# Comprehensive Regulatory and Operational Framework for "Ovi English School" in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan

## 1. Executive Strategy and Legal Entity Formation

### 1.1. Strategic Context of Market Entry in Yamanashi

Establishing "Ovi English School" in Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, requires a sophisticated understanding of the intersection between Japanese corporate law, regional economic revitalization policies, and the evolving landscape of international education. Yamanashi Prefecture, while offering a lower operational cost base compared to Tokyo, presents a conservative consumer market where trust and stability are paramount. The proposed hybrid business model—combining a physical classroom for local children and adults with a global online subscription service—creates a bifurcated regulatory profile. The physical arm is subject to strict domestic safety, labor, and education regulations, while the digital arm must navigate international tax treaties, cross-border data privacy frameworks (GDPR/APPI), and digital consumer protection laws.

The following analysis dissects the legal structures available for market entry, weighing the operational agility of modern corporate forms against the traditional credibility required to succeed in the Japanese educational sector.

### 1.2. Comparative Analysis of Business Structures

The choice of legal entity is the foundational decision that dictates liability exposure, tax treatment, and visa eligibility. For an educational business involving physical premises and the supervision of minors, minimizing personal liability is critical.

#### 1.2.1. Sole Proprietorship (***Kojin Jigyo***)

A Sole Proprietorship represents the simplest entry point into the Japanese market. It is characterized by the unity of the business and the individual; they are legally indistinguishable.

* **Registration Mechanics:** The process is purely notification-based. The founder submits a "Notification of Opening of Business" (*Kaigyo Todoke*) to the local tax office (Kofu Tax Office) within one month of commencing operations.1 There is no registration tax, no need for a company seal certification, and no public registry entry.
* **Operational Risk:** The primary disqualifier for "Ovi English School" is liability. In the event of a student injury on the physical premises or a significant data breach in the online subscription service, the owner’s personal assets—including savings, real estate, and future income—are fully seizable to satisfy damages. In the litigious context of child education, this risk is often considered prohibitive.2
* **Immigration Constraints:** Crucially, the "Business Manager" visa (*Keiei-Kanri*) generally requires a corporate entity to demonstrate the "continuity and stability" of the business. While theoretically possible for a sole proprietor to sponsor a visa, the burden of proof regarding business scale is significantly higher. Unless the founder already holds a status of residence allowing unrestricted work (e.g., Permanent Resident, Spouse of Japanese National), this structure is functionally unviable for visa sponsorship purposes.

#### 1.2.2. Kabushiki Kaisha (KK) - Joint Stock Company

The *Kabushiki Kaisha* is the gold standard of corporate credibility in Japan. Historically, it was the only option for serious businesses, and it retains a reputation of prestige among older generations, banks, and conservative landlords in regional cities like Kofu.

* **Governance:** The KK separates ownership (shareholders) from management (directors). For a small school, the founder can hold both roles. However, strict statutory requirements exist regarding shareholder meetings and the publication of financial results.3
* **Cost Structure:** Establishing a KK is capital-intensive. The statutory registration tax is a minimum of ¥150,000. Additionally, the Articles of Incorporation (*Teikan*) must be notarized by a notary public, costing approximately ¥50,000. When professional fees for a judicial scrivener are added, the total setup cost typically exceeds ¥250,000 (approx. $1,700 USD).4
* **Strategic Advantage:** In the educational sector, trust is the primary currency. Parents entrusting their children to a school are more likely to perceive a "Kabushiki Kaisha" as a permanent, reliable institution compared to other forms.

#### 1.2.3. Godo Kaisha (GK) - Limited Liability Company

Modeled after the American LLC and introduced in the Companies Act of 2006, the *Godo Kaisha* provides limited liability with a simplified governance structure.

