

Crafting Japan's International Strategy for Higher Education

ANDO Hiroshi
Embassy of Japan



Why International Exchange Now?



To connect the world and achieve world peace by cultivating mutual understanding and trust between peoples



To improve higher education and create innovation through cooperation among students with different backgrounds and values



For Japanese society to be **more inclusive and competitive** at global level



**LONGER STUDY
ABROAD PROGRAM**

for Japanese
students



MORE DIVERSE

International
students



**FURTHER
GLOBALIZATION &
NETWORKING** of

universities

Three-in-one Approach

Inbound

Acceptance of **international students** (27.6 billion yen)

- Expand acceptance of high school students studying Japanese language
- Strengthen/utilize the oversea network to promote studying in Japan
- Focus on allocating scholarships to a more diverse range of talents

Approx. 280,000 (Latest figure) → 400,000 (2033)

Outbound

Japanese students studying abroad (7.3 billion yen + private donations)

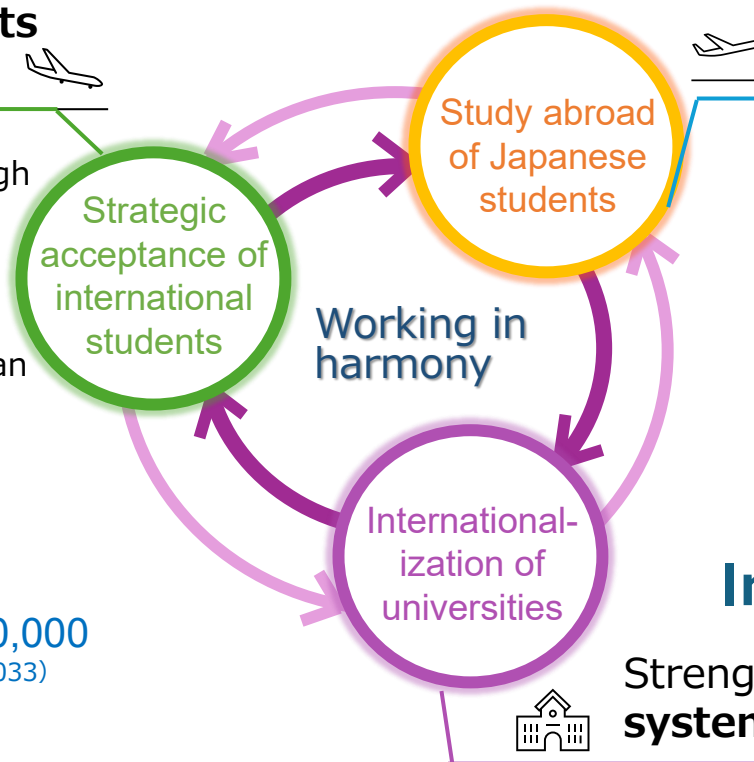
- Expand grant-type scholarships
- Enhance international experiences from an early stage
- Provide internship opportunities at study abroad destinations

Approx. 100,000 (Latest figure) → 500,000 (2033)

Internationalization

Strengthen the **university's system** (3.3 billion yen)

- Internationalization of educational programs
- Establishment of an internal system to support international activities



Government Goal: International Exchange

J-MIRAI (2023)

Japan aims to promote international cooperation/collaboration and contribute to world peace.

