

16. Japanese Education

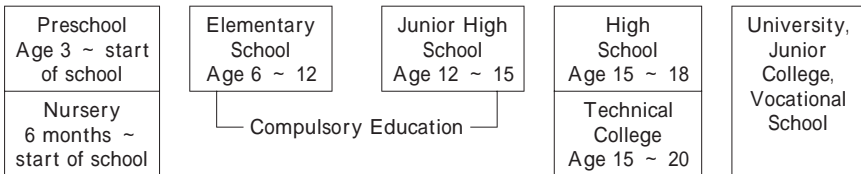
(1) The Japanese Education System

The Japanese education system is explained in the following chart.

In Japan, children must study for 9 years between the ages of 6 and 15 at elementary and then junior high school as compulsory education.

School starts on April 1st and ends on March 31st.

Terms are divided into 1st term (April to August), 2nd term (September to December) and 3rd term (January to March). Some schools have another system: former term (April to September) and latter term (October to March)



Elementary and Junior High School

Under Japanese law, a child of a foreign national is not obligated to enroll in a Japanese school. However, it is possible to enroll upon request.

Procedures

- a) Complete your alien registration at the Toyohashi City Hall Citizens Registry Division (SHIMIN-KA) on the 1st floor. (see p.19)
- b) Go to the Toyohashi City Hall Board of Education School-Education Division (GAKKO KYOIKU-KA) on the 11th floor and tell them of your intentions to enroll your child.
- c) The School-Education Division will designate the school and grade-level for your child and issue a School Entrance Notification (TEN-NYUGAKU SHITEI TSUCHI-SHO).
- d) Go to the school where your child is scheduled to attend and have a conference.

For further information regarding schools, please refer to the Toyohashi School Guide (GAKKO ANNAI) available (Japanese only) at the School-Education Division (KYOIKU IINKAI) TEL : 0532-51-2817

For information on private elementary and junior high schools, please make direct inquiries with each individual school.

Nursery School (HOIKU-EN)

Nursery schools look after children who have not started school yet and whose family cannot look after them at home as a result of both parents working full time, have fallen ill, etc.

There are both public and private nurseries available in Toyohashi.

a) Nursery School Hours

<in general> Monday ~ Friday 8 am ~ 4 pm
Saturday 8 am ~ 12:30 pm

* Some nursery schools provide extended daycare services (until 7:00 pm) for a fee.

b) Nursery School Fees

Fees are divided into 10 levels, and differ depending on the guardian's income level from the previous fiscal year.

c) Admission Counseling and Procedures

Toyohashi City Nursery Division (HOIKU-KA) TEL : 0532-51-2324 / 2325

d) Other

It is possible to enroll your child in the middle of the year, provided space is available. Immediate enrollment may not be possible at some nursery schools. In addition, you must inform of any changes in your job or family situation to the nursery school.

Preschool (YOCHI-EN)

Preschool accepts children from 3 years of age until they start elementary school. Please directly inquire individual preschools for details.

(2) Various Social Services

School Assistance (SHUGAKU-ENJO)

Toyohashi City offers financial assistance for parents with elementary and junior high school students to cover necessary school expenses such as school lunches and school supplies. For details such as application procedures and requirements, please contact the following:

Toyohashi City Hall School-Education Division (GAKKO KYOIKU-KA)
TEL : 0532-51-2817

Child Allowance (JIDO TEATE)

Offered to parents with children up to the 6th grade with income below a certain level. For details such as application procedures and income level, please contact the following:

Toyohashi City Hall Children's Welfare Division (KOSODATE SHIEN-KA)
Maternity Support Group TEL : 0532-51-2319 / 2320

(3) Learning Japanese

Please refer to (p.9)

(4) Procedures When Returning to Your Home Country

Guardian

Report to the school that you will be leaving

Request your school to prepare the following documents for official confirmation

School

Student Registration Certificate (ZAIGAKU SHOMEI-SHO)

Academic Transcript (SEISEKI SHOMEI-SHO)

Curriculum Certificate (KYOIKU KATEI SHOMEI-SHO)

Graduation Certificate (SOTSUGYO SHOMEI-SHO)

<only for those who have completed 6 years of elementary school and/or 3 years of junior high school courses>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Request official confirmation of the above documents

Guardian

Bring or send by registered mail the above documents as well as the items listed below to your embassy or consulate.

Application for Official Confirmation
(SHOMEI NINSHO SHINSEI-SHO)

A copy of your passport
procedural fee

<inquire your embassy or consulate beforehand about this>

These procedures are mandatory and may take a while to complete. When it is decided that you will be returning to your home country, please begin these applications and procedures as soon as possible.