

Japanese Long Term Courses 2026/27

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Are you looking to make serious progress with your Japanese language skills?

For most people learning the Japanese language is challenging and rewarding, but it will take a considerable amount of time and personal motivation.

By committing to a long-term programme in Japan you can be sure of high quality, structured tuition with professional native tutors who will enable you to become proficient in the language (allowing for the time you can commit to a course). For many students who wish to study long term in Japan the main barrier to success will be the visa regulations. There are a variety of course/visa options to suit most people.

Student Visa (Fukuoka & Nagoya)
Working Visa (Kyoto & Tokyo)
Tourist entry/Visa-waiver (Kyoto & Tokyo)

In this PDF factsheet, we explain in detail who is eligible for which visa, and what requirements/restrictions Japanese Immigration have in place, for each option.

Minimum age: 18 (mainly 19/30yrs)
Minutes per lesson: 50

Courses Available

40 & 60 Week Courses

Fukuoka & Nagoya
20 lessons per week
40 weeks duration/both locations
60 weeks duration/Fukuoka only
With holiday periods included
Class size: max 8 people

Student Visa or Working Visa required
Visa depends on nationality/ course duration

Ideal for all age groups and those wishing to reach a high standard of Japanese, over an extended study period. Offered over several terms (with holiday breaks included) with the same content as the Standard Course.

Long term student numbers:
Fukuoka 130 max per month
Nagoya 70 max per month

20 & 10 Week Courses

Kyoto & Tokyo
20 lessons per week
10 & 20 weeks duration (no breaks)
Class size: max 8 people
Ideal for all age groups and language abilities. Core classes concentrate on communication skills, across all language levels, with emphasis on real-life skills. Open to students eligible for visa waiver rules, who can extend their course, beyond 90 days once in Japan.

Full course details are provided online, under "Teaching" pages for each location

Standard Courses

Kyoto & Tokyo
02 to 12 weeks
20 lessons per week
Perfect for short term courses and developing linguistic skills, whilst travelling with visa-waiver status.

Short term student numbers:
Tokyo: 120 Kyoto: 100



Accommodation

Arrive: **Sunday PM** Depart: **Saturday AM**

NB: Accommodation in Fukuoka involves a commute, allow 45+ mins to college (bike or bus). Longer commutes apply in Tokyo, Kyoto & Nagoya.

Please see the individual location PDFs for further details.

- Option 1 Host family, single room, half-board (45 mins+ or 60 mins+ plus to college) From 16yrs+ in Kyoto, Fukuoka, Nagoya and 18yrs+ in Tokyo
- Option 2 Private residence, single room, private bathroom, self-catering. Highly recommended. From 18yrs+
- Option 3 Private apartment, sole occupancy small studio, self-catering. From 18yrs+

CESA Plus Points:

Fukuoka

Must sees include the modern Kyushu National Museum (Japanese artefacts) ~ the Asian Art Museum ~ Hakata-za, Fukuoka's famous "kabuki" theatre ~ free Noh and Kabuki performances in the Ohori Park Noh theatre ~ for night birds enjoy the huge variety of venues, for everything from a cup of 'sake' with friends in a quiet 'izakaya' to a crazy night of dancing at a top club ~ Izakayas (Japanese pubs) exist on virtually every corner ~ try a 'shochu' (a spirit made from either rice, wheat, barley or potato) or some 'sashimi' (raw fish) and you could easily be mistaken for a local.



CESA Plus Points:

Nagoya

Nagoya is the 3rd largest city in Japan, at the heart of Aichi prefecture. Home to Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa Ieyasu. The city is the manufacturing and shipping hub of central Honshu island. It is not a classic tourist destination though the Toyota Techno Museum is located here and the medieval Castle is a huge draw. There is much to discover in the metropolitan centre and the surrounding smaller towns, so provides a wonderful place for Japanese language course immersion.



