.

Q : I have a question about the Cultural Activities Visa. I am planning to attend a private school to study Japanese culture for six months. I would like to know if this activity is eligible for the Cultural Activities Visa.

A : Requirements for the "Cultural Activities Visa" include proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses during the stay (as demonstrating the ability to cover living and activity costs is required). Since the Cultural Activities Visa is intended for learning or researching Japanese traditional culture or arts, activities occurring only about twice or thrice a month, or once a week, may be difficult to qualify. Additionally, instructors must be experts well-versed in the relevant culture or art.

We recommend visiting the Immigration Services Agency with materials detailing the private school you plan to attend and its course offerings to discuss your situation.

Q : I am currently an international student living in a university dormitory, but I plan to move out of the dormitory in a few days as I will be graduating and returning to my home country temporarily. Next month, I will be returning to Kumamoto, and the month after that I will be moving to another prefecture for work.

After submitting my moving-out notification in Kumamoto this month, I would like to know how to proceed with the moving-in procedures.

A : It is best to submit your moving-out notification when you come back to Kumamoto next month, not when you move out. Also, please complete the moving-in procedures at your new address.

Q : I was involved in a bicycle accident and would like to consult with a lawyer about procedures such as claiming medical expenses and compensation.

A : Legal consultations are available at the Consultation Plaza on the third Saturday of every month. Reservations are required, so please contact us in advance.

Additionally, HOUTERASU provides services for inquiries and consultations in foreign languages.
Multilingual Information Service ☎ 0570-078377



HOUTERASU
Multilingual
Information Service

If you have any problems, please contact the Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

The 20th Course Guidance for Foreign Students and their Parents Attendees' comments

The Course Guidance Event in Kumamoto on Sunday, July 6th marked its 20th anniversary this year. As in previous years, we welcomed many participants. We received numerous comments, and we would like to share some of them here.

【 Participant comments: Junior high school students】

- I learned so many things I didn't know before—like how to study effectively and the competition rates for high schools. I'll do my best starting today.
- The individual consultation helped me find my dream and was very helpful. Thank you.
- I was inspired by hearing various information and explanations about high school entrance exams. First and foremost, I want to work hard to improve my Japanese. I am grateful for the teachers' words.
- I now know how to prepare for the high school entrance exam. I will work hard on the subjects I am weak at.
- I feel more motivated and hopeful about the high school entrance exam. I feel I have more opportunities to study harder for the exams. I'd like to thank everyone who spoke to me and gave me advice today.
- I'm deeply grateful to the teacher who kindly guided me and to the interpreter for her thoughtful explanations.
- My goal has become clearer now, and I will continue to work hard towards it.
- Through today's learning, I gained a deeper understanding of the process of advancing to high school and methods for studying Japanese.

【Participant comments: Parents / Guardians】

- I'm glad to know how students with limited Japanese can still enter Japanese high schools.
- After 2 months in Japan, the children are experiencing stress due to the language barrier. Today, we were able to discuss their future paths and hear about the experiences of children who arrived in Japan earlier. This made me feel glad we came to Japan.
- We hadn't decided on a plan for our daughter's high school entrance exams, so it was helpful to hear about what we should do going forward.
- The teachers explained the specific exam system to us, and it was very easy to understand and extremely helpful.
- I'm glad we got so much advice. I hope my child does his best to pass the exam.
- I'm glad I was able to resolve so many questions about the entrance exam system.
- I'm grateful for all the information you shared with me. I feel relieved.

【 Participant comments: Schoolteachers】

- After 1 year in Japan, I realized he still feels uncertain about his Japanese. Explaining the entrance exams and special measures gave him a little more clarity about what lies ahead. Having the interpreter speak so much was a great comfort.
- We were able to hear about the child's daily behavior from the parents, which led to advice for the child.
- I think how to acquire Japanese is a major challenge. Hiragana → Kanji → their meanings → usage, etc. I felt we should consider methods for carefully understanding each element step by step.
- It was my first time participating, but hearing directly from others revealed many things I hadn't realized before (such as worries and anxieties). I hope gatherings like this expand further to support more children with foreign roots, and I believe school staff should also be aware of this.
- We were able to share the concerns about educational advancement faced by children with foreign roots and their guardians, stemming from institutional and linguistic environments. Regardless of nationality, we aim to ensure all children can pursue further education and employment with peace of mind.