encourage **500K Japanese** students to study abroad by 2033

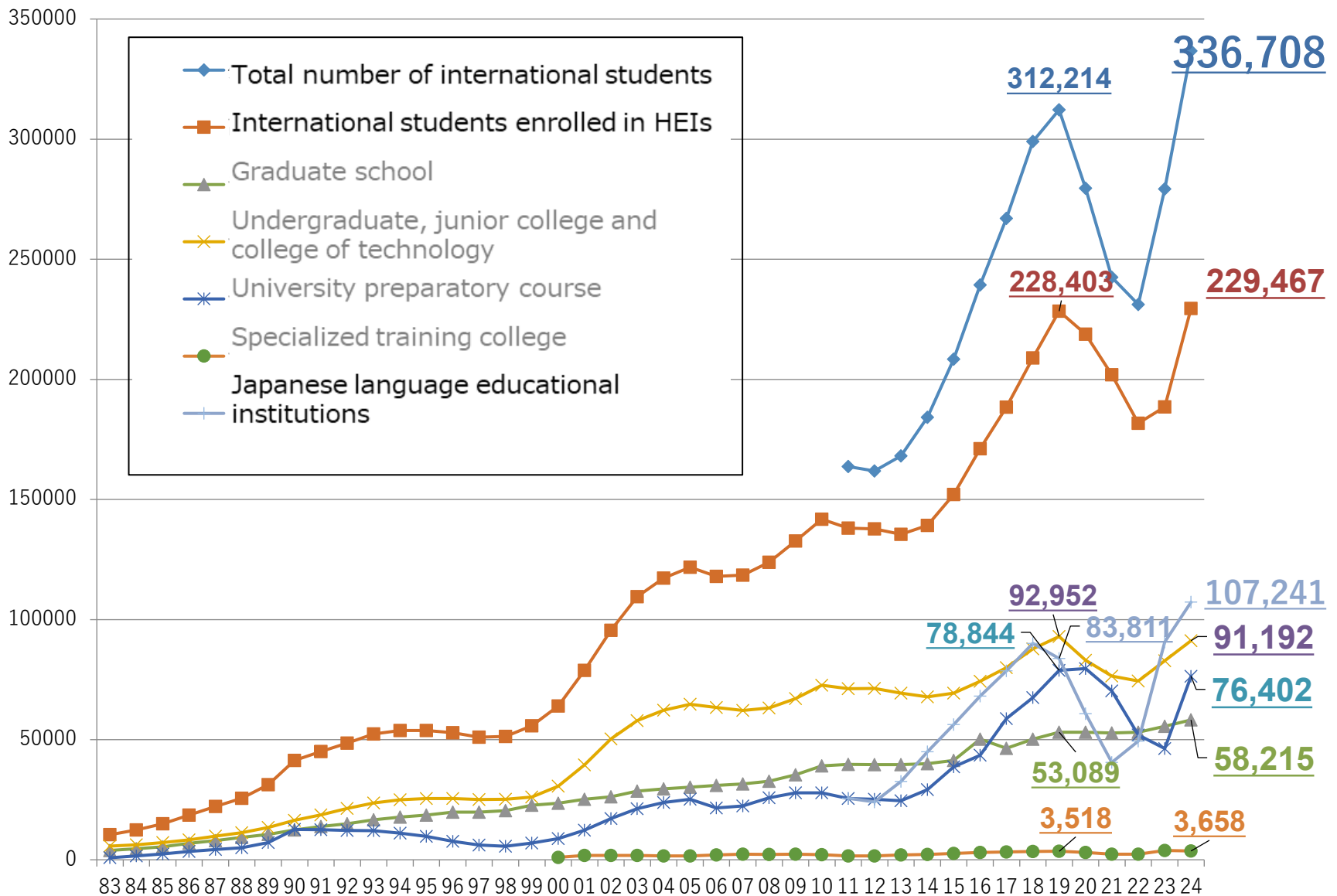


welcome **400K international** students by 2033

Strengthen internationalization of Japanese universities



Student Mobility in Japan



Expansion of Outbound (Higher Education)

175K_(pre-covid) → **380K** by 2033

Opportunities for all motivated young generations

Outbound by Destination

Study Abroad based on HEIs Agreements

United States	11,880 (3,603)	20.4%
Canada	6,735 (1,189)	11.6%
Australia	6,187 (319)	10.6%
Korea	4,679 (1,209)	8.0%
United Kingdom	3,425 (862)	5.9%
Thailand	2,529 (86)	4.3%
France	1,929 (531)	3.3%
Taiwan	1,793 (105)	3.1%
Germany	1,791 (520)	3.1%
Philippines	1,620 (7)	2.8%
Others	15,594 (2,568)	26.8%
TOTAL	58,162 (10,999)	100.0%