CESA Plus Points:

Tokyo:

Don't get too hung up on ticking tourist sights off your list: for most visitors, the biggest part of the Tokyo experience is just wandering around at random and absorbing the vibe, poking your head into shops selling weird and wonderful things, sampling restaurants where you can't recognize a single thing on the menu (or on your plate), and finding an unexpected oasis of calm in the tranquil grounds of a neighbourhood Shinto shrine. It's all surprisingly safe, and the locals will go to extraordinary lengths to help you if you just ask. Shinjuku: Home to luxury hotels, giant camera stores, futuristic skyscrapers, hundreds of shops and restaurants.



CESA Plus Points:

Kyoto

Kyoto is known as the thousand-year capital, the historic seat of the Imperial Emperors until 1869. It is home to 1.5 million+ people. The city is home to a busy business centre, many revered Universities, and a very modern major train station. The ancient and the modern sit side by side here, historic temples, shrines and palaces, modern skyscrapers multi landed highways and quiet backstreets with, old world wooden houses. There is a large university student population (over 20 universities in the city) and it's a very popular tourist destination. It offers history, fine cuisine and a lively Arts scene.



Public holidays in Japan 2026

On public holidays, lessons are not held (and are replaced by the school by an activity or excursion) and if this coincides with a start date, the assessment tests and registration may take place on Tuesday instead.

2026: 01 & 12 Jan, 11 & 23 Feb, 20 Mar, 29 Apr, 04, 05 & 06 May, 20 Jul, 11 Aug, 21, 22 & 23 Sept, 12 Oct, 03 & 23 Nov 2027: to be confirmed. Christmas closure: Week of 28 December 2026



Student Visa Criteria

- Must have completed High School (and have proof of graduation) and 150 hrs of accredited Japanese language study or JLPT Level 5, alternatively you must be a recent University graduate (but no more than 4 yrs ago) and any level, beginner+
- Must have proof of employment (if working) or of further study (if at or going to University/Further Education)
- Must show bank statements as proof that you (or financial sponsor) have funds to pay for tuition & living expenses for a full year
- Must have no criminal record, and never have been denied a visa for Japan previously
- Depending on your nationality, there may be additional requirements.

Enrolment procedure:

Please book with CESA Languages as early as possible, places book up months in advance!. The school will forward the student visa application form with a list of documents required and detailed instructions.

Dates quoted are Japanese Immigration deadlines for application, not arranged by the language school.

Dates 2026/27

Tuition: 40 or 60 week programmes (with breaks)

Please book WELL in advance of any start date. At present all start dates prior to July 2026 are already fully booked – November 2026

July 2026 (Full in Fukuoka / A few places in Nagoya)

Deadline to apply: Early February 2026

Classes Start: **06 July 2026** *

October 2026 **PLACES AVAILABLE**

Deadline to apply: Early May 2026

Classes Start: **05 October 2026** *

April 2027 **PLACES AVAILABLE**

Deadline to apply: Early November 2026

Classes Start: **05 April 2027** *

July 2027 **PLACES AVAILABLE**

Deadline to apply: Early February 2027

Classes Start: **05 July 2027** *

October 2027 **PLACES AVAILABLE**

Deadline to apply: Early May 2027

Classes Start: **04 October 2027** *

* End dates depend on holiday arrangements – please check with CESA

40 Week Programme

Fukuoka & Nagoya only

40 weeks tuition/ 2026 & 2027

Tuition Fees: **Yen 1,380,000.00**

CESA Admin **Yen 14,000.00**

Start Dates offered: 4 x each year

Course: 40 weeks tuition + holiday breaks

Course format: 20 group lessons per week

Levels: Complete Beginner to Low intermediate

60 Week Programme

Fukuoka only

60 weeks tuition/ 2026 & 2027

Tuition Fees: **Yen 1,980,000.00**

CESA Admin **Yen 14,000.00**

Start Dates offered: 4 x each year

Course: 60 weeks tuition + holiday breaks

Course format: 20 group lessons per week

Levels: Complete Beginner to High Elementary



Working Holiday Visa

The Working Holiday Visa is ONLY offered to the following nationals:

Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, Koreans, French, Germans, British, Irish, Danish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Polish, Taiwanese and Hong Kong citizens.

