

Information on status of residence for those who have difficulty returning to their home country

The Immigration Services Agency of Japan has permitted foreign nationals currently staying in Japan with the “Student” status of residence and are having difficulty returning to their home country after graduation due to effects of the novel coronavirus infection to change their status of residence from “Student” to “Designated Activities (6 months)” enabling them to work part-time within 28 hours a week, and thereby making it possible to continue their stay in Japan. On the other hand, handling up to now limited this measure to former international students who graduated from a university, etc. in 2020. Former international students who graduated from a university, etc. before 2020 as well as those who withdrew or were removed from the school register were not applicable for the same handling.

However, as there is no change in the situation of international students having difficulty returning to their home country, the above handling was expanded from October 19. The Immigration Services Agency of Japan has announced that former holders of “Student” status of residence who were previously not applicable will also be allowed to have their status of residence changed to “Designated Activities (6 months)”, **regardless of when they graduated from a university, etc., and also, regardless of whether they graduated or not.**

Please refer to the below for details and direct any inquiries to the Immigration Services Agency of Japan.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001323011.pdf> (Japanese only)

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001320105.pdf> (Japanese only)

(for your reference)

About the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC)

The Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) has a telephone consultation service for foreign nationals who are experiencing difficulties due to effects of the novel coronavirus. If you have any problems, please try using it. Their service is available in many languages.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/fresc01>

FRESC Help Desk: 0120-76-2029 (toll-free number)

Operating Days: Mondays through Fridays

Operating Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays)

Available Languages: elementary Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, English, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Nepalese, Thai, Indonesian, Tagalog, Burmese, Cambodian, Mongolian