Degree-seeking Students

United States	13,449 (11,785)	14.1%
China	5,722 (7,346)	△22.1%
Taiwan	5,586 (5,116)	9.2%
United Kingdom	2,646 (2,822)	△ 6.2%
Australia	2,441 (2,742)	△11.0%
Korea	1,855 (1,778)	4.3%
Canada	1,737 (1,845)	△ 5.9%
Germany	1,616 (2,282)	△29.2%
Brazil	1,328 (1,449)	△ 8.4%
France	906 (1,098)	△17.5%
Others	4,326 (4,446)	△ 2.7%
TOTAL	41,612 (42,709)	△ 2.6%

Leading U.S. Study Abroad Destinations

U.S. Study Abroad, 2023/24

① Italy	45,067
② Spain	36,826
③ United Kingdom	36,450
④ France	16,740
⑤ Japan	11,217



COIL-type Education between Japan and U.S. Universities



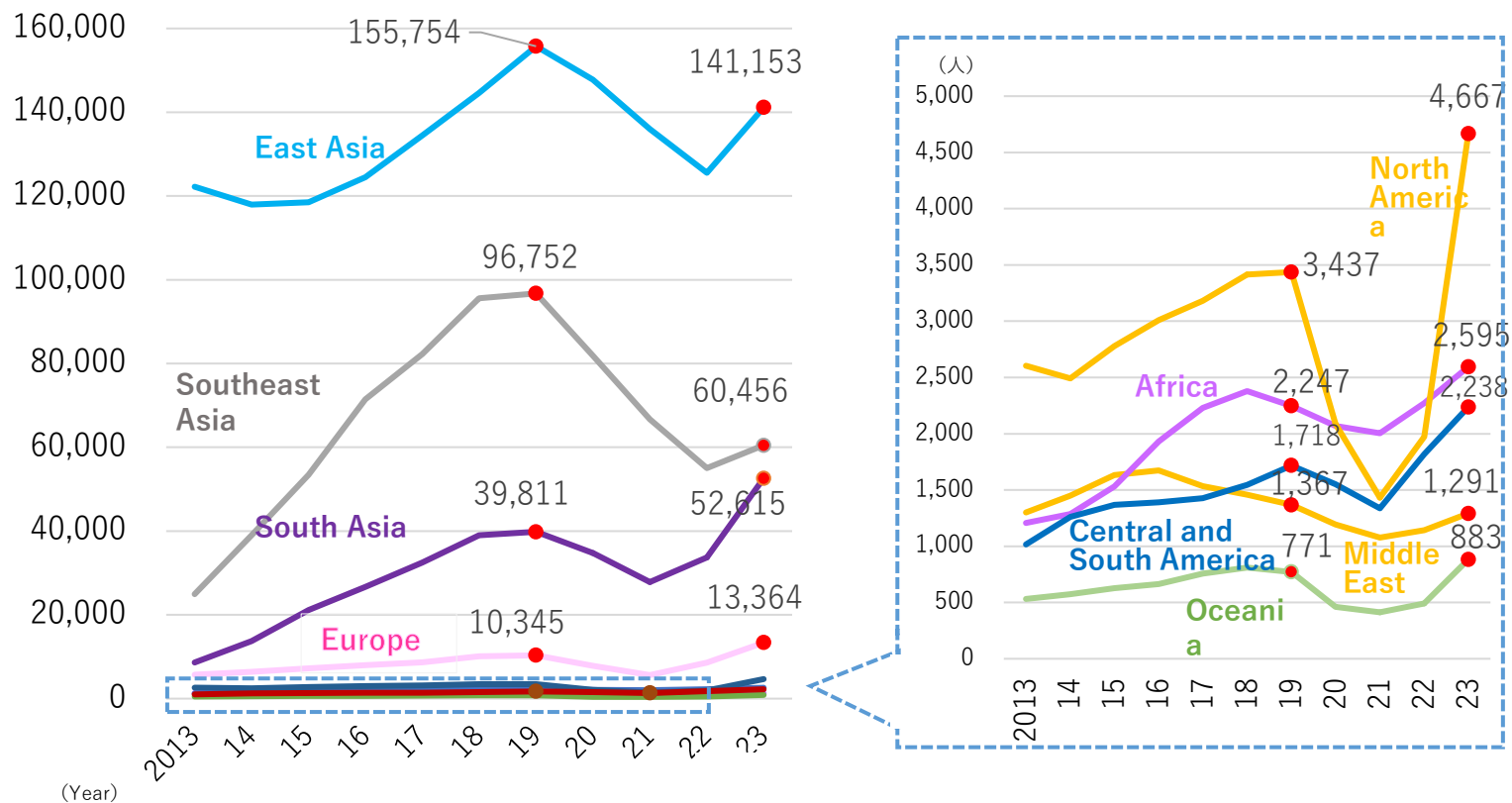
- **61 universities in the U.S.** and **13 universities in Japan** have entered into partnerships since 2018
- Approximately **10,000 students** have enrolled in the **COIL program**, of which **1,500** have studied abroad.

