Job Search Guide for Claude Desktop

Realistic job search strategy for software engineering positions in Japan based on portfolio project

Status: Fresh graduate / Career starter with strong portfolio **Target Market**: Japan (Tokyo) **Last Updated**: January 2026

Quick Start Prompt (Recommended)

Copy and paste this into Claude Desktop with MCP Indeed integration:

```
 Search Indeed Japan for junior to mid-level software engineer

CANDIDATE PROFILE:
- Status: Fresh graduate / Career starter with production port
- Portfolio: Shift scheduling system using Google OR-Tools CP-
- GitHub: https://github.com/theshidiq/SSM-or-tools

TECHNICAL SKILLS:
- Frontend: React 18, JavaScript/ES6+, Tailwind CSS
- Backend: Go 1.21+ (WebSocket, concurrency), Python 3.11+ (OR
- Database: PostgreSQL (Supabase), SQL
- Infrastructure: Docker, NGINX, Load Balancing
- Optimization: Google OR-Tools CP-SAT, Constraint Programming

PORTFOLIO ACHIEVEMENTS (Demonstrated):
- Built production shift scheduling system (94% time reduction
- Hybrid architecture supporting 1000+ concurrent users
- Real-time WebSocket communication (<50ms latency)
- Mathematical optimization with 10+ hard/soft constraints
- Bilingual Japanese/English application
```

- Comprehensive documentation and testing

TARGET POSITIONS:
1. Junior Software Engineer / Associate Engineer
2. Software Engineer (entry to mid-level)
3. Backend Engineer (Go/Python focus)
4. Full Stack Engineer (React + Backend)
5. Optimization Engineer / OR Engineer (niche opportunity)

POSITION LEVEL:
- Junior / Entry-level (0-2 years) - PRIMARY TARGET
- Mid-level (2-4 years) - IF portfolio demonstrates equivalent
- Graduate Engineer positions (新卒 or ポテンシャル採用)

LOCATION:
- Tokyo (primary)
- Remote positions from Japanese companies
- Open to: Osaka, Yokohama, Fukuoka

SALARY EXPECTATIONS (Realistic):
- Minimum: ¥4,000,000/year (fresh grad baseline)
- Target: ¥4,500,000 - ¥6,000,000/year (with portfolio premium
- Maximum: ¥6,500,000/year (mid-level equivalent)
- Note: Portfolio quality may justify 10-30% above fresh grad

COMPANY PREFERENCES:
1. Tech Startups (Series A-C) - MORE FLEXIBLE with experience
2. Mid-size product companies (50-500 employees)
3. Companies with optimization/scheduling problems (logistics,
4. International/English-friendly teams
5. Modern tech stack (React, Go, Python, Docker)

REQUIREMENTS:
MUST HAVE:
- Visa sponsorship available (or open to foreign workers)
- English-speaking environment OR Japanese language support
- Product development (NOT SES/派遣/outsourcing/consulting)
- Growth opportunities and mentorship

NICE TO HAVE:
- Remote work options
- Flexible working hours
- Stock options / Equity
- Technical training programs
- English as working language

KEYWORDS TO SEARCH:
English:
- "Junior Software Engineer" React OR Go OR Python
- "Software Engineer" React Go Python 新卒
- "Backend Engineer" Go Python Junior
- "Optimization Engineer" OR "Operations Research"
- "Graduate Engineer" OR "Associate Engineer"
- "Full Stack Developer" React

Japanese:
- ソフトウェアエンジニア React Go Python
- ジュニアエンジニア OR 若手エンジニア
- バックエンドエンジニア Go Python
- 最適化エンジニア OR オペレーションズリサーチ
- 新卒 OR ポテンシャル採用 エンジニア
- フルスタックエンジニア

FILTER CRITERIA:
- Posted within last 60 days
- Full-time positions only
- Experience required: 0-3 years (or "experience not required"
- Visa sponsorship available
- NOT: SES, 派遣, outsourcing, consulting firms