If you are not on the list you must either apply for a Student Visa (only offered if applying for an Academic Year course in Fukuoka or Nagoya) or be eligible for a visa waiver.

Criteria:

You must be a national on the list quoted above

You must be between 19 and 30 yrs of age

You must be able to show proof of minimum funds (around \$2000.00 plus have a return flight ticket home)

You must be in good health

You must NOT have been issued a Japanese Working holiday visa previously

Full details can be found on line: http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/w_holiday/index.html

Application Deadline: Talk to your local Japanese Consulate

Please note you are only eligible for this Visa type ONCE, so do make sure this is the most appropriate option for your needs. If in doubt, please discuss this with CESA staff.



Course Options: For Working Holiday Visa students

One Year Course in Fukuoka & Nagoya (no extension possible)

Twenty week Course in Kyoto or Tokyo

Ten Week Course in Kyoto or Tokyo

Standard or Japanese & Conversation Course Generally in Kyoto or Tokyo

Languages for Life (20 wks)

A popular course option for Working Visa applicants. Good value for money!

2026 Dates/Tokyo & Kyoto

Please see the Tokyo PDF or online details or Kyoto PDF or online details for specific start dates throughout 2026.

Public holidays: Lessons are not held, but are replaced by a school activity or a small refund and if this coincides with a start date, the assessment tests and registration take place on Tuesday instead.

2026: 01 & 12 Jan, 11 & 23 Feb, 20 Mar, 29 Apr, 04 & 05 May, 20 Jul, 11 Aug, 21 & 22 Sept, 12 Oct, 03 & 23 Nov.

2027: to be confirmed

20 weeks fees: Tuition

20 weeks	Yen 740,000.00*
CESA Admin	Yen 14,000.00

Course Format

Duration: 20 week No holiday breaks No set application deadline

20 group lessons per week, 50 minutes per lesson,

Max 9 students per class

Course location: Kyoto & Tokyo

Levels: Complete Beginner to High Intermediate

Course Focus:

Real world communication skills, rather than academic Japanese

2 lessons per day on grammar

2 lessons per day on real world situations

Lessons will increase in complexity of language as students proceed through the various language levels offered from Beginner to Advanced levels.

Visa Waiver / Tourist Entry

The Visa Waiver arrangement works very well for UK, USA and EU citizens (amongst others). Students must respect the period allowed for their nationality, but it means you can travel and study without needing to complete any visa paperwork.

Generally students can stay in Japan on this basis for a 02 to 180 days period. No exceptions can be made to the rules laid down by Japanese Immigration.

Full details of visa waiver rules can be found online:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

No application deadline applied

Available for shorter term courses only – maximum 180 days (depending on your nationality)

On arrival in Japan you will be given a 90-day landing permission. If you plan on spending longer than 90 days in Japan you will need to leave the country (most students take the short flight to South Korea) spend a night and then return to Japan to renew your 90 days stay permission.



Course Options: For Visa Waiver students

Languages for Life (10)

Tokyo & Kyoto

Standard Course

Tokyo & Kyoto

Japanese & Conversation Course

Tokyo

Languages for Life (10 wks)

A well-priced longer-term course.

Ten Week Fees: Tuition

10 wks Yen 408,000

CESA Admin Yen 14,000

2026 Dates/Tokyo & Kyoto

Please see the Tokyo PDF or online details or Kyoto PDF or online details for specific start dates throughout 2026.

Public holidays: Lessons are not held, but are replaced by a school activity or a small refund and if this coincides with a start date, the assessment tests and registration take place on Tuesday instead.

2026: 01 & 12 Jan, 11 & 23 Feb, 20 Mar, 29 Apr, 04 & 05 May, 20 Jul, 11 Aug, 21 & 22 Sept, 12 Oct, 03 & 23 Nov.