Expansion & Diversification of Inbound

312K(pre-covid) → **380K** by 2033

Attractive destination for diverse people with approx. 800 Univs.

Changes in inbound mobility in Japan by region of birth



(Source) Compiled from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) "Survey results on the enrollment status of international students."

A photograph of four people walking away from the camera on a modern building balcony. From left to right: a man in an orange hoodie with a green bag, a woman in a white dress with a red backpack, a man in a white shirt with a black backpack, and a woman in a white top and brown skirt with a white quilted bag. The background shows a modern building with large glass windows and a balcony railing.

Japan creates the future.

The future is what you create.

Reasons to choose Japan

Japan's Attractions



World Class
Science and
Technology



Fascinating
Culture



Conductive
Living
Environment



Diverse
International
Students

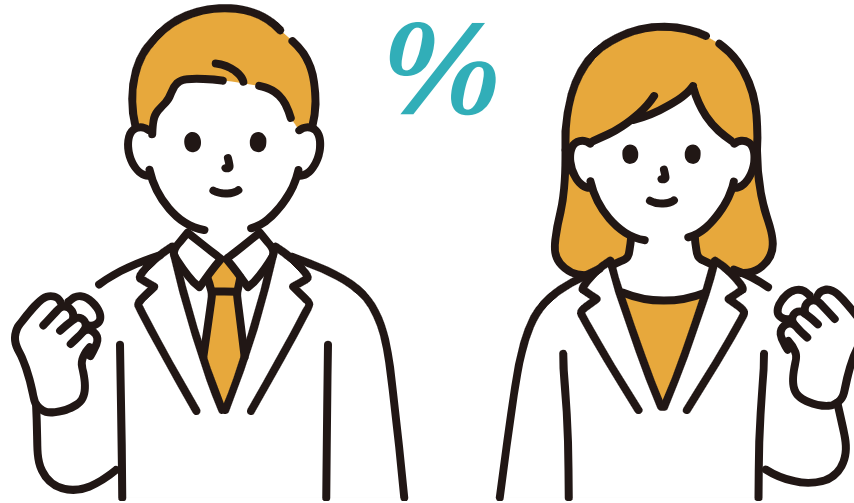
Q

Are you glad that you chose to study in Japan?

“Yes”

95.5

%



“Can’t say”