PROVIDE FOR EACH RESULT:
- Company name and brief description
- Position title and level
- Required experience (years)
- Technical stack match (%)
- Salary range (if available)

```
- Location and remote options
- Visa sponsorship status
- Application deadline
- Direct application link

PRIORITIZE:
1. Startups that value portfolio over credentials
2. Companies using React + Go/Python stack
3. Companies with optimization/scheduling problems (where OR-T
4. Positions explicitly open to fresh graduates with strong po
5. English-friendly international companies

Please find top 15-20 most relevant positions, sorted by:
1. Best match for portfolio skills
2. Realistic entry barrier
3. Growth potential
```

Reality Check: Position Level Assessment

What This Portfolio Demonstrates

✅ **PROVEN (Portfolio Evidence):**

- Production-ready coding skills (React, Go, Python)

- System architecture design (hybrid 4-layer architecture)

- Mathematical optimization implementation (OR-Tools CP-SAT)

- Real-time systems (WebSocket, <50ms latency)

- Scalability thinking (1000+ concurrent users)

- Testing and documentation (comprehensive)

- Bilingual development (Japanese/English)

- Research methodology (academic rigor)

❌ **NOT DEMONSTRATED (Need Work Experience):**

- Team collaboration in professional setting

- Code review and peer programming

- Working with existing large codebases

- Agile/Scrum workflows

- Production incident handling

- Stakeholder communication

- Cross-functional team coordination

Realistic Position Fit

Position Level	Fit Assessment	Explanation
Junior Engineer	✅ EXCELLENT FIT	Portfolio demonstrates beyond-fresh-grad skills. Strong candidate.
Software Engineer (no level)	✅ GOOD FIT	Portfolio shows production readiness. Competitive candidate.
Mid-level (2-3 years)	🟡 POSSIBLE	At startups or companies valuing portfolio. Need to prove in interviews.
Senior Engineer	❌ NOT REALISTIC	Requires team leadership and professional track record.
Tech Lead	❌ NOT REALISTIC	Requires management experience and proven delivery.

Salary Expectations (Realistic)

Japan Market Reality

Fresh Graduate Baseline (2024-2026):

- Large Japanese companies: ¥3,000,000 – ¥4,000,000

- Foreign companies in Japan: ¥4,000,000 – ¥5,000,000

- Tech startups: ¥4,000,000 – ¥5,500,000

Portfolio Premium (+10-30%):

- Your portfolio justifies: +¥500,000 – ¥1,500,000 above baseline

- Realistic range: **¥4,500,000 - ¥6,000,000/year**

Salary Breakdown by Company Type

Company Type	Base Range	With Portfolio	Why
Large Corp (NTT, Hitachi)	¥3M – ¥4M	¥3.5M – ¥4.5M	Structured pay scales, less flexibility
Foreign Tech (Google JP, Amazon)	¥4M – ¥5M	¥4.5M – ¥6M	Value demonstrated skills
Startup (Series A-C)	¥4M – ¥5.5M	¥5M – ¥6.5M	Flexible, may include equity
Mid-size Product Co	¥3.5M – ¥4.5M	¥4M – ¥5.5M	Balance of structure and flexibility

Negotiation Strategy

DO:

- Emphasize OR-Tools expertise (niche skill, high value)

- Highlight production-ready nature of portfolio

- Mention 94% improvement metric (quantifiable impact)

- Show willingness to learn and grow

DON'T:

- Claim "senior-level" based on portfolio alone

- Compare yourself to candidates with 3-5 years experience

- Demand ¥8M+ without professional track record

- Ignore market rates for fresh graduates

Career Path Strategy (3-Year Plan)

Year 0-1: Foundation Building

Target Position: Junior/Associate Engineer **Salary**: ¥4.5M - ¥6M **Focus**:

- Join startup or mid-size company

- Prove portfolio skills in production environment

- Learn team collaboration and professional practices

- Build references and network

Best Companies:

- Startups (Series A-C) with growth trajectory

- Companies with optimization/scheduling problems

- International teams (easier visa, English OK)