2027: to be confirmed

Course Format

Duration: 10 weeks

No holiday breaks

20 group lessons per week

50 minutes per lesson

Max 9 students per class

No set application deadline

Course location: Kyoto & Tokyo

Levels: All abilities

Course Focus:

Real world communication skills, rather than academic Japanese

2 lessons per day on grammar

2 lessons per day on real world situations

Lessons will increase in complexity of language as students proceed through the various language levels offered from Beginner to Advanced levels.

Tourist Visa option:

If your nationality is not featured on the official Visa Waiver listing you **MUST arrange a tourist visa** to enter Japan and attend the language school.

Please contact the Japanese Consulate in your own country to discuss tourist visa requirements.

At most you will be allowed to stay for 90 days.

If in doubt, please discuss visa requirements with CESA staff. We will need to know your nationality to determine the correct arrangements for you.



Course Options: For Tourist Visa students

Languages for Life (10) in Kyoto or Tokyo
Standard Course in Kyoto & Tokyo

Standard Course

Standard or Japanese & Conversation/Culture courses will probably be the **ONLY** options for students requiring a Tourist Visa.

Standard Course Fees:

06 wks	Yen 258,000
08 wks	Yen 338,000
12 wks	Yen 480,000
CESA Admin	Yen 14,000

Course Format

Duration: 2 weeks+

Course location: Kyoto & Tokyo

Levels: All abilities
No holiday breaks
20 group lessons per week
50 minutes per lesson
Max 9 students per class
No set application deadline

Course Focus:
Real world communication skills, rather than academic Japanese
2 lessons per day on grammar
2 lessons per day on real world situations
Lessons will increase in complexity of language as students proceed through the various language levels offered from Beginner to Advanced levels.

Dates/Kyoto 2026

Beginners **MUST** begin on start dates show in **red**
All other levels: Any number of weeks (2 wks+).

Month	Dates				
January	05	12	19	26	
February	02	09	16	23*	
March	02	09	16	23	30
April	06	13	20	27	
May	11	18	25		
June	01	08	15	22 29	
July	06	13	20*	27	
August	03	10	17	24 31	
September	07	14	28		
October	05	12*	19	26	
November	02	09	16	23*	30
December	07	14	21		

Underlined dates: Beginner start dates for two week programmes ONLY on these dates

Dates in **red** are open to Beginners (for 2+ weeks)

All other levels: Any number of weeks (2 wks+), depending on availability of places

NB: Conversation classes: No beginners and classes not offered in July or August

The schools will close for one week: 28 December 2026 / 2 Jan 2027

Dates/Tokyo 2026

Beginners **MUST** begin on start dates show in **gold**
All other levels: Any number of weeks (2 wks+)

Month	Dates				
January	05	12	19#	26	
February	02	09	16#	23	
March	02	09	16#	23	30
April	06	13	20#	27	
May	11	18	25		
June	01	08	15	22	29
July	06	13	20	27	
August	03	10	17	24	31
September	07	14	21#	28	
October	05	12	19#	26	
November	02	09	16	23	30
December	07	14	21		

Underlined dates: Beginner start dates for two week programmes ONLY on these dates

Dates in **gold** are open to Beginners (for 2+ weeks)

All other levels: Any number of weeks (2 wks+), depending on availability of places

NB: Conversation classes: No beginners and classes not offered in July or August

The schools will close for one week: 28 December 2026 / 2 Jan 2027

Class levels and progress structure:

Complete beginner/ Foundation (1-1)

Class requirement: must be able to read hiragana characters

Total time: 3 weeks (60 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N5

Foundation 1-2

Total time: 4 weeks (80 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N5

Beginner 1-1

Total time: 4 weeks (80 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N5

Beginner 1-2

Total time: 5 weeks (100 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N5

Beginner 2-1

Total time: 4 weeks (80 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N4

Beginner 2-2

Total time: 5 weeks (100 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N4

Beginner 2-3

Total time: 5 weeks (100 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N4

Beginner 2-4

Total time: 5 weeks (100 class hours)

