



OFIX公式キャラクター
ポラちゃん

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Review of the Criteria for Granting Status of Residence

As the number of foreign residents in Japan continues to grow, news about immigration policies and regulations has become increasingly common. Japan has been advancing reforms to its immigration system. However, these changes have also had a significant impact on many foreign residents. In this article, we highlight several of the key changes that have come into effect over the past year.

Details of the Changes

Overview	Category	Past	Amendments	
The eligibility requirements for the Business Manager status have been revised, including capital investment and Japanese language proficiency.	Capital	5 million yen	→ 30 million yen	
	Employment obligation	Nil	→ At least one full-time employee is required.	
	Japanese language proficiency	Nil	→ Either the applicant or a full-time employee must have Japanese language proficiency equivalent to CEFR B2.	
Applicants for permanent residence must hold the longest period of stay available under their current status of residence. (Transition period until 31 March 2027.)	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	3 years	→ 5 years	
	Long-Term Resident	3 years	→ 5 years	
For Category 3 or 4 organizations, applicants under the “Engineer / Specialist in Humanities / International Services” status must provide proof of language proficiency for person-to-person language-based work		Proof unnecessary	→ Proof necessary ※1 Japanese language proficiency equivalent to CEFR・B2 (※2 JLPT N2 or above, ※3 BJT score of 400 or above, etc.)	
A substantial increase in the fees for applications to change or renew a status of residence and for permanent residence applications	Status of Residence Renew & change	6,000 yen	→ 100,000 yen (*Legal limit)	
	Permanent Residence	10,000 yen	→ 300,000 yen (*Legal limit) * prescribed by Cabinet Order	

For more details, please visit the Immigration Services Agency's website by scanning the QR code.

※1 CEFR: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

※2 JLPT: Japanese-Language Proficiency Test

※3 BJT: Business Japanese Proficiency Test



Voices from the Field

Learning Support

One student worked incredibly hard to improve their Japanese and keep up with their studies, and was finally accepted into a prefectural high school. We were delighted to see that the student's efforts had paid off. However, we later learned from the student that their parent's residence status could not be renewed. As a result, the student may no longer be able to attend high school in Japan. This situation is deeply concerning.

High School

A high school student who had been working hard toward employment after graduation quietly asked, "I wonder what will happen to me..." When asked what was worrying them, the student explained: "If my parent's residence status cannot be renewed, I'll have to return to my home country too. Even if I receive a job offer, I may not be able to start working." "If they leave Japan, is there a way for them to return afterwards to work after graduation? It is a question that deserves careful consideration.

International Association

One day, a family that had regularly attended Japanese language classes stopped coming. It was not just one family—it was several. When we contacted them, many explained that, because renewing their residence status had become difficult, they had either returned to their home countries or moved to another country. The number of residents holding the Business Manager status of residence, once common in the area, has decreased, while the number of Technical Intern Trainees has increased. These changes have gradually altered the character of the community and reflect the impact that immigration policies can have on local society.

Wanting to Stay in Japan: Voices From the Business Manager Visa Consultation

Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

Since the beginning of 2026, OIS has received an increasing number of inquiries regarding the renewal and change of residence status. In particular, recent revisions to the screening criteria for the Business Manager status of residence have caused considerable concern among many foreign business owners.

Some business owners have found it difficult to meet the new requirements needed to continue operating and are even considering closing their businesses. We have also seen cases where adult children have had to handle immigration procedures on behalf of their parents because they have limited Japanese language skills. Others prepared their tax filings and business reports according to the previous requirements, only to face unexpected changes, leaving many feeling confused and uncertain.

Most holders of the Business Manager status of residence live in Japan with their spouses and children. As a result, issues concerning their residence status affect not only the applicants themselves but also the future of their entire families. Some choose not to renew their status and instead look for employment or consider changing to a work-related status of residence. However, finding a job that provides sufficient income to support a family is often far from easy.



Even when returning to their home country becomes the final decision, significant challenges remain. Many foreign residents have lived in Japan for many years, and some of their children were born and raised here. As a result, they may not be fully familiar with the language or culture of their parents' home country and may face difficulties adapting to a new environment after returning.

Foreign residents are important members of local communities and make valuable contributions to Japan's economy. Through our daily consultations, we have come to realize that changes to the residence status system are not merely administrative procedures—they can have a profound impact on people's lives and on the future of their families.

If you are facing an important life decision and have concerns or uncertainties about your residence status, please do not hesitate to contact the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents (<https://ofix.or.jp/life-japanese>) for consultation.



A Quest Around the World: Korea



Located on the Korean Peninsula in East Asia, South Korea (the Republic of Korea) has developed around its capital, Seoul, and the globally renowned port city of Busan, an important hub for international maritime logistics.



Population & Language

The country has a population of approximately 51 million. Its official writing system is Hangul, a unique alphabet created by King Sejong the Great, the fourth king of the Joseon Dynasty, and officially promulgated in 1446. Although Chinese characters (Hanja) were used alongside Hangul for many years, today almost all everyday documents, publications, and media are written exclusively in Hangul.