Year 2-3: Growth & Specialization

Target Position: Mid-level Engineer **Salary**: ¥6M - ¥8M **Focus**:

- Specialize in optimization or real-time systems

- Take on more responsibility (features, not just tasks)

- Mentor junior engineers

- Contribute to architecture decisions

Potential Companies:

- Larger startups (Series C-D)

- Mid-size product companies

- Tech divisions of traditional companies

Year 4+: Senior Track

Target Position: Senior Engineer / Tech Lead **Salary**: ¥8M - ¥12M **Focus**:

- Technical leadership
- System architecture ownership
- FAANG possible with proven track record

Achievable Companies:

- FAANG (Google, Amazon, Meta)
- Unicorns (Mercari, SmartNews)
- Leading product companies

Portfolio Competitive Advantages

Unique Differentiators

1. OR-Tools / Constraint Programming Expertise

- **Rarity**: <5% of software engineers have this skill
- **Value**: High for logistics, scheduling, resource allocation companies
- **Impact**: Can solve problems others can't

Companies That Need This:

- Logistics: Rakuten, Amazon JP, Yamato
- Hospitality: Booking sites, hotel tech
- Manufacturing: Toyota, Panasonic (optimization divisions)
- Finance: Trading firms (portfolio optimization)

2. Production-Ready Portfolio

- **Not a toy project**: Real metrics (94% improvement, 1000+ users)

- **Full stack**: Frontend + Backend + Infrastructure

- **Documentation**: Professional-grade (README, ARCHITECTURE)

3. Research Methodology

- **Design Science Research**: Shows academic rigor

- **Thesis-quality**: Trilingual documentation

- **Evaluation**: Quantitative + qualitative metrics

4. Bilingual Development

- **Japanese localization**: Demonstrates cultural awareness

- **English documentation**: International collaboration ready

How to Position Portfolio in Applications

Resume Bullet Points (Top 3):

1. **Impact First:**

   - "Developed shift scheduling system using Google OR-Tools CP-SAT, achieving 94% time reduction (4-8 hours → 13 minutes)"

2. **Technical Depth:**

   - "Implemented hybrid architecture with Go WebSocket server and Python optimizer, supporting 1000+ concurrent users with <50ms latency"

3. **Production Quality:**

   - "Built bilingual (Japanese/English) production application with comprehensive testing, Docker deployment, and complete documentation"

Cover Letter Framework:

```
Paragraph 1: Interest in company
- Why this specific company/role
- Alignment with their mission/tech stack
```

```
Paragraph 2: Portfolio as proof
- "While I am a fresh graduate, my portfolio demonstrates proc
- Highlight specific achievement relevant to their problem dom
- Quantify impact (94% improvement, 1000+ users, <50ms latency

Paragraph 3: Unique value
- OR-Tools expertise (if relevant)
- Quick learner (built full system independently)
- Growth mindset and willingness to learn

Paragraph 4: Call to action
- Enthusiastic about opportunity
- Available for technical interview
- Portfolio link: https://github.com/theshidiq/SSM-or-tools
```

Target Companies (Realistic)

Tier 1: Best Fit (High Probability)

Early-Stage Startups (Series A-B)

- **LogiNext** - Logistics optimization (OR-Tools relevant!)

- **Hacobell** - Hotel tech, scheduling (Direct domain match!)

- **SmartHR** - HR tech, scheduling features

- **Yappli** - App platform, needs full-stack

- **Eureka** - Dating app, optimization algorithms

Why Good Fit:

- Value portfolio over credentials

- Smaller teams = more responsibility faster

- Equity upside potential

- Less rigid hiring requirements

Expected Salary: ¥4.5M - ¥6M + equity

Tier 2: Solid Options (Good Probability)

Growth Startups (Series C-D)

- **Mercari** - E-commerce, Go stack
- **SmartNews** - News aggregation, optimization
- **Paidy** - Fintech, risk optimization
- **FreakOut** - Ad tech, real-time bidding
- **DeNA** - Gaming/tech, real-time systems

Why Good Fit:

- Still startup culture, more resources
- Growing teams, hiring actively
- Better benefits than early-stage
- Portfolio stands out among candidates

Expected Salary: ¥5M - ¥6.5M + benefits

Tier 3: Stretch Goals (Lower Probability, High Reward)

Established Tech Companies

- **Rakuten** - E-commerce giant (optimization teams)
- **LINE** - Messaging platform (Go, real-time)
- **CyberAgent** - Media/Ad tech
- **Preferred Networks** - Deep learning + optimization
- **PKSHA Technology** - AI solutions

Why Stretch:

- More competitive (many applicants)
- May require professional experience
- But: Portfolio quality may get you interview

Expected Salary: ¥5M - ¥7M

Tier 4: Long-term Goals (2-3 Years)

FAANG & Unicorns

- Google Japan, Amazon Japan, Microsoft
- Meta, Apple (limited roles)

Strategy:

- Build 2-3 years experience first
- Use portfolio as foundation
- Apply when you have professional track record

Expected Salary (after 2-3 years): ¥8M - ¥15M

Search Keywords (Optimized for Entry-Level)

Primary Keywords (English)

Position Titles:

- "Junior Software Engineer"
- "Associate Engineer"
- "Software Engineer" + "新卒" OR "ポテンシャル"
- "Graduate Engineer"
- "Entry Level Engineer"
- "Engineer I" OR "Engineer 1"

Technical Stack:

- React + "Junior" OR "Entry"
- Go + "Backend" + "Junior"
- Python + "Optimization" OR "OR-Tools"
- "Full Stack" + "React" + "Junior"

Domain:

- "Scheduling" OR "Optimization"

- "Real-time" + "WebSocket"

- "Logistics" OR "Operations Research"

Primary Keywords (Japanese)

Position Titles:

- ジュニアエンジニア

- 若手エンジニア

- 新卒エンジニア

- ポテンシャル採用

- エンジニア 未経験可 OR 経験不問

Technical Stack:

- ソフトウェアエンジニア React Go Python

- バックエンドエンジニア Go

- フルスタックエンジニア React

- 最適化エンジニア

Domain:

- スケジューリング OR 最適化

- リアルタイム WebSocket

- ロジスティクス OR オペレーションズリサーチ

Boolean Search Examples

```
("Junior Software Engineer" OR "Associate Engineer") AND (Rea

(ジュニアエンジニア OR 若手エンジニア) AND (React OR Go) AND 東京 AN

"Optimization Engineer" AND (OR-Tools OR "Operations Research"
```

```
最適化エンジニア AND (OR-Tools OR オペレーションズリサーチ) AND 日本
```

Application Timeline & Process

Realistic Timeline

Month 0-1: Preparation

- Polish resume (Japanese + English versions)

- Prepare portfolio presentation

- Practice technical interviews

- Research target companies

Month 1-2: Active Application

- Apply to 20-30 positions

- Expect response rate: 20-30% (6-9 responses)

- Focus on startups first (faster process)

Month 2-3: Interview Process

- First round: HR screen (30 min)

- Second round: Technical interview (1-2 hours)

    - Coding challenge (LeetCode medium level)

    - Portfolio deep-dive

    - System design discussion

- Third round: Culture fit (30-60 min)

Month 3-4: Offer & Negotiation

- Review offers (2-3 expected from 6-9 interviews)

- Negotiate (10-20% increase possible)

- Accept offer

Month 4-7: Visa Processing

- Company files COE (Certificate of Eligibility): 1-3 months

- Visa application: 1-2 weeks

- Entry to Japan: Plan relocation

Total Timeline: 4-7 months from application to start date

Interview Preparation

Technical Interview (Portfolio-focused):

Expected Questions:

1. "Walk me through your OR-Tools implementation"

   - Prepare 10-min explanation

   - Focus on constraint modeling decisions

   - Mention trade-offs (soft vs hard constraints)

2. "How did you handle 1000+ concurrent users?"

   - Explain WebSocket architecture

   - Discuss Go concurrency model

   - Mention load testing approach

3. "What was the biggest challenge?"

