

Procedures and Fees for Japan Highly-Skilled Professional Visa Application

Highly-skilled Professional Visa (高度専門職ビザ in Japanese) is a residence status designed for highly-skilled foreign professionals who are expected to contribute to Japan's economic growth. In order to attract highly-skilled foreign professionals, Japanese government introduced a points-based system. For foreigners who score at least 70 points, preferential treatment for immigration control will be granted.

Highly-skilled professionals generally refer to the professionals are complementary to Japan's development and cannot be replaced. They can bring innovations to different industries, while promoting the development of professional technology and expertise, and improving the labour market efficiency.

The activities of highly-skilled foreign professional are classified into 3 categories: academic research activities, specialized/technical activities and business management activities. Points will be assigned by "Academic background", "Professional experience" and "Annual salary" according to the nature of that category.

There are 2 types of residence status. "Highly Skilled Professional(i)" will be provided first. For Highly Skilled Professional(i) holder who has lived in Japan for more than three years, Highly Skilled Professional(ii) and further preferential treatment are provided. For the details, please refer to the following information.

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1. Activity Categories of Highly-Skilled Foreign Professional

- (1) Advanced academic research activities: " Highly Skilled Professional(i)(a)"

Participating in, supervise, or direct research project through a contract with a public or private organization in Japan.

- (2) Advanced specialized/technical activities: " Highly Skilled Professional(i)(b)"

Activities carried out through a contract with a public or private organization in Japan which require specialized skills or knowledge in natural sciences or humanities.

- (3) Advanced business management activities: " Highly Skilled Professional(i)(c)"

Directly manage or supervise the management of listed or private Japanese company. The applicant's annual salary should be at least JPY 3 million.

2. Preferential treatment

- (1) For Highly-Skilled Professional(i) :

- (a) Permission for multiple purposes of activities
- (b) Five-year stay
- (c) Faster way to obtain permanent residence
- (d) Permission for spouse of the highly - skilled foreign professional to work
- (e) Permission for parent to accompany under certain conditions
- (f) Permission for hiring a domestic worker to accompany under certain conditions
- (g) Preferential processing of immigration procedure

- (2) For Highly-Skilled Professional(ii) :

- (a) Permission for multiple purposes of activities
- (b) Unlimited period of stay
- (c) Eligible for the preferential treatments of the abovementioned (c) to (f)
※Holding the status of residence "Highly Skilled Professional(i)" more than 3 years

3. Service Procedures and Fees for Highly-Skilled Professional Visa Application

Our fees for handling the application for Highly-Skilled Professional Visa in Tokyo is starting from JPY 400,000. Our fees cover the following services:

- (1) Providing consulting services based on client's conditions.
- (2) Checking the points obtained by the document and resume received from client.
- (3) To organize the application materials after confirming that client meet the requirement.
- (4) Preparation of application form, other submission document and supplementary materials.
- (5) Submission of application of Certificate of Eligibility "COE" to Immigration Bureau.
- (6) Handling enquiries and notifications from Immigration Bureau
- (7) Receiving COE from Immigration Bureau.
- (8) Assisting client to complete the health declaration on the Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS)
- (9) Forwarding COE and proof of the health declaration to client's specified address.

Note :

- (1) Our service is up to the receipt of Certificate of Eligibility "COE". After receiving the COE, client need to proceed to Consulate/Embassy of Japan with the required documents to apply for highly-skilled professional visa.
- (2) Please note that the success of application for COE or visa depends on many factors. The final approval is determined by Immigration Bureau, so we cannot guarantee 100% success.
- (3) Since all necessary documents for visa application must be provided in Japanese, the above quotation is for client to provide the document in Japanese or document with Japanese translation and does not include the translation fee of foreign language to Japanese. If document provided by client is in foreign language such as Chinese or English, we can assist in translation. Fee will be quoted separately.
- (4) The above quotation is for applying the COE with Immigration Bureau in Tokyo. If client needs to apply COE in other prefectures, fee will be quoted separately.

4. Required Materials

- (1) A copy of applicant's passport (the validity is not less than 6 months)
- (2) Applicant's points calculation form;
- (3) Applicant's resume;
- (4) Applicant's bank deposit certificate;
- (5) Applicant's photo;
- (6) Applicant's certificate of academic and qualification (if any);
- (7) Other supplementary proof for getting points;
- (8) Other supplementary document requested by The Immigration Bureau.

Please note that depending on the situation, you may be asked for additional information.

5. Procedures and Time frame

If applicant works closely with us, it will take approximately 2 - 4 months to complete all relevant application procedures. The actual time frame depends on the case and the approval time of Immigration Bureau. Each procedure and its time frame are as follow:

Item	Procedures	Time (Working days)
1	Client provides the identity proof (e.g. passport copy), Japanese resume, English points calculation form. If the applicant invests and manages his/her own company, please provide the Certificate of registration information.	Client's schedule
2	Kaizen prepares relevant document for application of certificate of eligibility.	1 month
3	Kaizen submits the application to Immigration Bureau.	2 weeks
4	Receiving Certificate of Eligibility from Immigration Bureau.	1-2 months in average
5	Assisting client to complete the health declaration on the ERFS	3
6	Kaizen delivers the Certificate of Eligibility to client's designated address.	2 weeks
7	Clients submits the visa application to the closest consulate /embassy with the Certificate of Eligibility.	Client's schedule
Total		Around 2-4 months

6. Application for Permanent Residence

For Highly-Skilled Professional Visa holder, after living in Japan for one year, if your points still reach 80 points or above, you can apply the permanent residence. Kaizen can provide the service to assist client to apply permanent residence. For details, please contact our professional consultants.

