

PLAZA NEWSLETTER(December 2025)

The chill in the morning and evening air has grown more pronounced, and we're entering that time of year when we gradually start to sense the approach of winter. In the mountains and parks, maple and ginkgo leaves turn red and yellow, creating a beautiful sight. This is called "autumn foliage." It is one of the most precious sights of autumn in Japan. Also, around this time, Japanese people begin preparing for the year-end and New Year holidays. Supermarkets and shops start displaying Christmas decorations and winter foods. As autumn turns to winter, we hope you enjoy Japan's nature and culture during this season.

Now allow us to partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 54 consultations in October and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

- Q : I am currently a technical intern. Having passed the Specific Skills (Automotive Maintenance) exam, I am now looking for work. Since my wife is in the Kansai region, I would like to work there. How should I proceed with the application for my residence status?
- A : Applications to change to the Specified Skilled Worker status of residence cannot be submitted unless a company is secured. First, you must decide on the company where you plan to work. We also recommended gathering information from the matching page on the Immigration Bureau's website. ※ However, while there are pages for matching events and job postings, information is not always available.



Event Information
(Immigration Agency)



Job listings
(Immigration Agency)

- Q : I am Korean. I will be living in Kumamoto for work in the future. Therefore, I need to find housing. Please tell me about guarantors (companies) and what other requirements are necessary.
- A : Japan's real estate system is similar to Korea's, and you can generally search for desired properties through real estate agencies. However, since the screening process takes time, it is recommended to contact a real estate agency and start searching for properties as early as possible. Another major difference between Japan and Korea is that a guarantor (company) is often required. When coming to Japan for work, if you don't have a guarantor, it is common to ask your company (employer) to act as one.
- Q : I am a Filipino currently residing in Japan. My fiancé (a foreign national) also lives in Japan, and we wish to submit our marriage registration in Kumamoto City. Please advise on the necessary documents for marriage procedures between foreign nationals.
- A : When foreigners marry each other, they can submit a marriage registration form at the municipal office in the applicant's place of residence, in accordance with Japanese law. In such cases, each person must obtain a "Certificate of Eligibility for Marriage" from their respective embassy or consulate in Japan and attach a translation. In addition to the above, general required documents include:
- Marriage Registration Form, • Birth Certificate and Japanese translation
 - Certificate of Nationality and Japanese translation, • Identification verifying the registrant's identity (driver's license, passport, residence card, etc.)

Requirements may vary slightly by municipality, so always confirm in advance with the municipal office where you plan to submit the documents.

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



Pension



Do you know about Japan's pension system? This issue introduces Japan's basic pension system, important points to keep in mind, and necessary procedures when returning home.

【 About Pensions】

All persons aged 20 to 60 with a residence in Japan must enroll in the public pension system.

The public pension system consists of two types: the Employees' Pension Insurance and the National Pension.

Employee Pension Insurance

Employees working at a company enrol in this program. The company handles the enrolment process, and premiums are automatically deducted from your monthly salary. When you leave the company, your enrolment in the Employees' Pension Insurance also ends. Please notify the ward office where you reside immediately after leaving.

National Pension

Individuals not enrolled in the Employees' Pension Insurance will enrol. The Japan Pension Service will send a payment slip along with the premium notice. Premiums can be paid in instalments using that payment slip or via direct debit.



★ Lump-sum withdrawal payment

If you have paid premiums for six months or more but return to your home country without receiving your pension, you can receive a withdrawal lump-sum payment if you apply within two years. You can receive your pension statement at your local pension office before returning to your home country, or request it by mail after returning.

Registering your SWIFT code (BIC) enables you to receive funds



Lump-sum
withdrawal payment
claim form
(Japanese/English)

into bank accounts in many countries. If you submit a power of attorney, you can also have an agent request it on your behalf. (Payments will be transferred to the agent's account.)

★Social Security Agreement

Japan and several other countries have concluded social security agreements to prevent double pension payments. When a person from a country with such an agreement works in Japan for a specified period, they can enroll only in their home country's pension system.



International social
security agreement
countries
(as of Oct. 2025)

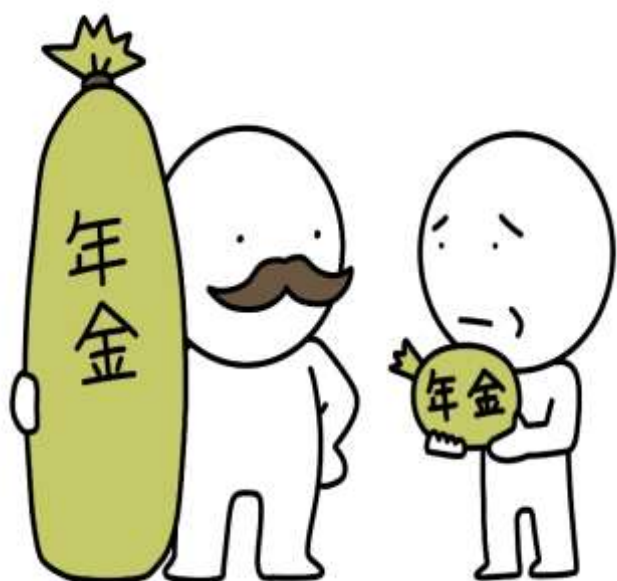
★Payment and Late Payment (Retroactive Payment) of National Pension Insurance Premiums

If you have periods where you were exempt from paying premiums, periods as a student, or periods of non-payment, you can later pay for those months.

You can check the number of months and the amount you need to pay on the 'Nenkin Net' website.



Nenkin Net
(Japanese only)



*Since this affects the amount of pension you will receive in the future, do not ignore payment notices or reminders for unpaid amounts once they arrive. If you are having difficulty making payments, consult your ward office or pension office.

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.

December Schedule

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

※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



Our website



Our Life affairs guidance

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

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.