   - Technical: (e.g., "Implementing conflict resolution")

   - Learning: (e.g., "First time using Go")

   - Process: (e.g., "Balancing optimization vs deadline")

4. "How would you scale this to 10,000+ users?"

   - Discuss horizontal scaling

   - Database optimization

   - Caching strategies

Coding Challenge Prep:

- LeetCode: 50-100 problems (Easy to Medium)

- Focus: Arrays, Hash Tables, Trees, Graphs

- Go-specific: Concurrency, channels, goroutines

- Python-specific: List comprehensions, generators

System Design (Simple):

- Design a URL shortener

- Design a chat system

- Design a scheduling system (your domain!)

Visa Sponsorship Information

Work Visa Types

1. Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services

- **Most Common**: Standard work visa for engineers
- **Requirements**:

    - Bachelor's degree (any field)

    - Job offer from Japanese company

    - Company willing to sponsor

- **Duration**: 1, 3, or 5 years (renewable)
- **Processing**: 1-3 months

2. Highly Skilled Professional (HSP) Visa

- **Points-based**: Need 70+ points
- **Your Estimated Points**:

    - Age (20s): 15 points

    - Education (Bachelor's): 10 points

    - Salary (¥5M): 10 points

- Japanese ability (N2): 10 points

- Bonus (IT skills, portfolio): 5-10 points

- **Total**: ~50-60 points (below 70 threshold)

Current Situation: Standard work visa is realistic, HSP after 1-2 years with higher salary.

Portfolio Advantage for Visa

Immigration Officer Perspective:

- ✅ Technical skills demonstrated (not just claimed)

- ✅ Independent project completion

- ✅ Japanese language ability (localization work)

- ✅ Research background (academic rigor)

Approval Rate: High for software engineers with job offer and degree.

Follow-up Prompts for Claude Desktop

After receiving initial search results, use these prompts:

1. Analyze Match Quality

```
 For the top 10 positions from search results, analyze:
1. Technical skills match percentage (based on portfolio)
2. Realistic chance of getting interview (0-2 years experience
3. How OR-Tools portfolio gives competitive advantage for each
4. Required vs preferred qualifications gap
5. Companies most likely to value portfolio over credentials
```

2. Company Research

```
 For [Company Name], research:
1. Engineering culture and tech stack
```

```
2. Recent funding or growth news
3. Employee reviews on OpenWork or Glassdoor
4. Visa sponsorship track record
5. Typical career progression for engineers
6. Interview process and difficulty
```

3. Application Customization

```
 For [Company Name] - [Position Title], help me:
1. Draft cover letter highlighting relevant portfolio achievem
2. Identify 3 specific portfolio features that match their nee
3. Suggest talking points for why I'm a good fit despite being
4. Recommend which parts of GitHub README to emphasize
5. Predict likely interview questions based on their tech stac
```

4. Salary Negotiation

```
 For this offer: [Position] at [Company] - ¥X,XXX,XXX:
1. Is this above/below market rate for fresh graduate + portfo
2. Calculate total compensation including benefits
3. Suggest negotiation strategy (realistic 10-20% increase)
4. Compare with other offers (if multiple)
5. Advise on equity/stock options if startup
```

5. Interview Preparation

```
 Prepare me for interview at [Company]:
1. Review their tech stack and suggest areas to study
2. Generate likely technical questions based on job descriptic
3. Create portfolio presentation outline (10 minutes)
4. Prepare answers to "Why our company?" based on research
5. List questions to ask interviewer about growth and mentorsh
```

Resume Highlights (Optimized for Entry-Level)

Professional Summary

Version 1 (Conservative):

```
 Fresh graduate software engineer with production-ready portfo
demonstrating full-stack development and mathematical optimiza
Built shift scheduling system using Google OR-Tools CP-SAT ach
time reduction. Seeking junior to mid-level position to apply
skills in React, Go, and Python in a growth-oriented team.
```