4.2%

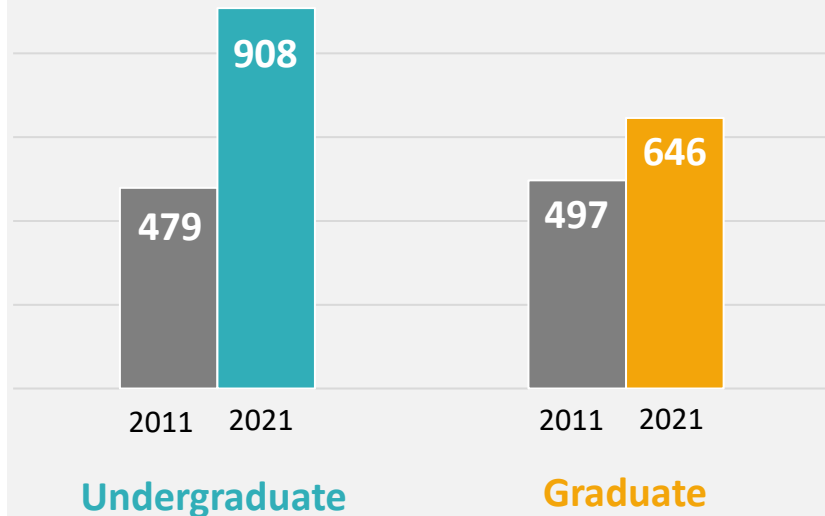
“No”

0.4%

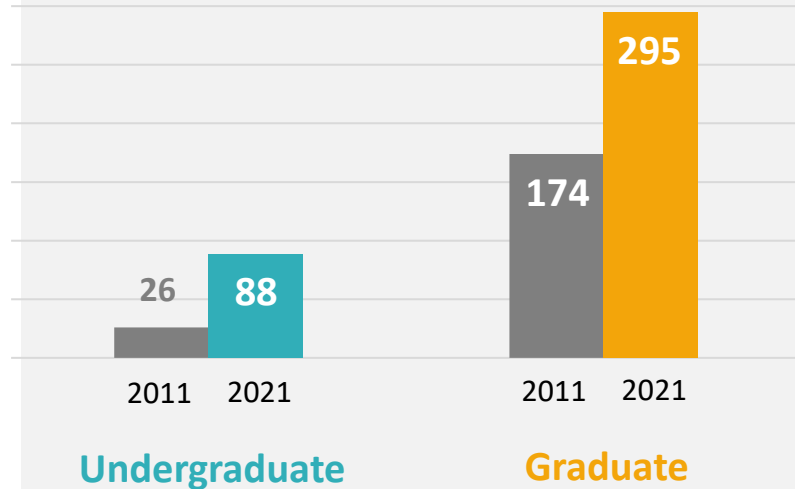
Studying in English at a University in Japan



