

■ English

Are there any age or gender restrictions for working under the Specified Skilled Worker System?	Both “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” require applicants to be 18 years of age or older, but there are no restrictions based on gender.
Can I become a Specified Skilled Worker without going through an intermediary agency?	It is possible. However, please note that when entering into an employment contract with a foreign worker under the Specified Skilled Worker program, if an intermediary is involved in concluding the contract, the job placement must be arranged by an entity licensed to operate an employment placement service. Additionally, please be aware that when bringing a new foreign worker to Japan under the Specified Skilled Worker System from overseas, depending on the country of origin, it may be necessary to use an intermediary agency in that country.
Where can I find the contact information for intermediary agencies?	We do not provide referrals for employment agencies in Japan. However, information on registered support organizations that assist foreign nationals with employment, daily life, or social integration is available on the Immigration Services Agency website. Please refer to the following link: (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/ssw/nyuukokukanri07_00205.html) Additionally, a list of certified sending organizations is available on the following website. Please refer to this as well. (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/ssw/nyuukokukanri06_00073.html)
Where can I find out what job category my current work falls under?	Details regarding the job description for each field can be found on this website. You can view translations of this website by selecting your preferred language from the button in the upper right corner. For more detailed information on the job description for each field, please refer to the websites of the relevant ministries and agencies. (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/ssw/10_00179.html)
How should I go about searching for and applying to jobs under the Specified Skilled Worker program?	You can register with a sending organization and receive job referrals from them. Inform the organization about the type of work you wish to do and consult with them regarding job placement. A list of certified sending organizations is available on the website below; please search there and consult with them. Alternatively, you can find job openings yourself without using a sending organization. In that case, you would find them independently through events held by companies or job postings. https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/ssw/nyuukokukanri06_00073.html
Please tell me about the examination.	To qualify as a Specified Skilled Worker, you must pass both an examination measuring the relevant skill level and an examination measuring Japanese language proficiency. For details on the examinations and schedules, please visit the website below. Note that if you are deemed to have successfully completed Technical Intern Training Program Type 2, you may be exempted from the examinations for skill level and Japanese language proficiency. You can view translations of this website by selecting your language from the button in the upper right corner. (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/ssw/nyuukokukanri01_00135.html)
Can I use results from other exams, such as Nat-Test Level 4, in addition to JFT-Basic A2 or JLPT N4?	Currently, only the JFT-Basic and JLPT are available as tests to measure Japanese language proficiency levels.
When working under the Specified Skilled Worker system, are there opportunities for department transfers or reassignments to other branches?	Under the Specified Skilled Worker system, there are no restrictions on transfers between departments within the same corporation or relocations to other branches. Therefore, if you wish to transfer or relocate, please consult your employer.
What should I be careful about when working in Japan?	The Immigration Services Agency has compiled essential information to help foreign nationals residing in Japan live and work safely and securely, creating the “Guidebook on Living and Working.” Please check the following website: (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/index.html) Additionally, important points to note about living in Japan in general are summarized in the following daily life orientation video, available in 17 languages including Japanese. Please also refer to this. (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/coexistence/04_00078.html)
If I receive unfair treatment from Japanese individuals or companies, could you please advise me on how to respond?	If a Specified Skilled Worker experiences unfair treatment from a Japanese person or company, please consult with a registered support organization or the company's support representative. You may also consult with the Regional Immigration Bureau or the Labor Standards Inspection Office. The Foreign Resident Support Center (FRESC) provides consultation services covering residence procedures, labor issues, and legal matters, so you may also consult them.
Can foreign nationals holding a status of residence "Specified Skilled Worker" be promoted in the same manner as Japanese nationals?	Under the Specified Skilled Worker System, discriminatory treatment based on foreign nationality is prohibited in matters such as determining remuneration, providing education and training, and access to welfare facilities. Promotion rules vary by company, so please confirm with your employer.
How many times a year can I return home to see my family?	Under the Specified Skilled Worker system, there is no limit on the number of times a Specified Skilled Worker may return to their home country. When temporarily returning home, be sure to obtain a re-entry permission (including a special re-entry permission) before departing. When temporarily returning home, care must be taken not to exceed the expiration date of re-entry permission or the period of stay. Furthermore, when a Specified Skilled Worker requests temporary return home, the company must accommodate this leave request unless there are unavoidable business reasons, such as when it would hinder the proper operation of the business.
I believe wages can be determined before starting work, but understanding a company's system for accepting specified skilled workers would also give workers peace of mind. Are there any good examples of practices that prevent specified skilled workers from leaving their jobs?	The Immigration Services Agency's document “Initiatives to Accept Foreign Nations and for the Realization an Inclusive Society of Harmonious Coexistence” includes examples of accepting specified skilled workers in various fields (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/001335263.pdf). and can also be found on the Support Website for the Specified Skilled Worker System (https://www.ssw.go.jp/about/voice/). Please also refer to the websites of individual companies accepting specified skilled workers.
What types of benefits and allowances are typically provided by Japanese companies?	Employee benefits vary depending on the company you work for, so it is not possible to provide a general answer. Please confirm with the company where you plan to work under the Specified Skilled Worker system. Furthermore, the Specified Skilled Worker system stipulates that discriminatory treatment based on nationality is prohibited in matters such as determining remuneration, providing education and training, and access to welfare facilities. This means you can receive benefits equivalent to those provided to Japanese nationals.

What is the housing situation like for people working in Japan?	Requirements vary by employer, so please consult your employer before concluding an employment contract. Note that when the accepting organization provides housing for specified skilled workers (i), standards such as a minimum of 7.5 square meters per person apply. For details regarding support for securing housing, please refer to the “Operational Guidelines for Support for Specified Skilled Foreigners(i).” (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/930004553.pdf)
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