* **Governance:** The GK unifies ownership and management; investors are termed "members" (*shain*) and are inherently managers unless specified otherwise. This allows for rapid decision-making and eliminates the need for annual shareholder meetings or public financial disclosure.6
* **Cost Efficiency:** The registration tax is significantly lower at ¥60,000. Furthermore, there is no requirement for notarization of the Articles of Incorporation, saving an additional ¥50,000. The total setup cost is often under ¥100,000.3
* **Flexibility in Profit Distribution:** Unlike a KK, where dividends must be proportional to shareholding, a GK allows for profit distribution to be determined by the Articles of Incorporation. This is highly advantageous if Ovi English School has partners where one contributes capital (money) and the other contributes "sweat equity" (teaching/curriculum design); they can agree to a 50/50 profit split despite disparate financial contributions.6

#### 1.2.4. Recommendation for Ovi English School

**The Godo Kaisha (GK)** is the recommended structure for the initial phase of Ovi English School.

* **Reasoning:** The liability protection is identical to a KK. The lower setup cost preserves capital for marketing and facility setup. The "credibility gap" between KK and GK has narrowed significantly, with major foreign subsidiaries (e.g., Amazon Japan G.K.) normalizing the structure. For a local English school, the quality of instruction and safety record will ultimately drive enrollment more than the corporate suffix. Furthermore, a GK satisfies the corporate entity requirement for the Business Manager Visa (provided capital thresholds are met).

### 1.3. Registration Process in Yamanashi Prefecture

The registration of a corporate entity is a formal legal procedure conducted at the Legal Affairs Bureau. For Kofu City, the competent authority is the **Kofu District Legal Affairs Bureau**.

**Step-by-Step Registration Checklist:**

1. **Trade Name Reservation & Search:**
   * Conduct a search at the Legal Affairs Bureau to ensuring "Ovi English School" (or its Japanese katakana equivalent) is not already registered at the same address.
   * Ensure the name does not contain prohibited characters.
2. **Drafting Articles of Incorporation (*Teikan*):**
   * Define the "Business Purposes" (*Mokuteki*). This must be comprehensive to cover future activities. Recommended clauses: "Operation of foreign language schools," "Production and sale of digital educational content," "Translation and interpretation services," and "Educational consulting."
   * **Electronic Articles:** If possible, create Electronic Articles of Incorporation to avoid the ¥40,000 stamp duty required for paper articles.5 This usually requires a Judicial Scrivener with specific software.
3. **Corporate Seal Creation (*Inkan*):**
   * You must commission three seals: The Representative Seal (*Jitsuin* - registered with the government), the Bank Seal (*Ginkoin* - for banking), and the Square Seal (*Kakuin* - for invoices/receipts).
4. **Capital Deposit:**
   * Transfer the initial capital (e.g., 5 million JPY or 30 million JPY depending on visa needs) to a personal bank account in Japan. Copies of the passbook showing the deposit are required as proof. *Note: You cannot open a corporate account until registration is complete, so a personal account is used for this step.*.5
5. **Application Submission:**
   * Submit the "Application for Registration of Incorporation" (*Setsuritsu Toki Shinseisho*) to the Kofu District Legal Affairs Bureau.
   * Attach: Articles of Incorporation, Proof of Capital, Seal Registration Certificate of the founder, and the Corporate Seal Registration form.
   * Pay Registration Tax (Revenue Stamps).
6. **Post-Registration:**
   * **Registry Certificate:** About 1-2 weeks later, obtain the "Certificate of Registered Matters" (*Tokibo Tohon*) and the "Card for Seal Certification."
   * **Tax Notification:** File "Notification of Incorporation" with the Kofu Tax Office, Yamanashi Prefectural Tax Office, and Kofu City Hall Tax Division.1

| **Action Item** | **Agency/Location** | **Timeline** | **Cost (GK)** | **Cost (KK)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name Search | Kofu Legal Affairs Bureau | Day 1 | ¥0 | ¥0 |
| Seal Carving | Seal Shop / Online | Day 2-5 | ~¥15,000 | ~¥15,000 |
| Articles of Inc. | Self / Scrivener | Day 5-10 | ¥0 (if electronic) | ~¥50,000 (Notary) |
| Capital Deposit | Bank | Day 11 | N/A | N/A |
| Registration | Legal Affairs Bureau | Day 12 | ¥60,000 (Tax) | ¥150,000 (Tax) |
| **Total Time** |  | **~2-3 Weeks** |  |  |

### 1.4. Physical Office Requirements

A physical office is **mandatory** for both the corporate registration (in practice, though some residential leases prohibit it) and strictly for the Business Manager Visa.