University departments offering classes in English



University departments with all classes available in English



Average Tuition For One Year



JAPAN



UNITED STATES

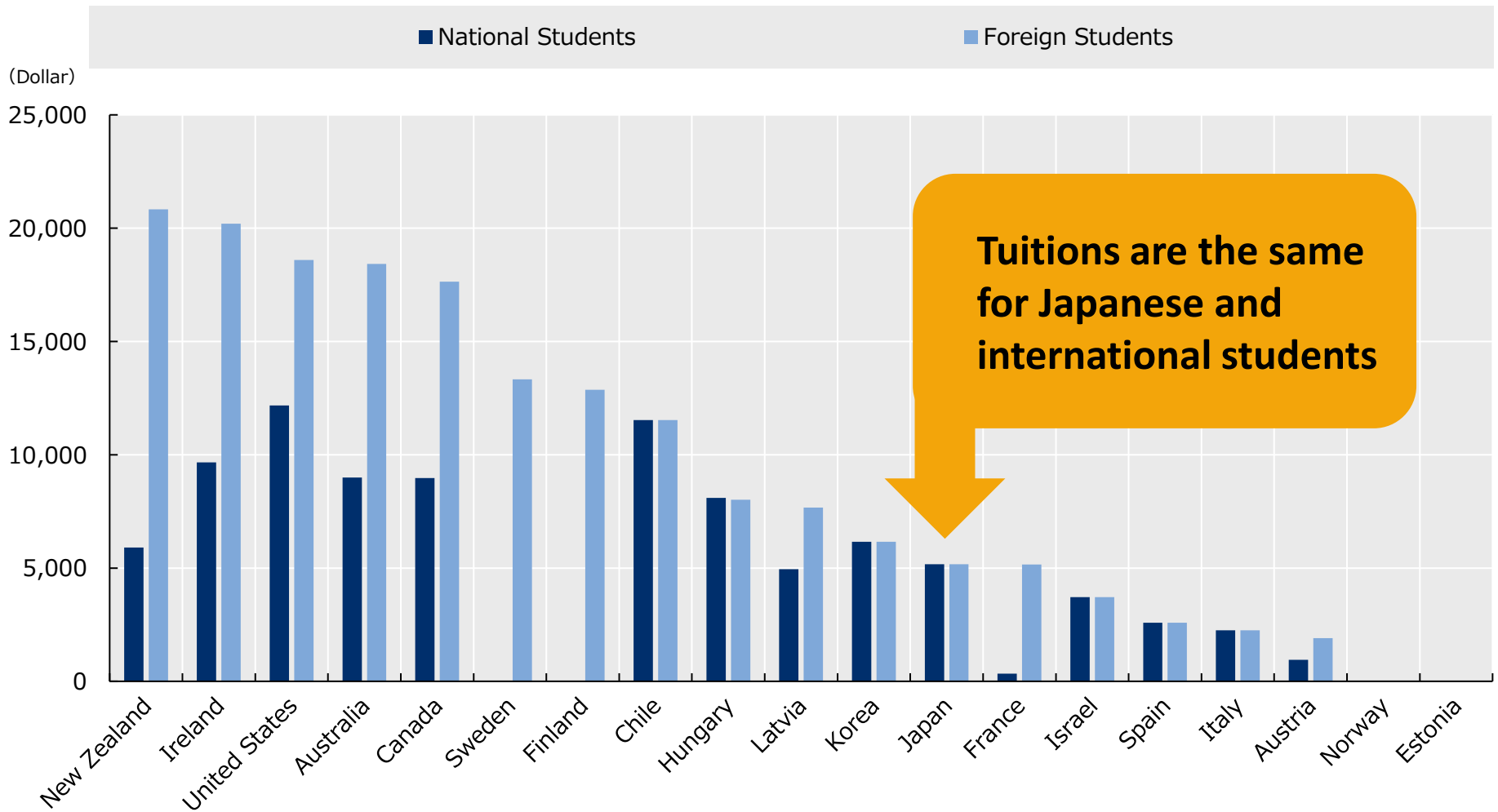


*the standard tuition for national universities is set by the government

1 US Dollar ≈ 150 Yen. Excluding medical, dental and pharmaceutical departments.

Source: Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) 2021, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education (2019-2020), The Federal Reserve (Nov 2022)

Comparison of Tuitions for International and Domestic Students



Source: OECD, International Migration Outlook 2022

Estimated Living Expenses in Japan

Miscellaneous

\$53 (¥8,000)

Commute

\$27 (¥4,000)

Entertainment

\$33 (¥5,000)

Medical

\$20 (¥3,000)

