

[Important Notice] Eligibility to take the skill exams and tests to measure Japanese language proficiency of specified skilled workers (hereinafter referred to as “exams and tests”) will be expanded from April 1, 2020 onward.

As of now, only mid-to-long-term residents or those who once resided in Japan as mid-to-long-term residents are eligible to take the exams and tests which are implemented in Japan. The eligibility will be expanded to all who reside in Japan as status-of-residence holders.

This new arrangement will enable those who enter Japan with a short-term status of residence to take the exams and tests, even if they have never resided in Japan before as mid-to-long-term residents.

Until March 31, 2020, the exams and tests will be conducted as per the current “The policy pertaining to skill exams and Japanese language tests for specified skilled workers”. Please note that the updated eligibility will apply to the exams and tests from April 1, 2020 onward.

< Eligibility to take the exams and tests in Japan from April 1, 2020 onward >

Anyone with a status of residence can take the exams and tests.

Anyone with a short-term status of residence can also take the exams and tests in Japan (even if they have never resided in Japan as mid to long-term residents).

Anyone without a status of residence (such as anyone who overstayed the authorized period of stay) will continue to be not allowed to take the exams and tests.

*However, even if you pass the exams and tests, it does not guarantee that you will be granted the status of residence as a specified skilled worker. Please note that even if you apply for the certificate of status of residence in the name of the person who passed the exams and tests, or for change of status or residence, it does not guarantee that you will be granted the certificate for the status of residence or permitted to change your status of residence.

< Eligibility to take the exams and tests in Japan until March 31, 2020 >

Persons who will not be permitted to take the exams and tests in Japan are:

- (1) Persons who are neither mid-to-long-term residents nor have never resided in Japan as mid-to-long-term residents.
- (2) International students who are expelled or removed from school
- (3) Disappeared technical intern trainees

(4) Persons with the status of residence “Designated Activities (Applicants for Refugee Status) ”

(5) Persons who are already residing in Japan with a status of residence that requires to submit a plan prior to their activities in Japan such as technical intern training