* **Virtual Offices:** Generally **unacceptable** for the Business Manager Visa or opening corporate bank accounts. The Immigration Bureau requires a space dedicated to the business, distinct from living quarters.9
* **Home Office:** Using a portion of a private residence is permissible *only if* there is a clear separation (e.g., a separate entrance or a dedicated room) and the landlord explicitly permits commercial use and corporate registration. For a school expecting children (foot traffic), a commercial tenant lease is strongly advised to satisfy both immigration and neighborhood relations.9

## 2. Education Business Regulations and Compliance

### 2.1. Regulatory Classification: "School" vs. "Private Business"

In Japan, the term "school" (*Gakko*) is legally reserved for institutions accredited under Article 1 of the School Education Act (e.g., K-12 schools, universities). Ovi English School falls under the category of **Private Tutoring/Language School** (*Gakushu Juku* / *Eikaiwa*).

* **Licensing:** There is **no requirement** for a license from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to operate a private English school.11
* **Teacher Qualifications:** Unlike Article 1 schools, teachers at Ovi English School do not legally require a Japanese teaching license (*Kyoin Menkyo*). However, ensuring instructors have relevant visas (Specialist in Humanities) and qualifications (TESOL/CELTA) is standard for quality assurance.11

### 2.2. Consumer Protection: Specified Commercial Transactions Act

The **Specified Commercial Transactions Act** (*Tokutei Sho-torihiki Ho*) is the primary regulation governing contracts in the private education sector. It applies specifically to "Specified Continuous Service Offers" (*Tokutei Keizoku-teki Ekimu Teikyo*).

* **Trigger Conditions:** The Act applies if the contract meets **both** criteria:
  1. The service duration exceeds **two months**.
  2. The total payment exceeds **50,000 JPY**.
* **Mandatory Compliance Measures:**
  + **Pre-Contract Disclosure:** You must provide a document outlining the service contents, price, and payment timing *before* the contract is signed.13
  + **Cooling-Off Period:** Consumers have the right to cancel the contract unilaterally and unconditionally within **8 days** of receiving the contract document. The school must refund all monies paid and cannot claim damages.13
  + **Mid-Term Cancellation:** After the cooling-off period, consumers can still cancel. The Act limits the penalties the school can charge:
    - *Before services start:* Max penalty of 15,000 JPY.
    - *After services start:* Cost of services already rendered + Max penalty of 50,000 JPY or 20% of the remaining contract balance (whichever is lower).15

**Strategic Implication:** To reduce administrative burden, Ovi English School could structure payments as a "Monthly Membership" (Month-to-Month) rather than long-term "1-Year Course Contracts." This may exempt the business from some of the stricter documentation requirements if the commitment does not legally bind the student for >2 months, though legal counsel is advised as "automatic renewal" can sometimes be interpreted as continuous.13

### 2.3. Facility Safety and Fire Codes

Operating a facility where "unspecified numbers of people" (students) enter triggers strict obligations under the **Fire Service Act**.

* **Fire Prevention Manager (*Boka Kanrisha*):** If the capacity of the facility (including students, teachers, and staff) is **30 people or more**, you must appoint a qualified Fire Prevention Manager. This person must attend a 1-2 day training course organized by the Japan Fire Protection Association.16
* **Notification:** A "Notification of Fire Prevention Property Usage" must be submitted to the Kofu Fire Department *before* use begins.
* **Equipment:**
  + **Fire Extinguishers:** Mandatory for almost all floor areas.
  + **Emergency Lighting & Exit Signs:** Required to ensure safe evacuation.
  + **Curtains/Carpets:** In facilities used by unspecified people (like schools), all curtains, carpets, and rugs must be **Flame Retardant** (*Bo-en*) and bear a certification label. This is a common point of failure during inspections.16

### 2.4. Neighborhood Relations and Notification

While there is no formal "neighborhood notification" law for Eikaiwas (unlike construction projects), informal notification is culturally mandatory in Japan.

