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Generally speaking there are two major categories of places where you can study the Japanese language: Japanese language schools, which are educational institutions devoted to teaching the Japanese language, and other facilities. Tuition fees are required at Japanese language schools, but at other facilities that offer Japanese language courses and classes you can participate for free or at relatively low cost.

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1-1 Japanese language schools

Those who are interested in enrolling as full-time students of the Japanese language schools are required to receive a proper student visa prior to entering Japan. In order to receive such a visa, it is necessary to enroll in a Japanese language school that is officially authorized as appropriate by the Ministry of Justice. You can search for a Japanese language school by looking at documents such as the Guide to Japanese Educational Institutions available at Japanese overseas diplomatic offices (available in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean) and at other locations. Please contact the school that you are interested in and request necessary application documents so that you can proceed with the necessary application process. Once the application process has been completed, a representative of the Japanese language school may apply on your behalf for the issuance of a certificate of eligibility required for the application for student visa.



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1-2 Japanese language courses/classes

International exchange associations, local municipalities, private-sector organizations and volunteer groups offer Japanese language classes for free or at relatively low cost. These classes are open to participation by anyone. There are Japanese language classes for children, Japanese language classes for parents and children as well as Japanese language classes for adults. Indeed, there is a wide variety of classes offered at local community centers, municipal administrative offices and other available classrooms. There are also cases in which classes are offered at nighttime in junior high schools. For more detailed information please contact international exchange organizations, local municipalities, prefectural offices and municipal administrative offices. The following is a list of Japanese language classes and courses offered by prefectural offices and by the international exchange associations of the cities of Sendai, Saitama, Yokohama, Kawasaki, Shizuoka, Hamamatsu, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima and Kitakyushu..



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1-3 List of Japanese language education/classes

The contents below may have been updated, for further information, consult [the Regional International Exchange Association.](#)

●Courses and programs for people learning Japanese

Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Miyagi International Association	MIA Japanese Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary 1 and Elementary 2: First Term and Second Term (60 lessons for each course), Intermediate: First Term and Second Term (30 lessons for each course) Kanji 1 and Kanji 2: First Term and Second Term (18 lessons for each course) Night Elementary 1 and Night Elementary 2: First Term and Second Term (20 lessons for each course) 	http://mia-miyagi.jp/japanesecourse.html
Association for International Relations in Yamagata	AIRY Japanese Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate Class: 30 lessons in total (every Tuesday and Friday morning) N2 Class: 30 lessons in total (every Tuesday and Thursday evening) Let's move up to intermediate class!: 15 lessons in total (every Thursday morning) 	http://www.airyamagata.org
Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange	IFIE Japanese Classes	There are classes for those who are studying Japanese for the first time and classes for those who intend to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. The "Schedule Class" for group lessons and "Private Class" for private lessons are offered. Schedule Class starts new classes in April and October. Course fee is ¥5,000- for every 4 week period.	http://www.ifie.or.jp/ijsc/j-class/index.html

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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
	Nikoniko Hanasou Class	This is a class for students who want not only to study Japanese grammar but also to talk about a variety of topics freely in Japanese. It is free of charge and many foreigners and Japanese participate in it.	
Fukui International Association	Permanent Japanese Language Course Program	<p>Course: "Elementary1 & Conversation" "Elementary2 & Conversation"</p> <p>Session 1 April-July (Tuesday & Thursday) Session 2 September-November (Thursday & Sunday) Session 3 December-March (Sunday)</p> <p>Course: Japanese Language Proficiency Test (held in Session 2 only) Session 2 August-November (Sunday)</p> <p>Day & Time: Tuesday & Thursday 18:00-20:00 Saturday & Sunday 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Number of Lessons: 2 hours x 12 times (24 hours) Fee: ¥2,000- for each session</p>	http://www.f-i-a.or.jp/
Yamanashi International Association	Japanese Language Course	Aims to provide a hands-on Japanese language course for foreign nationals living in the prefecture (18:30-20:30 on Fridays and 10:00-12:00 on Saturday, free of charge).	http://via.or.jp/wordpress/?page_id=477
Shizuoka Association for International Relations	Japanese Language Program for Foreign Technical Trainees	In-company Japanese class for foreign technical trainees	http://www.sir.or.jp



