

JAPAN VISA – GENERAL INFORMATION

April 2025

A. PURPOSE

1. To inform applicants about official visa application procedures, accepted application channels, processing times, fees, holidays, and important rules to follow.
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B. REQUIREMENTS (Details → https://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000000.html)

APPLICANT'S REQUIREMENTS

(1) Visa Application Through JVAC

- Accepted weekdays from 8:40 AM; receipt with 8-digit application number issued.
- JVAC is a private enterprise; handling fee applies (check with JVAC).

(2) Direct Application to the Embassy or Consular Offices (Cebu/Davao)

- Eligible if applying for:
 - o Diplomatic or Official Visas.
 - o Invitees directly by: Japanese government, independent administrative agencies of Japan, local governments of Japan, or national/municipal educational institutions (educational, cultural, youth exchange programs).
 - o Awardees of Japanese Government Scholarship.
 - o Commercial purposes for employees of:
 - Joint venture companies or local subsidiaries of Japanese enterprises listed on the Japanese Stock Exchange.
 - Companies that are members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines.
 - o Special humanitarian cases (e.g., serious illness of a relative in Japan).
 - o Applicants with custody of a biological child of a Japanese National, applying to raise the child in Japan.

【In case that applicant is Nikkeijin with a COE】

- Direct application is accepted even if processed by registered agencies.

【In case that company/institution staff applies on behalf of applicant】

- Must present ID and authorization letter.

(3) Direct Application Procedures

- Embassy of Japan in the Philippines:
 - Weekdays from 8:40 AM.
 - Numbered ticket available from 8:30–11:00 AM.
 - Receipt with 8-digit acceptance number and verification date issued.
- Cebu and Davao Consular Offices:
 - Weekdays from 8:40 AM to 12:30 PM.
 - Verification date provided by phone.

(4) Processing Time for Visa Application and Examination

- Through JVAC:
 - Minimum 5 working days from Embassy acceptance to passport release to JVAC.
 - Delays over one week must be verified with Embassy using the 8-digit acceptance number.
 - No status check without the acceptance number.
- Direct to Embassy:
 - Status check on verification date indicated on receipt.

(5) Possible Results

- Approved → passport returned with visa.
- Denied → passport returned without visa.

【In case of delay】

- Could be due to additional documents requested, personal appearance required, or further checks with MOFA or Immigration Bureau.
- Apply early; no early release for scheduled departures.

(6) Visa Fees

- Gratis:
 - Temporary visitor visa for Philippine nationals.
 - Diplomatic and Official visas.
- Others: Refer to Consular Fees.
- For JVAC applications, handling fee applies in addition to Embassy fee.

(7) Holidays

- Check Embassy website for Embassy Holidays.

(8) Other Important Notes

- Apply according to travel purpose:
 - Temporary Visitor Visa – stay ≤ 90 days for sightseeing, business, conferences, visiting relatives/acquaintances.
 - Not allowed: Employment, entertainment, training with allowance, or on-the-job training.
 - For longer stays or compensated activities: Obtain COE and apply for appropriate visa.
- Apply together if two or more applicants have same travel schedule and purpose.
- Submission of requirements does not guarantee issuance.
- Fake/tampered documents → visa will not be issued.
- Documents will not be returned.
- Applicants have 3 months to submit additional requirements; otherwise, application will be terminated.
- Reason for denial will not be disclosed.
- If denied, reapplication for the same purpose is only allowed after 6 months.