* **Noise Control:** English schools involving children can be noisy. Yamanashi Prefecture ordinances may have specific noise limits. It is advisable to visit immediate neighbors (especially if in a mixed residential building) with a small gift (*Temiyage*) to introduce the business and provide contact details for complaints. This preemptive diplomacy can prevent police noise complaints later.19

## 3. Immigration Strategy: The 2025/2026 Paradigm Shift

For a foreign entrepreneur, securing a visa is often the most challenging hurdle. As of October 2025, the **Business Manager Visa** (*Keiei-Kanri*) requirements have been drastically tightened to prevent the establishment of shell companies.

### 3.1. The New Business Manager Visa Standards (Oct 2025)

The previous requirement of "5 million JPY capital OR 2 full-time employees" has been superseded by much stricter criteria designed to ensure "quality over quantity."

* **Capital Requirement:** The minimum paid-in capital has been raised to **30 Million JPY** (approx. $200,000 USD). This is a six-fold increase.20
* **Employment Requirement:** It is now **mandatory** to hire at least **one full-time employee** who is a Japanese national, Permanent Resident, or Spouse visa holder. This is no longer an alternative to capital; it is an additional requirement.21
* **Business Plan Verification:** The business plan must now be verified by a certified SME management consultant or similar expert to prove feasibility.22
* **Office Standard:** The "physical office" rule is strictly enforced. Shared offices without private lockable rooms are often rejected. Home offices are banned unless completely segregated with a separate entrance.9

**Implication for Ovi English School:** If the founder does not have access to 30 million JPY and cannot hire a full-time local staff member immediately, the standard Business Manager Visa route is blocked.

### 3.2. Strategic Alternatives: The "Startup Visa"

Yamanashi Prefecture, actively seeking to combat depopulation and foster innovation, may offer a lifeline through the **Startup Visa** (officially the "Projects for Encouraging Foreign Entrepreneurs to Start Business").

* **Mechanism:** This allows entrepreneurs to receive a 6-month or 1-year "Designated Activities" visa to prepare for business launch *without* meeting the full capital/office requirements upfront. The goal is to use this time to raise the capital or build the business to a point where it qualifies for the full visa.23
* **Application:** The application is submitted to the local municipal government (e.g., Yamanashi Prefecture or Kofu City) rather than Immigration directly. The municipality reviews the business plan. If approved, they issue a recommendation letter, which Immigration uses to grant the visa.23
* **Status in Yamanashi:** The report snippets indicate Yamanashi has "Fundraising Support Projects" and is selecting startups for investment.24 Engaging with the **Yamanashi Prefecture Industrial Policy Department** is the critical first step to determine if Ovi English School qualifies as a "startup" under their definition (usually requiring some innovation, potentially the "Global Online Subscription" aspect).24

### 3.3. Spouse / Permanent Resident Status

If the founder holds a Spouse of Japanese National, Long-Term Resident, or Permanent Resident visa, they are **exempt** from all the above capital and employment restrictions. They can start the business as a Sole Proprietorship or a GK with 1 JPY capital.25

## 4. Tax Obligations and Financial Infrastructure

### 4.1. Corporate Taxation

* **Effective Tax Rate:** A small SME in Yamanashi (capital < 100M JPY) will face an effective corporate tax rate of approximately **25-34%** on profits.
  + *National Corporate Tax:* ~15% on the first 8M JPY of income, ~23.2% on excess.
  + *Local Corporate Tax:* Levied by Yamanashi Prefecture and Kofu City.
  + *Corporate Inhabitant Tax:* A fixed per-capita levy (approx. ¥70,000/year) must be paid even if the company makes a loss.1

### 4.2. Consumption Tax (JCT) and the Invoice System

The Japanese Consumption Tax (10%) system is currently in a transitional phase regarding the **Qualified Invoice System** (introduced Oct 2023).