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Aichi International Association	Aichi International Plaza Japanese Language Classes	Japanese language classes are held as a voluntary activity by volunteers who have completed the introductory course of the “Japanese Language Volunteer Introductory Seminar” (5 classes, about 10 lessons in each of the three terms).	http://www2.aia.pref.aichi.jp/
	Japanese Learning Assistance Fund Project	A part of the cost for operating Japanese classes for foreign elementary, junior & senior high students, and a part of the cost required for employment of Japanese language instructors is subsidized.	
Kyoto Prefectural International Center	Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents	Aims to provide opportunities for foreign residents to acquire Japanese skills necessary for daily life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■Beginners' Japanese Course (Every Monday and Thursday, 20 lessons in total) - Lesson difficulty increases gradually from simple sentences to more complex sentences. ■Conversation Class (Every Saturday, 10 lessons in total) Students are given practical training that is helpful for everyday life and communication. 	https://www.kpic.or.jp/njfumin/nihongo/kyoshitsu/
Hyogo International Association	Japanese Language Courses for Non-Japanese People Living in Hyogo	In order to develop Japanese language skills of non-Japanese people living in the prefecture, full-year Japanese language courses are offered. There are seven levels from introductory to lower-intermediate. Lessons are given twice a week (2 hours for each lesson), 100 hours during the year (in some classes, once a week, 40 hours during the year).	http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
	Practical Japanese Courses	Intensive courses intended for foreign residents living in the prefecture to learn practical Japanese for everyday life in Japan. Lessons are held 54 hours in total for 18 days in summer.	
	Promotion of Regional Japanese Language Courses	Japanese language courses are organized jointly by volunteer groups, etc. The association bears the costs, including venue rental fees.	
	Regional Learning Support Courses in Japanese for Foreign Children	In order to help an increasing number of children of foreign ancestry to overcome their handicap in acquiring Japanese skills used for subject learning (language for study), subject study support classes using Japanese are organized jointly by volunteer groups, etc. The association bears the costs, such as venue rental fees.	
	Regional Learning Support Courses in Native Languages for Foreign Children	In order to establish a system to provide support for subject learning in a language chosen according to children's language levels, learning support is organized by volunteer groups, etc., using native language skills they have acquired in their native countries. The association bears the costs, such as venue rental fees.	
Wakayama international Exchange Association	Japanese Classes	Level 1 and 2 classes are held for foreign residents.	http://www.wixas.or.jp/



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Tottori Prefectural International Exchange Foundation	Japanese Classes	Classroom-style lessons are provided with the aim of offering support for acquiring Japanese skills necessary for daily life in Tottori (from Elementary Class Level 0 to Intermediate Class).	http://www.torisakyu.or.jp/
Shimane International Center	Support for Opening and Administration of Japanese Classes	Support is provided for opening and continuous administration of Japanese classes.	http://www.sic-info.org
	Japanese Language Study for Foreign Residents	Japanese language study for foreign technical interns and foreign technical trainees, conducted with the cooperation of Shimane Japanese Language Promotion Association	
Okayama Prefectural International Exchange Foundation	Japanese Language Classes	Japanese language classes are organized jointly by two volunteer groups. 7 lessons a week	http://www.opief.or.jp/
	Support for Opening Japanese Language Classrooms /Activities	Support for opening Japanese language classrooms and activities	
Hiroshima International Center	HIC One to One Japanese	A foreign national who wishes to learn Japanese pairs with a Japanese volunteer who wishes to teach Japanese, and they engage in Japanese learning in each curriculum at their convenience.	http://hiroshima-ic.or.jp/



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Yamaguchi International Exchange Association	Japanese Courses for Foreigners	The program aims to help acquire basic Japanese skills necessary for daily life. The course consisting of 12 lessons in total (2 hours for each lesson) is organized twice a year. It is available at 7 sites in the prefecture.	http://www.yiea.or.jp
	Support Program for Japanese Language Classes for Foreign Residents	Support for Japanese language volunteer groups who run Japanese language classes for foreign residents	
Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association	Daily Life Support Program (Japanese Classes)	Aims to teach Japanese at an elementary level using textbooks titled "Minna no Nihongo I" and "Minna no Nihongo II". Each course has 20 sessions in total for each. Each lesson lasts one hour and a half. Classes are held in Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association and other four sites in Tokushima Prefecture.	http://www.topia.n.e.jp/
Kagawa Prefecture International Exchange Association	Japanese Language Class	This class is held so that foreign residents can communicate in Japanese language for daily life.	http://www.i-pal.or.jp/
	I-Pal Japanese Language Classes for Children	This class is held in order to provide children with foreign roots opportunities to study Japanese and school subjects.	
	Marugame Nihongo Hiroba	This class is intended to provide language and study support for children with foreign roots who live in Marugame City and its suburbs.	