Developmental disabilities

【What are developmental disabilities?】

Developmental disabilities refer to conditions where differences in brain function cause distinct strengths and weaknesses and to a state of experiencing difficulties in daily life or social activities. This is a characteristic of the brain that we are born with, and is also known as "developmental unevenness." Difficulties in daily life and social life include feeling that it is more difficult to play with friends, study at school, or work than other people. Developmental disorders are not illnesses, but innate 'brain characteristics.' They are not due to a lack of effort on the part of the individual or the fault of their parents. When everyone understands and supports them, their unique abilities become strengths, and their weaknesses diminish.

Families with children of foreign origins often live their lives using their parents' language and Japanese. How do such bilingual children learn language?

It takes a long time to learn to speak and write a new language. It's important to first speak and master your native language. By learning Japanese based on your native language, you will acquire both languages. If you converse in both your native language and Japanese, it will be difficult to retain either language. Then, it might become difficult to talk with your father and mother. It can become hard to express your feelings, and it may become harder for your hearts to connect. Talk to your children using the one-person-one-language rule.

【Consultation】

At your local ward office, you can consult about developmental disabilities. Depending on your child's age and the nature of your concerns, the staff will direct you to the appropriate place for consultation. If you have any concerns, consult your local ward office as soon as possible.

Kumamoto City has a Developmental Disabilities Support Center. It provides support for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Individuals who suspect they may have a developmental disability, as well as their families, can also seek consultation. After listening to their concerns, the center may refer them to resources that can provide assistance.

Kumamoto City Developmental Disabilities Support Center "Minawa"
Add: 2F, Wellpal Kumamoto, 5-1-1 Oe, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi
Phone: 096-366-1919



"Minawa"
(Japanese only)

If you find out that your child has a developmental disorder, you may be worried. There are ways to make their life easier and ways to communicate in an easy-to-understand way. Using these methods will help reduce the problems you may be experiencing. People with developmental disabilities have things they find difficult, but they also have things they are good at. Let's discover what they can do and what they excel at. When unsure what to do, consult a doctor or a specialist.

Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, housing and life affairs support in multiple languages. Consultants who speak English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, Nepali and Taiwanese are available at the Plaza as the schedule below.

October Schedule

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|------------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| 29 | 30 | 01 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation | 02 •Korean Consultation | 03 •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation | 04 | 05 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese |
| 06 | 07 •Chinese Consultation | 08 •Mental Health Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Job Consultation | 09 •Korean Consultation | 10 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation | 11 | 12 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Immigrational Consultation |
| 13 Sports Day | 14 closed | 15 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese | 16 •Korean Consultation | 17 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation | 18 •Free Legal Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese | 19 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultation |
| 20 | 21 •Chinese Consultation (15:00-17:00) | 22 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students | 23 •Korean Consultation | 24 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation | 25 | 26 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese |
| 27 closed | 28 •Chinese Consultation | 29 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation | 30 •Korean Consultation | 31 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation | 01 | 02 |
| 03 | 04 | Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm (apart from the ones below) •Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm •Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm 3:30pm~5:30pm •Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm •Mental Health Counseling •Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm | | | | |

※Consultation service could be cancelled due to consultant's personal reasons. Please e-mail or call us beforehand to check if the consultant is available.

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents' Facebook

We regularly update information useful to you.

Follow us and be one of the first one to be informed!



Plaza's FB

We are offering variety of information useful to your life. Please check us!



Our website



Our Life affairs guidance

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

Location: 2nd floor of Kumamoto City International Center

Address: 4-18 Hanabata-Cho, Chuo-Ku, Kumamoto City, 860-0806

Tel: 096-359-4995

E-mail: soudan@kumamoto-if.or.jp

Opening hours: Between 10 am and 6 pm

Closed on second and fourth Mondays and between December 29 and January 3

★If second or fourth Monday is a national holiday, the plaza will be closed the following day instead.