JLPT: studying for level N4

Intermediate 1

Total time: 20 weeks+

JLPT: studying for level N3

Intermediate 2

Total time: 20 weeks+

JLPT: studying for level N2

Upper intermediate/Advanced

Total time: 20 weeks+

JLPT: studying for level N1

Total time required to progress from Beginner to Intermediate level:

Approximately 60 weeks+

In reality CESA Languages students chose to attend a course according to their linguistic goals, personal wishes and time constraints.



JLPT Exam Preparation

So you can speak Japanese.

Can you prove it?

The recognised proof of Japanese linguistic ability is the JLPT Exams, accredited by the Ministry of Education. Students can sit the exam in December. It is a perfect supplement to a long-term programme.

Extra private tuition: **Available on request**

Exam application fee: Approx **¥ 8,000.00**

(paid to the Exam board, not the language school)

20 group Japanese lessons plus additional exam orientated private classes per week, plus homework.

Offered: Generally September/November (leading up to the JLPT exams in December)

Core classes: As Standard Japanese Course

PLUS: Preparation for the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Tests). Each week your teacher gives you homework, then analyses your weak points and discusses learning strategies with you.

Please note that you cannot choose which JLPT level you want to prepare for. Teachers at the school will assign a level for you according to your test results.

Accommodation Prices 2026/2027 Sunday/Sunday

Fukuoka

Transfer Service: Fukuoka airport, ¥ 8,000 one way service

Hosts	From: 14 yrs Single room, Half-board, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 236,000	Yen 290,000	Yen 344,000	Yen 560,000	Yen 1,370,000
Residence	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Single room in a shared residence, Self-catering, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 168,000	Yen 180,000	Yen 212,000	Yen 300,000	Yen 670,000
Apartments	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Sole occupancy apartments, Self-catering, Generally in walking distance				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 332,000	Yen 380,000	Yen 452,000	Yen 680,000	On request

Tokyo

Transfer Service: Narita/Haneda ¥ 30,000 & Narita ¥ 45,000 for a one way service

Hosts	From: 18 yrs Single room, Half-board, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 316,000	Yen 390,000	Yen 464,000	Yen 760,000	N/A
Residence	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Single room in a shared residence, Self-catering, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 188,000	Yen 220,000	Yen 260,000	Yen 410,000	N/A
Apartments	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Sole occupancy apartments, Self-catering, Generally in walking distance				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 380,000	Yen 420,000	Yen 500,000	Yen 780,000	N/A

Kyoto

Transfer Service: Osaka KIX airport/Kyoto ¥ 40,000 & Osaka ITM/Kyoto ¥ 25,000 for a one way service

Hosts	From: 16 yrs (14 yrs in the summer) Single room, Half-board, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 276,000	Yen 340,000	Yen 404,000	Yen 660,000	N/A
Residence	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Single room in a shared residence, Self-catering, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 172,000	Yen 190,000	Yen 224,000	Yen 358,000	N/A
Apartments	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Sole occupancy apartments, Self-catering, Generally in walking distance				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 340,000	Yen 400,000	Yen 476,000	Yen 760,000	N/A

Nagoya

Transfer Service: NGO airport/Nagoya ¥ 27,000 for a one way service

Hosts	From: 18 yrs Single room, Half-board, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 276,000	Yen 340,000	Yen 404,000	Yen 660,000	N/A
Residence	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Single room in a shared residence, Self-catering, Commute by public transport				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 188,000	Yen 200,000	Yen 236,000	Yen 360,000	N/A
Apartments	From: 18 yrs Open to the public and students Sole occupancy apartments, Self-catering, Generally in walking distance				
	08 wks	10 wks	12 wks	20 wks	50 wks
	Yen 380,000	Yen 420,000	Yen 500,000	Yen 780,000	N/A