Japan – Visa Requirements

Jurisdiction
The Visa Section of the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago services applicants from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. If you reside elsewhere, please apply to another consulate. Click here for a map of consulates and jurisdictions.

Office Hours
Visa applications may be submitted at the visa window from 9:30 am to 12:15 pm and from 1:15 to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except selected holidays. You may normally reach someone in the Visa Section by telephone weekdays from 9:30 am to 12:15 pm and from 1:15 to 5:00 pm.

Location
The Visa Section is located on the 11th floor of Olympia Centre, 737 North Michigan Avenue, in Chicago. Click here for directions. The entrance to the building is on Chicago Avenue just east of Michigan Avenue.

No visa is needed for stays of 90 days or less, please read below.

Many countries - including the United States of America - have concluded visa exemption agreements with Japan. Under the agreements, nationals of these countries carrying valid passports may enter Japan without visas for up to 90 days (15 days for nationals of Brunei) to engage in non-remunerative activities such as tourism and short-term company business.

Activities Allowed Under the Visa Exemption Agreements

a) tourism
b) visiting friends or relatives
c) business meetings
d) attending conferences and trade fairs
e) academic research
f) study
g) amateur sports

Activities for Which Visas Are Required

a) all activities for which one will be paid in Japan, or
b) any activity requiring a stay of more than 90 days (15 days for nationals of Brunei)

For study of more than 90 days please see the visa requirements below.
If you have received a Certificate of Eligibility issued by the Ministry of Justice in Japan, you must still obtain a visa from a Japanese embassy or consulate before entering the country. As noted on the Certificate of Eligibility, it is valid for three months from the date of issue. If you fail to enter Japan within three months, you may be refused entry.

**Visa Requirements**
A U.S. citizen with a Certificate of Eligibility must submit the following to obtain a visa to enter Japan:

1) A valid passport (with at least one blank *visa* page, we cannot issue a visa on a page reserved for amendments or endorsements)
2) A completed visa application form in ballpoint pen, dated and signed by the applicant
3) One passport-size photograph, affixed to the application form in the space indicated
4) The original Certificate of Eligibility
5) A photocopy of the Certificate of Eligibility (front and back)

**Application Procedures**

a) In person:
Please submit all of the requested documents together at the visa window during office hours. Processed passports will normally be ready for pick up after two business days, in the afternoon, **however depending on factors such as nationality, purpose of visit and length of stay intended, processing time may take longer**. Please telephone us at (312) 280-0400 to inquire about the exact amount of processing time needed.

b) By mail:
Applicants who wish to apply by mail should send their documents to:
Consulate General of Japan
Attn: Visa Section
737 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 1100
Chicago, IL 60611

Processed passports will be returned by mail only when one of the following are provided:

- a completed Fed Ex airbill (please use the same name and address for sender and recipient to avoid the Consulate being billed for payment), OR
- a self-addressed, stamped return envelope (this is possible with all types of U.S. mail except Registered Mail and Certified Mail)
- We can not utilize Fed Ex Ground for the return, only Fed Ex air.

Also, to help avoid mailing problems such as delay or loss of passport, we *strongly recommend* using a mail service that has a tracking number.
NOTICE: The Consulate General of Japan at Chicago is not liable for any loss or damage of documents or passports while being transported to or from the Consulate by any type of mail service.

Criteria of Visa Issuance
In principle, a Japanese visa will be issued to an applicant when he/she fills all of the following requirements and the issuance is regarded as reasonable:

a) The applicant possesses a valid passport (with at least one blank visa page, we cannot issue a visa on a page reserved for amendments or endorsements) and is entitled for the re-entry to a country of which he/she is a national or citizen or a country of his/her residence.

b) All submitted documents shall be authentic, completed and satisfactory.

c) The activities to be engaged in while in Japan, or the civil status or the position of the applicant, and the period of stay shall meet the requirements for the status of residence and the period of stay stipulated in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Cabinet Order No.319 of 1951 hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

d) The applicant shall not fall under any of the items of Article 5, Paragraph 1 of the Act.

Please contact the Consulate General of Japan with visa questions or to obtain a visa application form.

Download the Application Form

Application Form
Visa Application

Letter of Guarantee*

* For ordinary "Spouse/Child of a Japanese National" visa applicants only.
* In addition to the Application Form
* To be filled out by spouse or guardian of the applicant

Link to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Visa-related information at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs web site:
http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html

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