If you wish to obtain more information or assistance, please visit our official website at www.kaizencpa.com or contact us through the following means:

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Points Calculation Table

	Advanced Academic Research Activities		Advanced Specialized / Technical Activities		Advanced Business Management Activities		① Minimum Requirement of Annual Salary																																												
	Academic Background	Doctor Degree holder (excluding Professional Degrees)				30	Doctor Degree holder or Master Degree holder (Note 7)	20	Annual salary of <u>At least JPY 3M</u> is required for Advanced Specialized / Technical Activities or Advanced Business Management Activities																																										
Master Degree holder (including Professional Degrees)		20	Master Degree holder (Note 7) (including Professional Degrees)		20																																														
Bachelor Degree holder or acquisition of an education equivalent thereto (excluding Doctor Degree holder or Master Degree holder)						10	② Annual Salary Points Allocation Table																																												
Holder of Doctor Degrees, Master Degrees or Professional Degrees in multiple areas						5	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>up to 29 years old</th> <th>30 ~ 34 years old</th> <th>35 ~ 39 years old</th> <th>40 years old or more</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>JPY 10M</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JPY 9M</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JPY 8M</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JPY 7M</td> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> <td>—</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JPY 6M</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> <td>—</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JPY 5M</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JPY 4M</td> <td>10</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						up to 29 years old	30 ~ 34 years old	35 ~ 39 years old	40 years old or more	JPY 10M	40	40	40	40	JPY 9M	35	35	35	35	JPY 8M	30	30	30	30	JPY 7M	25	25	25	—	JPY 6M	20	20	20	—	JPY 5M	15	15	—	—	JPY 4M	10	—	—	—
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Professional Career (Practical Experience) (Note 1)			10 years ~		20	10 years ~		25																																											
	7 years ~		7 years ~		15	7 years ~		20																																											
	5 years ~		5 years ~		10	5 years ~		15																																											
	3 years ~		3 years ~		5	3 years ~		10																																											
Annual Salary (Note 2)	The minimum of the annual salary to which scores are awarded will differ depending on the age group. For further details, please refer to ②				10 ~ 40	JPY 30M~		50																																											
						JPY 25m~		40																																											
						JPY 20M~		30																																											
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Bonus Point 1 (Research Archiverments)	For further details, please refer to ③		For further details, please refer to ③		20 ~ 25																																														
Bonus Point 2 (Position)						Representative Director or Representative Executive Officer		10																																											
						Director or Executive Officer		5																																											
Bonus Point 3			Holder of a Japanese national qualification related to the work (5 points per qualification)		10																																														
Bonus Point 4	Work for an organization which receives financial support measures (measures specified by the Minister of Justice in a public notice) for the promotion of innovation (Note 3)						10																																												
Bonus Point 5	Employed by a small or medium-sized enterprise whose experiment and research expenses add up to more than 3% of the total revenue						5																																												
Bonus Point 6	Holding a foreign qualification which is related to the work						5																																												
Bonus Point 7	Acquisition of a Degree from a Japanese High Educational Institution						10																																												
Bonus Point 8	Acquisition of Level N1 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (Note 4), or graduated from a foreign university having majored in Japanese language						15																																												
Bonus Point 9	Acquisition of Level N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (Note 5) (excluding points acquired through Bonus Points 7 or 8)						10																																												
Bonus Point 10	Work on an advanced project in a growth field (limited to the project recognized by the Minister of Justice)						10																																												
Bonus Point 11	Graduated from a university specified by the Minister of Justice in a public notice						10																																												
Bonus Point 12	Completion of the training specified by the Minister of Justice in a public notice (Note 6)						5																																												
Bonus Point 13						Investment of JPY 100M or more in the business the person managing		5																																											
Bonus Point 14						Engaged in work related to Investment Management Business, etc.		10																																											
Required Scores							70																																												

③ Research Archiverments	Advanced Academic Research Activities	Advanced Specialized / Technical Activities
Patent invention 1 item or more	20	15
Record of engaging in research using a grant funded by a public agency prior to entry into Japan 3 items or more	20	15
Past record of research papers (limited to those for which the applicant is the corresponding author), which appeared in an academic magazine registered in an academic research paper database used by Japanese national organizations 3 papers or more	20	15
For items other than the above: in cases where the applicant submits a research record equivalent to the above items (such as a record of winning a distinguished award), the Minister of Justice will determine whether to give points to the applicant on a case-by-case basis, after listening to the opinions of the heads of the relevant administrative organs	20	15

* In the field of advanced academic research activities, 25 points will be awarded in cases where the applicant comes under two or more of the above.

(Note 1) Limited to practical experience pertaining to the work which the applicant intends to engage in.

(Note 2) *1 Annual amount of remuneration from the principal accepting organization.

*2 In the case of transfer from an overseas institution, including the annual amount of remuneration received from such institution.

*3 Bonuses are also included in the annual income.

(Note 3) An additional 10 points will be awarded in cases where the organization employing the applicant is a small or medium-sized enterprise.

(Note 4) Including applicants with equivalent proficiency which was certified through testing (for example, a score of 480 or more in the Business Japanese Language Proficiency (BJT) Test).

(Note 5) Including applicants with equivalent proficiency which was certified through testing (for example, a score of 400 or more in the Business Japanese Language Proficiency (BJT) Test).

(Note 6) In the case of the training in a Japanese institution of higher education, excluding points acquired through Bonus Points 7.

(Note 7) An additional 5 points will be awarded in cases where the applicant is the holder of a professional degree in business management (MBA, MOT).