Utilities

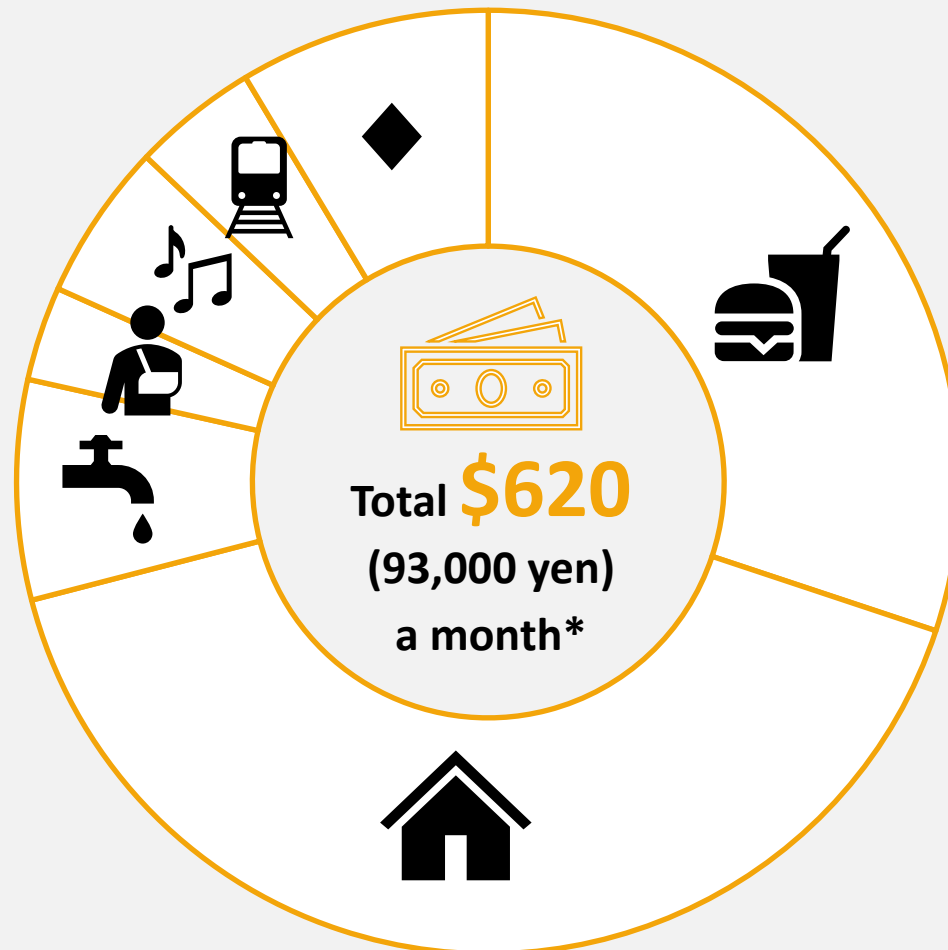
\$47 (¥7,000)

Food

\$187
(¥28,000)

Rent

\$253
(¥38,000)



1 US Dollar ≈ 150 Yen

*Living expenses vary extensively from the city to the countryside Reference: 2021 Lifestyle Survey of Privately-Financed International Students (JASSO)

Needs of Japanese Companies in the U.S. for Japanese Language Learners



Get Ahead in the Japan-Related Job Market

Japanese Classes Teach More Than Language Skills!

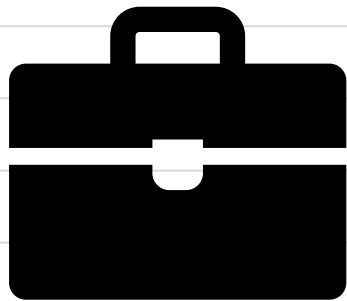
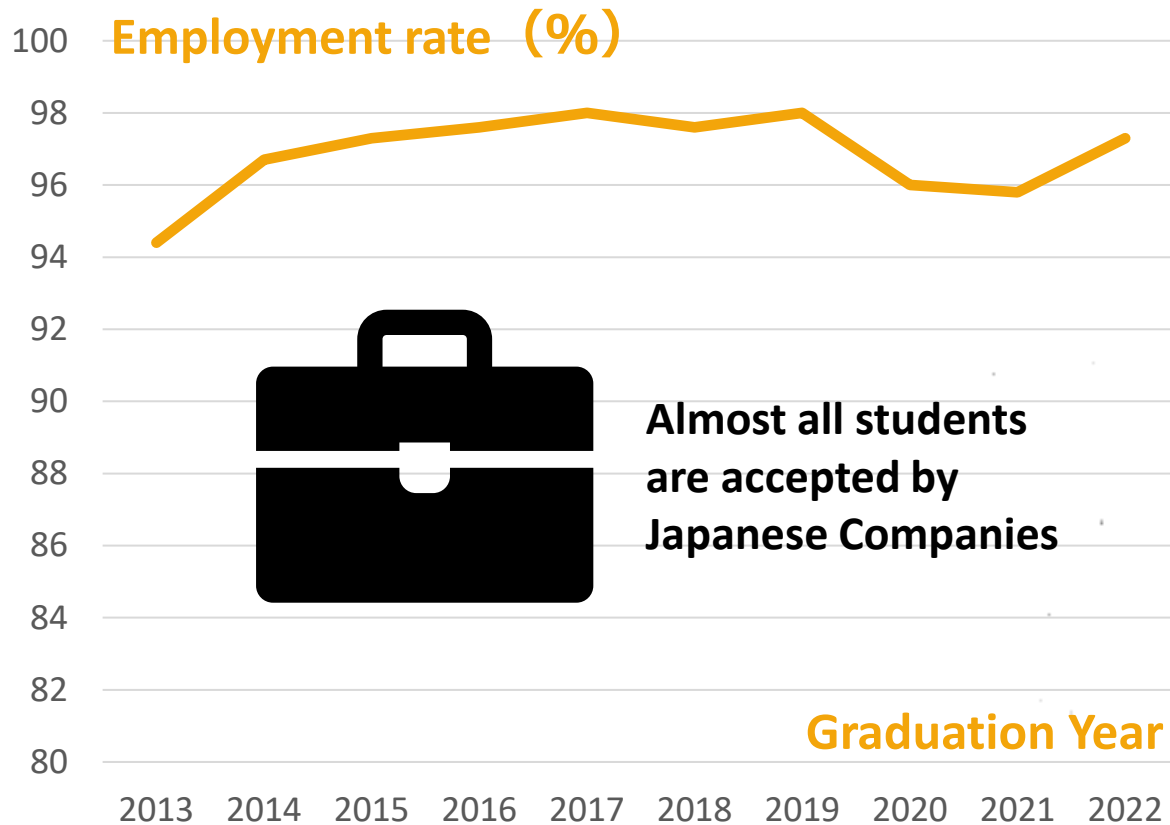
Most valuable skills