* **Base Rule:** Businesses with taxable sales of **10 million JPY or less** in the "Base Period" (two years prior) are exempt from collecting/paying JCT.
* **The Invoice Trap:** If Ovi English School sells to **corporate clients** (B2B), those clients will require a "Qualified Invoice" to claim their own tax deductions. To issue this invoice, Ovi **must register** as a Qualified Invoice Issuer.
  + *Consequence:* Registration compels Ovi to become a taxable entity, meaning it must collect and pay JCT even if sales are under 10 million JPY.26
  + *Transitional Measure:* For small businesses converting to taxable status, there is a "20% special provision" (tax liability is capped at 20% of sales tax collected) for a limited time to ease the burden.26
* **Recommendation:** If the primary customer base is children/consumers (B2C), they do not need Qualified Invoices. Ovi can remain a tax-exempt entity (if sales < 10M) to retain the 10% JCT margin. However, this bars Ovi from B2B contracts with major firms.

### 4.3. International Taxation on Digital Services

The "Online Subscription" component introduces cross-border tax complexities.

* **Export Exemption:** Sales of digital services to **non-residents** (customers outside Japan) are classified as "Export Transactions."
  + **Rate:** **0% (Tax Exempt).**
  + **Benefit:** If Ovi becomes a taxable JCT entity, it can offset the JCT paid on expenses (rent, computers) against the 0% JCT collected on exports. Since JCT paid > JCT collected, Ovi would receive a **Consumption Tax Refund** from the government. This is a significant cash-flow advantage for export-heavy businesses.28
* **Proof:** Ovi must retain evidence of the customer's non-resident status (e.g., IP address logs, foreign billing addresses) to claim this exemption during a tax audit.28

### 4.4. Blue Tax Return (***Aoiro Shinkoku***)

Filing a "Blue Return" is essential for tax efficiency.

* **Benefits:**
  + **Loss Carryover:** Losses can be carried forward for **10 years** to offset future profits.30
  + **Special Depreciation:** Immediate expensing of assets up to 300,000 JPY (vs. standard depreciation).
* **Requirement:** An application for Approval of Filing Blue Return must be submitted to the tax office within **3 months** of establishment (or by the end of the first fiscal year, whichever is earlier).30

## 5. Employment Law and Human Resources

### 5.1. Social Insurance (***Shakai Hoken***)

Japan's Social Insurance system (Health Insurance + Employees' Pension) is mandatory for all corporate entities (KK/GK), regardless of size.

* **Coverage:** The Representative Director and all full-time employees must be enrolled.31
* **The "Part-Time" Thresholds:** As of recent reforms (2022/2024), part-time staff (e.g., teachers) must be enrolled if they meet specific criteria, often called the "106,000 Yen Wall" or "20-hour rule":
  + Working **20+ hours/week**.
  + Monthly wage **>88,000 JPY**.
  + Expected employment **>2 months**.
  + Students are generally exempt.32
* **Cost:** The premium is approx. **30% of salary**, split 50/50 between employer and employee. This is a massive overhead (15% add-on to labor costs) that must be budgeted for.

### 5.2. Hiring Foreign Teachers & Visas

* **Visa Category:** Teachers at private Eikaiwas fall under the **"Specialist in Humanities / International Services"** visa (*Gijutsu-Jinbun-Chishiki-Kokusai-Gyomu*), NOT the "Instructor" (*Kyoiku*) visa (which is for Board of Education schools).34
* **Sponsorship Requirements:**
  + **Academic:** The teacher must hold a Bachelor's degree (in any field) or have 3+ years of relevant experience.
  + **Corporate:** Ovi English School must provide financial statements (or a business plan for new companies) proving it can pay a sustainable salary. The implicit minimum salary to pass immigration scrutiny is roughly **200,000 - 250,000 JPY/month**.35

### 5.3. Employment Contracts vs. Independent Contractors

Many schools attempt to hire teachers as "Independent Contractors" (*Gyomu Itaku*) to avoid Social Insurance costs.

