

PLAZA NEWSLETTER(October 2026)

We're already in the second half of September, but the intense heat is still lingering this year. Make sure to stay hydrated, get plenty of rest, and take it easy. September is also a time when typhoons become more frequent. When a typhoon approaches, trains and buses may be suspended, and stores may close. Be sure to check the weather forecast early.

This is an important announcement for all foreign residents. The fees for renewing or changing your status of residence will increase starting October 1. If you submit your application by September 30, the current fees will still apply. If your period of stay is about to expire, we recommend that you begin preparing for renewal within September. We've provided detailed information in this month's newsletter, so be sure to check it out.

Now let us partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 75 consultations in August and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : I received a municipal and prefectural tax bill. My husband returned to Japan last year (2025)—do I still need to pay this?

A : Resident tax (municipal and prefectural tax) is calculated based on income earned from January through December of the previous year, and the tax is paid the following year. For example, for income earned in 2025, a payment notice for the 2026 resident tax will be sent around June 2026. In addition, resident tax is assessed based on your address as of January 1 of that year. Therefore, if you were registered as a resident in Japan on January 1, 2026, you will be assessed resident tax on your income earned in 2025, and you will receive a payment notice in 2026. In your husband's case, even if he left Japan last year (2025), if he did not file a notification of departure from the country, he may be required to pay resident tax because his residence was registered in Kumamoto City as of January 1 of 2025. Please note that even if you are registered as a resident on January 1 of a given year, you may be exempt from resident tax if your income from the previous year is below a certain threshold.

【★Important Notes★】

If you are moving abroad, you must submit a "Notification of Change of Address." If you do not submit this notification, your resident registration will be treated as remaining in Japan, and you will be subject to resident tax even while abroad. Since tax payment notices are not sent overseas but are sent to your address in Japan, you may fall into arrears without realizing it. Be aware that if you fall into arrears, late payment penalties may apply, or you may be billed for the full amount upon your return to Japan. If you will be unable to receive tax notices or make tax payments while you are abroad and away from Japan, you must designate a "tax representative" before leaving the country. A tax representative is someone who will receive tax documents on your behalf in Japan and handle procedures such as making payments.



Procedures for personal municipal and prefectural tax (resident tax)
When leaving Japan

Fees for residence procedures from October 1, 2026

Effective October 1, 2026, the fees for applications such as changes in status of residence and renewals of period of stay will be revised. Applications received by September 30 will be processed at the pre-change amount.

You can submit your application in person at an Immigration Bureau office or online. Please see the page on the right for details.

【How to Pay the Application Fee】

In-person applications :

Pay with revenue stamps. Purchase the revenue stamps at a major post office, such as the Central Post Office or the East Post Office. Note that revenue stamps can only be purchased with cash.

Online applications :

You can pay via convenience store or bank transfer. After you receive notification that your application has been approved, you will receive a separate email with payment instructions; follow those instructions to complete your payment.

【When will I find out the amount of the fee?】

In-person applications :

The amount is listed on the postcard notifying you that the review is complete.

Online applications :

The amount is listed in the second email you'll receive after the one notifying you that the review is complete.

If you are ready to apply, we recommend that you do so by the end of September.

Fees for residence procedures for foreign nationals will be revised from October 1, 2026.



Fees required for change of status of residence, extension of period of stay, and other procedures will be revised.

Please note that for applications received by September 30, 2026, even if the permission for such applications is granted on or after October 1, the fees before the revision will apply.

Regarding the Revision of Residence Permission Fee Amounts (Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Amended Immigration Control Act Enforcement Order)

Permission	How to apply	Before the revision	Permitted period	How to apply	After the revision
Permission to change status of residence	At the counter	6,000 Yen	3 months or less	At the counter	10,000 Yen
				Online	10,000 Yen *
Permission to extend period of stay	Online	5,500 Yen	Over 3 months but not more than 6 months	At the counter	18,000 Yen
				Online	15,000 Yen *
			Over 6 months but less than 1 year	At the counter	25,000 Yen
				Online	21,000 Yen *
			1 year	At the counter	33,000 Yen
				Online	27,000 Yen *
			Over 1 year but less than 3 years	At the counter	48,000 Yen
				Online	42,000 Yen *
			3 years or more but less than 5 years	At the counter	64,000 Yen
				Online	56,000 Yen *
			5 years or more	At the counter	75,000 Yen
				Online	65,000 Yen *
Permission to Permanent residence	At the counter	10,000 Yen	Permission to Permanent residence	At the counter	200,000 Yen

*For online applications, fee payment methods are limited to convenience store payment or bank payment only; payment by revenue stamps is not accepted. In addition to the fees mentioned above, a separate transaction fee will also be required. For details, please check the Immigration Services Agency website.



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

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

※ 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 ones to be informed!



Plaza's FB

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



Our website



Life orientation videos by Immigration Services Agency

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.