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
	Japanese Language Salon	Volunteers respond to the requests of foreign residents who participate in Japanese Language Salon.	
Ehime Prefectural International Center	Foreign Nationals Japanese Learning Support Program	By offering Japanese learning classes for foreign nationals living in the prefecture, the program aims to improve their Japanese skills, as well as to help them adapt to daily life in Japan and their understanding of Japanese culture. Time: Summer (August) and Spring (March), 10 days in each term, 2 hours a day	http://www.epic.or.jp
Kochi International Association	Japanese language Lesson Program	Basic Japanese-language lessons (three elementary classes and one reading and writing class) are offered to foreign residents who have difficulty in speaking Japanese so that they can adapt to daily life in Japan. Each class consists of 30 lessons (1.5-hour lesson).	http://www.kochi-ki.a.or.jp/home.html
Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation	Volunteer Japanese Language Classes	The program aims to provide support for Japanese language classes led by volunteers.	http://www.kokusaihiroba.or.jp/
Saga Prefecture International Relations Association	Japanese Conversation Classes (night-time)	. 90-minute lesson, 9 lessons in each of the two terms.	http://www.spira.or.jp/
	“Nihongo Suimoku”	The program aims to provide support for Japanese language classes led by volunteers.	
Miyazaki International Foundation	Japanese Language Classes	Japanese language teachers provide lessons for foreign residents in a school-style class.	http://www.mif.or.jp/japanese/modules/content008/



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
	Japanese Practice Class	Foreign residents and Japanese native speakers voluntarily teach Japanese at an individual level.	
Kagoshima International Association	Japanese Language and Understanding Japan Course	The program aims to provide foreign nationals living in the prefecture with training in Japanese language skills and daily lifestyle information necessary to live in local communities, and to promote quality of life and smooth communication (2 classes, 20 lessons in a year).	https://www.kiaweb.or.jp/
Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation	Japanese Writing and Reading Classes	The program aims to provide children of immigrants of Japanese ancestry residing in the prefecture, who have missed a chance to receive compulsory education in Japan, with opportunities to learn basic writing and reading of Kanji characters, and to raise their literacy levels required for daily life (2-hour lesson, 1 lesson per week).	http://www.oihf.or.jp/
Sendai International Relations Association	Sendai Japanese Course	The course is intended for foreign citizens who wish to learn Japanese, and lessons are provided according to their level. There are 12 classes in total: Basic Class (I/II/III), Lower-intermediate Grammar Class, Intermediate Class, Kanji Class (I/II/III/IV) and Japanese Culture Class (I/II), Nihongo Café and Intensive Reading. The first term is April to September, and the second term is October to March.	http://int.sentia-sendai.jp/j/
	Volunteer Japanese Teacher Fostering Introductory Course	A course which aims to foster volunteer Japanese teachers for foreign people.	



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
	Japanese Speech Contest (Tanoshiku Nihongo Talk)	A speech contest for foreign nationals in the city to provide an opportunity f to display their Japanese language progress.	
Saitama City Association for Global Awareness	Japanese Language Learning Support Program “Nihongo no heyā”	Aims to offer foreign residents support in acquiring Japanese skills necessary for local life. Volunteer Japanese teachers assist them in learning Japanese language by using local resources, and providing daily lifestyle information.	http://www.stib.jp/kokusai/foreigner.shtml
Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges	YOKE Japanese Classes	The program is intended for people learning Japanese at the introductory/elementary level. 20 lessons in total. (1.5 hour lesson, two lessons per week, course held 3 times per year)	https://www.yokeweb.com/
	Naka International Exchange Lounge Japanese Language Classes	For elementary and beginner level students of Japanese. Total 30 lessons. (1.5 hour lesson , 2 lessons per week, course held 2 times per year)	http://nakalounge.main.jp/japanese/



