

TOP ASIAN DESTINATIONS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS · #2 OF 6

Study in Japan

Eligibility · Cost · Language · Courses · Post-Study Work · Scholarships

Best known for	Engineering & robotics, research ecosystem, safety, MEXT scholarship
Typical annual cost (tuition + living)	₹8.5L – ₹22.5L, depending on city and institution type
Language of instruction	Japanese-taught (majority, especially national universities) or growing English-taught (EMI) tracks at UTokyo, Kyoto, Waseda, Keio, Sophia, Tohoku, and others
Post-study work	Designated Activities (Job Hunting) — 6 months, renewable once, up to 1 year; J-FIND for top-100-ranked university graduates — up to 2 years
Flagship scholarship	MEXT (Monbukagakusho) — full tuition, monthly stipend, round-trip airfare

Eligibility

- UG: Completed Class XII with strong grades (MEXT track wants ~70–80%+, Math weighted); English (IELTS 6.0–6.5/TOEFL 80+) or Japanese (JLPT N2+) depending on program.
- PG: Relevant Bachelor's/Master's with good academic standing; research-track admissions usually require securing a supervisor's informal acceptance before formal application.

Cost breakdown

- National/public UG & PG tuition: ¥535,800–820,000/year (~₹3.2L–4.9L); private: ¥800,000–2,000,000/year (~₹4.8L–12L).
- One-time admission fee: ~¥200,000–280,000 (~₹1.2L–1.7L).
- Living costs: ¥93,000/month average (JASSO); Tokyo/Osaka realistically ¥120,000–150,000/month (~₹72,000–90,000).

Popular courses

- Engineering, robotics, computer science/AI
- Natural sciences (physics, chemistry, biosciences)
- Global/international studies, public policy, business & economics

Post-study work

- Designated Activities (Job Hunting): 6 months, renewable once, up to 1 year total; part-time work up to 28 hrs/week permitted with a separate permit.
- J-FIND: for graduates of universities ranked top 100 on at least 2 of QS/THE/ARWU within the past 5 years — up to 2 years to job-hunt or start a business.
- Standard route once employed: switch to a work visa, most commonly "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services."
- Application scrutiny tightened from late 2025 into 2026 — documentation of job-hunting activity is checked more closely now.

Job options & career outlook

- Job-hunting as an international student is genuinely harder than for Japanese peers, but demand has grown fast — the number of international students seeking employment in Japan nearly quadrupled over a decade (from 8,584 in 2011 to 33,415 in 2022).
- Average first-month salary for university graduates runs around ¥211,000 (clerical/business track) to ¥234,000 (technical track); graduate-school (Master's) graduates start slightly higher, around ¥215,000–240,000/month.
- Engineering, robotics, IT, and manufacturing remain the strongest fields for foreign hires, with major employers (Sony, Toyota, Rakuten, Hitachi, and a growing number of startups) actively recruiting global STEM talent.
- Japanese language proficiency (JLPT N2 or higher) meaningfully widens job options, since most domestic firms — even in tech — still conduct business primarily in Japanese; English-only graduates tend to cluster into multinational firms, IT, and English-teaching roles.

Accommodation

- University dormitories are popular and comparatively cheap (around ¥35,000/month) but have limited vacancies, so early application matters — some students don't get a spot.
- Private guesthouses/share houses (e.g., Sakura House, Tokyo Sharehouse, J&F Plaza) are a common fallback: furnished rooms, no Japanese guarantor required, and flexible short-term contracts — useful since standard private renting in Japan typically demands a local guarantor and hefty key money.
- Budget for higher rent in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Kobe versus more affordable cities like Sapporo, Nagoya, Fukuoka, and Oita.

Social life & student community

- Safety and cleanliness are consistently the most-cited reasons Indian families feel comfortable sending students to Japan — petty crime and violent crime are both very low by global standards.



- Japan's international student population passed 408,000 as of May 2025, up 21% year-on-year, so the peer community (including a growing Indian cohort) is expanding fast, alongside active university International Student Offices and buddy/mentor programs.
- Language and cultural distance outside the classroom is the main adjustment — casual friendships with local students often take longer to build than in English-medium destinations, though clubs, festivals, and international-student dorms help bridge this.
- Indian associations, temples, and grocery/restaurant options are well established in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Osaka; smaller university towns have thinner options.

Scholarships

- MEXT — Embassy Recommendation route via the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi (written exam + interview + nomination); UG deadlines around April–June.
- JASSO Scholarship, university-specific tuition waivers, and prefectural/foundation scholarships.

Other relevant details

- EJU (Examination for Japanese University Admissions) is a common entrance requirement for Japanese-taught UG programs.
- Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is arranged by the university before the student ('Ryugaku') visa application.

Verify before you apply

Visa and post-study work rules change often, and several changed more than once during the 2026 cycle. Tuition and living figures are indicative. Always confirm current terms with the official immigration source and the university before making a decision.

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