Cuisine

비빔밥(Bibimbap)



Stone Pot Bibimbap

Features: Colorful and visually appealing, healthy, mix-and-eat cuisine

Main Ingredients: Rice, bean sprouts, spinach, carrots, bracken fern, beef, eggs, gochujang



Culture

South Korea's history as a peninsula nation has fostered a culture characterized by Jeong—a sense of warm human connection—along with a strong sense of community and Heung, the spirit of joy.

Jeong

One example of Jeong is the Gold Collection Campaign during the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. Citizens voluntarily donated gold rings, necklaces, etc. to help the country secure foreign currency reserves. Another everyday expression of Jeong can be seen in traditional markets and restaurants, where customers are often given generous complimentary side dishes (banchan) or extra servings free of charge.

Heung

One of the most remarkable aspects of K-pop is the success of multinational groups whose members come from different countries and perform together on the global stage. South Korea's willingness to embrace cultural diversity and create new value through collaboration has become one of the defining characteristics of its contemporary popular culture.



OFIX Activity Report: “Practical Plain Japanese” Training



On 23 June, OFIX held a training session entitled “Practical Plain Japanese” for administrative staff.

The session was led by Mr. Hitoshi Kanbayashi, a former local government official who currently serves as an NPO staff member, Administrative Scrivener, and High School Multilingual Support Supervisor for Residence Status at the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education. The program consisted of both a lecture and practical exercises.

The training began with the idea that there is no single “correct” form of plain Japanese. Instead, participants were encouraged to reconsider what is often taken for granted and to adapt their communication according to the needs and backgrounds of the people they are speaking with.

During the group work, participants practiced rewriting commonly used expressions, such as “memoshite” and “utenchuushi,” into plain Japanese. They learned that plain Japanese is more than simply replacing difficult words with easier ones. It is important to consider who the audience is, what information needs to be conveyed, and in what situation, while also communicating with empathy and consideration for the listener.

Participants shared positive feedback after the training, including: “I realized that plain Japanese is not simply about replacing difficult words with easier ones.” “Discussing ideas in groups gave me new perspectives and solutions that I would not have thought of on my own.”



Reports on Other Projects and Activities

5/25 - 6/8 The First Inbound Visitor Consultation Enhancement Training

6/13 The Second Daily Life Orientation Session (Crime prevention)@Sakai Orion International House

7/6 Inbound Visitor Consultation Enhancement Project: First Working



Registered Volunteers of OFIX

No. of Supporters: 135 supporters

No. of Language Volunteers: 537 volunteers

No. of Disaster Interpretation and Translation Volunteers: 212 volunteers

Current status as of July 15, 2026

For more volunteer information, please scan this QR code.



Volunteer



Supporter

Editorial Note

Recently, heatwaves have affected all over the world like North America and Europe, with temperatures reaching 40°C to 50°C. In Japan, Heatstroke Alerts have also been issued in many prefectures, reminding us of the impact of global warming. To stay safe, remember to drink plenty of water, replenish sodium levels and take regular breaks in shaded or air-conditioned places when outdoors. Please pay special attention to young children and older adults, who are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. By looking out for one another and checking in on those around us, we can all help prevent heatstroke and stay safe.

OFIX Sponsor Recruitment

Annual membership: 50,000 yen for corporate members, 3,000 yen for individual members

<https://www.ofix.or.jp/donate/>

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- ◆OFIX News (quarterly) and Report (yearly) containing information on OFIX's activities and international exchange
- ◆FREE banner advertisements (for corporate members)

※Donations to public interest foundations are eligible for tax benefits

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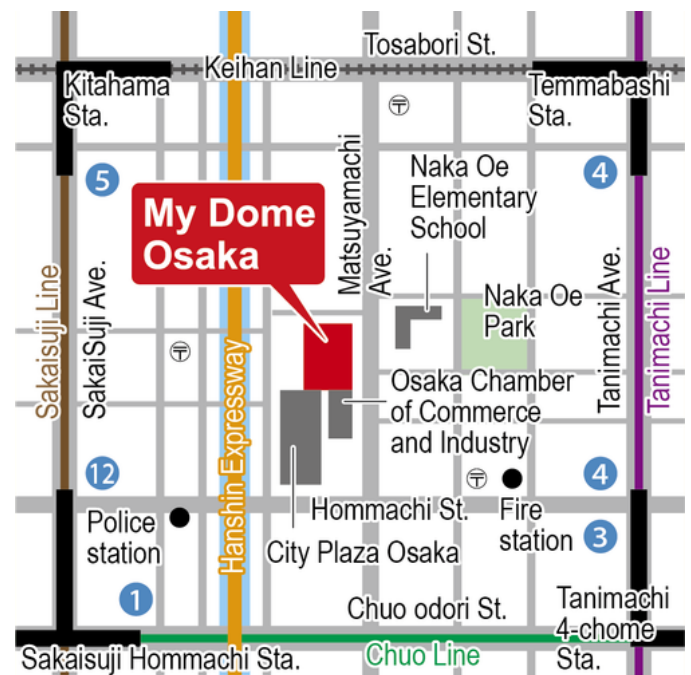
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