- Teamwork
- Cooperation
- Negotiation skills
- Experience in the field
- Understanding of Japanese work culture

Skill development opportunities

- Study abroad in Japan
- JET program
- Internship at Japanese company
- Working with Japanese-speaking colleagues

Employment Rate of University Graduates

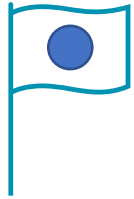


**Almost all students
are accepted by
Japanese Companies**



Japanese Government Scholarships

FY2025 Budget



1. MEXT Scholarship

approx. **121million USD**

Through welcoming competent international students, and fostering global leaders, strengthening amicable relationships with other countries as well as enhancing higher education in Japan.



2. International Student Scholarship

approx. **22million USD**

For international students who are enrolled in universities etc. and need financial support and are outstanding in both academic achievement and character reference.

3. Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Study in Japan under Agreement)

approx. **12million USD**

For international students who are permitted by the host university based on the inter-university agreement on student exchange and who are unable to participate in the program solely at their own expense



Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT Scholarship)

Scholarship types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research• Undergraduate• Japanese studies
Covered expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• tuition• air fare• monthly stipend
Monthly stipend amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research: ¥143,000 – ¥148,000• Undergraduate/Japanese Studies: ¥117,000 – ¥120,000
Application start time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January (Japanese studies)• April (Research/Undergraduate)



Congratulations to Kathryn Yang, recipient of the 2023 MEXT Scholarship for Research Students. This is a competitive program and she has worked hard to get here. We are confident that she will do great work at Kobe University. Best of luck!



Application Timeline (Research)



Application Open: April 2026



Departure: April 2026 / October 2026



BENEFITS

- Round Trip Airfare
- Tuition & Fees
- Accommodation
- Monthly Stipend for Living Expenses



MEXT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SPORTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

JUNE 2026	First Screening (Interview)
JULY – AUGUST 2026	University Application Process
SEPTEMBER 2026	Acceptance Letters Submission
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2026	Second Screening / Placement
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2026	Final Result
APRIL / OCTOBER 2026	JAPAN!

Thank you for your attention!



"Study in Japan"
Official PR movie



"Study in Japan"
Webpage



JV-Campus Webpage



EMBASSY OF JAPAN