* **Risk:** The Labor Standards Inspection Office applies a "substance over form" test. If Ovi sets the lesson time, provides the curriculum, and directs the work, the teacher is legally an **Employee** (*Rodosha*), regardless of the contract title. Misclassification can lead to retroactive insurance billings.
* **Recommendation:** Use proper Employment Contracts (*Koyo Keiyaku*) for core teaching staff to ensure compliance and retention.

## 6. Insurance and Risk Management

### 6.1. Liability and Accident Insurance

Operating a school involves inherent physical risks.

* **General Liability Insurance (*Baisho Sekinin Hoken*):** Covers injury to third parties (students/parents) or property damage within the school (e.g., a bookshelf falling on a child, a student slipping on a wet floor).
* **Juku Insurance (*Juku Anshin* / *Juku Hoken*):** Specialized policies designed for cram schools. They often cover injuries to students during class AND during their commute to/from the school.
  + **Providers:** Major insurers like **Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance**, **Sompo Japan**, and **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance** offer specific SME packages for educational businesses.36
* **Procedure:** If a child is injured, immediate medical attention is priority. The insurance claim requires a doctor's medical certificate (*Shindansho*) and an accident report from the school.

### 6.2. Cyber Liability Insurance

Given the "Online Subscription" component involving global customer data (credit cards, names, emails), **Cyber Liability Insurance** is critical. It covers costs related to data breach notifications, forensic investigations, and legal defense under GDPR/APPI.6

## 7. Online Business: Digital Compliance

### 7.1. Specified Commercial Transactions Act (Web Requirements)

For the online subscription service, the website must have a dedicated legal page (*Tokusho-ho* Page) displaying:

1. **Distributor Name:** Ovi English School (Corporate Name).
2. **Representative:** Full name of the Director.
3. **Address:** The Kofu head office address.
4. **Contact:** Phone number and Email address.
5. **Price:** Service costs (with tax clearly indicated).
6. **Payment Methods:** Credit card, bank transfer, etc.
7. **Delivery Time:** Immediate access upon payment.
8. **Return/Cancellation Policy:** Explicit terms regarding subscription cancellation (e.g., "Cancel anytime, effective next billing cycle"). **Japan does not mandate a cooling-off period for online mail-order/digital sales** if the cancellation policy is clearly stated; if not stated, a default cooling-off period may apply.13

### 7.2. Data Privacy: GDPR vs. APPI

* **APPI (Japan):** The Act on the Protection of Personal Information requires Ovi to state the "Purpose of Use" for data, keep it secure, and not provide it to third parties without consent.
* **GDPR (Europe):** If Ovi accepts subscribers from the EU, it must comply with GDPR. This is significantly stricter.
  + *Consent:* Checkboxes must not be pre-ticked.
  + *Right to be Forgotten:* Users must be able to delete their account and data permanently.
  + *Data Transfer:* Transferring data from the EU to Japan is generally permitted under the EU-Japan adequacy decision, but specific strictures apply.6

## 8. Practical First Steps & Operational Roadmap

### 8.1. Banking in Yamanashi

Opening a corporate bank account is a major bottleneck for foreign-led startups. Banks are mandated to perform strict Anti-Money Laundering (AML) checks.

* **Yamanashi Chuo Bank:** The dominant regional bank. Essential for credibility with Kofu landlords and local parents.
  + *Strategy:* Apply **in person** at the branch nearest your office. Bring the Business Plan, Articles of Incorporation, and Lease Agreement. Wearing a suit and having a Japanese speaker present is highly recommended.39
* **Net Banks (SBI Sumishin, Rakuten):** Easier application process (online), faster approval, and lower fees. Recommended as a primary operational account for the online business.40
  + *Documents:* Corporate Registry (*Tokibo*), ID of Rep Director, Corporate Seal Certificate.