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Kawasaki International Association	Japanese Language Course	Tuesday and Friday (morning course): 9:50-11:50 Wednesday (evening course): 18:30-20:30 • A small group lesson is provided. • Course curricula include not only studying Japanese but also events to understand Japanese culture and regions. • Nursery care (1 year old or older) is provided for the morning course.	http://www.kian.or.jp/kic/004.shtml
Shizuoka City Association for Multicultural Exchange	Japanese Language Classes for Foreigners to live in Japan	Classes are held for foreign residents to learn essential Japanese to live in Japan.	http://www.samenet.jp/
Hamamatsu Foundation for International Communication and Exchanges	Japanese Language Classes held by Hamamatsu Foreign Resident Study Support Center (U-ToC)	Foreign Resident Study Support Center is available as a place to fulfill comprehensive learning support for children and adults.	http://www.hi-hice.jp/index.php

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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Nagoya International Center	NIC “Nihongo-no-kai”	<p>The program is intended for foreign nationals whose native language is not Japanese (except for elementary/junior high school children) to learn basic Japanese necessary for everyday life, customs and culture in Japan with volunteers, and to interact with other learners from different countries and regions. 3 terms per year (May-July, September-November, January-March) (Total 10 or 11 times, held on consecutive Sundays)</p> <p>The 11th lesson will be a potluck party.</p>	<p>http://www.nic-nagoya.or.jp/nihongonokai/</p>
Kyoto City International Foundation	Volunteers' Room Japanese Class	<p>Activities such as Japanese classes and the like for foreign residents in the Volunteers' Room at 3rd floor in kokoka Kyoto International Foundation Building.</p>	<p>http://www.kcif.or.jp/HP/jigy/nihongo/vol_room/index.html</p>
	Easy Japanese -Yasashii Nihongo-	<p>The Japanese language course aims to assist those who are not native speakers of Japanese in becoming accustomed to life in Kyoto as quickly as possible.</p> <p><Easy Japanese I> A class for people studying Japanese for the first time. The goal is to acquire minimum Japanese skills required for daily life, including greetings, meals and shopping.</p> <p><Easy Japanese II> The goal is to improve participants' ability to express themselves, according to the ability of participants who can read and write hiragana and katakana reasonably well.</p>	<p>http://www.kcif.or.jp/HP/jigy/nihongo/yasashii/nihongo.html</p>



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Osaka International House Foundation	“Fureai” Salon for Foreign Residents	Salon-style Japanese language classes intended for foreign residents. Lessons focusing on conversation used in real-life situations are given on a one-to-one basis (14:00-15:30, every Saturday).	http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/international/post_6.html
	Japanese Language Class “Tanoshii Nihongo”	Japanese language classes intended for foreign residents whose Japanese skill level is elementary. Qualified volunteer Japanese teachers give classroom-style lessons using a textbook (12 lessons per term, total three terms a year, 19:00-21:30 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays).	http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/international/tanoshii-nihongo.html
	Basic Japanese for Everyday Use	Held in cooperation with the Osaka Japanese Language Education Center Mainly conversations required for everyday life between beginner and upper-intermediate levels. 6 classes each in Spring, Autumn and Winter courses. Between 12 and 13 learners per class.	http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/international/post_8.html
	Japanese Classes for children “Kodomo Hiroba”	Japanese classes for children who have foreign roots. Eligible age is between elementary school and high school age (children who want to enroll in Japanese high school can also join). They can learn reading and writing Japanese and can also do school homework. 17:00-20:30 every Monday	http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/international/kodomohiroba.html
Kobe International Center for Cooperation and Communication	Japanese Language and Culture Supporter Program	Registered Japanese volunteers offer one-to-one lessons to foreign residents in order to introduce Japanese culture (choice of one subject): Japanese language, flower arrangement, calligraphy and others.	http://www.kicc.jp/volunteer/index.html



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Name of regional international association	Name of program	Program outline	URL
Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation	Hiroshima Japanese Language Classes	Cosponsored by Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. 18:30-20:00 every Wednesday 10:00-12:00 every Saturday Classes are divided by the levels (beginners and intermediate) .	http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/ircd/
Kitakyushu International Association	Japanese Language Classes for Children and Parents "Kodomo to Oya no Nihongo Hiroba"	Classes for children who do not understand Japanese and who would like to learn and study with easy-Japanese, and for parents who are not confident with Japanese education. Class for elementary school children 16:00-17:15, Class for junior high school children 17:15-18:30 every Tuesday	http://www.kitaq-kyu.jp/jp_new/index.html
	Japanese Language Class for Mums and Dads	Classes for mums and dads who have young children. Child day-care service is provided so that they can participate in the class.	http://www.kitaq-kyu.jp/jp_new/index.html