### 8.2. Finding Professional Support

* **Tax Accountant (*Zeirishi*):** Mandatory for filing the Blue Return and managing Consumption Tax refunds. Look for one in Kofu with experience in *IT/Digital* businesses, as traditional accountants may struggle with "Export Exemptions" for digital subscriptions.
* **Judicial Scrivener (*Shiho-shoshi*):** Hire one for the initial incorporation to ensure the Articles of Incorporation are error-free.
* **Lawyer (*Bengoshi*):** Generally not needed for setup unless there is a dispute. Standard contracts can be handled by the Scrivener or using templates vetted by the Zeirishi.

### 8.3. Timeline to Launch

| **Phase** | **Duration** | **Key Activities** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **I. Preparation** | Weeks 1-4 | Finalize Business Plan, Secure Capital (30M JPY or Startup Visa path), Find Office in Kofu. |
| **II. Incorporation** | Weeks 5-7 | Articles of Incorporation, Seal Creation, Legal Affairs Bureau Registration. |
| **III. Post-Reg** | Weeks 8-12 | Open Bank Account, File Tax/Labor Notifications, Apply for Invoice System (if B2B). |
| **IV. Compliance** | Weeks 13-14 | Fire Dept Inspection, Website Legal Pages Setup, Insurance Enrollment. |
| **V. Launch** | Week 15+ | Marketing, Student Enrollment, First Lessons. |

### 8.4. Cost Breakdown (Estimated)

| **Item** | **Estimated Cost (GK)** | **Estimated Cost (KK)** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Registration Tax** | ¥60,000 | ¥150,000 | Paid to Govt. |
| **Notary Fee** | ¥0 | ~¥50,000 | For Articles of Inc. |
| **Stamp Duty** | ¥0 (Electronic) | ¥40,000 (Paper) | Electronic recommended. |
| **Prof. Fees** | ~¥50,000 | ~¥80,000 | Judicial Scrivener. |
| **Corporate Seals** | ~¥15,000 | ~¥15,000 | Set of 3 hand-carved. |
| **Bank Capital** | (Asset) | (Asset) | Min 30M JPY for Visa. |
| **Total Sunk Cost** | **~¥125,000** | **~¥335,000** | Excluding Capital. |

## 9. Conclusion

Establishing Ovi English School in Yamanashi is a viable venture that aligns with Japan's demand for English education and the regional push for revitalization. However, the path is paved with strict regulatory checkpoints.

The **immediate critical path** involves navigating the October 2025 Business Manager Visa reforms. The increase to a 30 million JPY capital requirement fundamentally alters the entry strategy for foreign entrepreneurs, making the **Yamanashi Startup Visa** or partnership with a Japanese national not just an option, but a strategic necessity.

Operationally, the business must master a dual-compliance mode: **hyper-local compliance** (Fire codes, Safety, Neighborhood relations) for the physical school, and **global digital compliance** (GDPR, Export Tax Exemption) for the online subscription service. Success lies not just in teaching English, but in building a resilient corporate infrastructure that satisfies the rigorous standards of Japanese law.

### Summary of Requirements Checklist

* [ ] **Entity:** Godo Kaisha (GK) registered in Kofu.
* [ ] **Visa:** 30M JPY Capital verified OR Yamanashi Startup Visa approval.
* [ ] **Office:** Physical commercial lease (no home office).
* [ ] **Tax:** Notification of Opening Business + Blue Return Application (within 3 mos).
* [ ] **Safety:** Fire Prevention Manager appointed + Fire Dept Notification.
* [ ] **Online:** *Tokusho-ho* page created + Privacy Policy (GDPR compliant).
* [ ] **Insurance:** Liability Insurance (Facility) + Cyber Insurance enrolled.

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