Version 2 (Confident):

```
 Software engineer with proven ability to build production-rea
Developed hybrid architecture shift scheduling application sup
concurrent users with <50ms latency. Specialized in mathematic
(Google OR-Tools CP-SAT) and real-time systems. Portfolio demo
skills typically seen in mid-level engineers.
```

Skills Section

Technical Skills:

```
 Languages: JavaScript (ES6+), Go, Python, SQL
Frontend: React 18, Tailwind CSS, React Query, React Hook Form
Backend: Go (WebSocket, concurrency), Python (Flask, OR-Tools)
Optimization: Google OR-Tools CP-SAT, Constraint Programming
Database: PostgreSQL, Supabase (real-time)
Infrastructure: Docker, Docker Compose, NGINX, Load Balancing
Testing: Jest, React Testing Library, Pytest, Go testing
Tools: Git, GitHub, VS Code, Chrome DevTools
```

Soft Skills:

```
 - Self-directed learning (built full system independently)
- Problem-solving (mathematical optimization)
- Documentation (comprehensive technical writing)
- Bilingual development (Japanese/English)
- Research methodology (Design Science Research)
```

Projects Section

Shift Schedule Manager with OR-Tools | [GitHub](#) *React 18, Go, Python, OR-Tools, Docker, PostgreSQL* | Oct 2024 - Jan 2026

- Developed production-ready shift scheduling system reducing manual scheduling time by **94%** (4-8 hours → 13 minutes)

- Implemented **Google OR-Tools CP-SAT** constraint solver with 10+ hard/soft constraints achieving mathematically optimal solutions

- Built hybrid architecture with Go WebSocket server supporting **1000+ concurrent users** with **<50ms** UI response time

- Designed real-time collaboration system with 4 conflict resolution strategies and 99.95% uptime

- Created bilingual (Japanese/English) application with comprehensive testing and professional documentation

- Deployed production system with Docker, NGINX load balancing, and horizontal scaling (3 server replicas)

- **Technologies**: React 18, Go 1.21, Python 3.11, OR-Tools CP-SAT, WebSocket, PostgreSQL, Docker, NGINX

- **Impact**: Demonstrated mid-level engineering capabilities through quantifiable metrics and production deployment

Red Flags to Avoid

In Applications

❌ **DON'T:**

- Claim "5 years equivalent experience" based on portfolio

- List yourself as "Senior Engineer" on resume

- Demand senior-level salary without negotiation

- Apply only to senior positions

- Ignore entry-level opportunities

✅ **DO:**

- Be honest about being fresh graduate

- Emphasize portfolio as "demonstrating production-ready skills"

- Show eagerness to learn and grow

- Apply to mix of junior and mid-level positions

- Highlight unique OR-Tools expertise

In Interviews

❌ **DON'T:**

- Overstate your experience

- Compare yourself to 5-year engineers

- Dismiss need for mentorship

- Focus only on what you know

- Ignore team collaboration questions

✅ **DO:**

- Be confident about portfolio achievements

- Acknowledge areas for growth (team collaboration, large codebases)

- Show enthusiasm for learning

- Ask about mentorship and growth opportunities

- Demonstrate problem-solving approach, not just solutions

Success Metrics

Application Phase (Month 1-2)

Target Metrics:

- Applications sent: 20-30
- Response rate: 20-30% (6-9 companies)
- Interview invitations: 4-6 companies

If Below Target:

- Revise resume (emphasize portfolio more)
- Apply to more startups (less rigid requirements)
- Expand location search (not just Tokyo)
- Consider positions at 経験不問 companies

Interview Phase (Month 2-3)

Target Metrics:

- Technical interviews: 4-6
- Passing rate: 50-60% (2-3 companies to final round)
- Offers: 2-3

If Below Target:

- Practice more coding challenges
- Improve portfolio presentation
- Study company-specific tech stack
- Request feedback from interviewers

Offer Phase (Month 3-4)

Target Metrics:

- Offers received: 2-3
- Salary: ¥4.5M - ¥6M
- Best offer negotiated: +10-20% from initial

Minimum Acceptable Offer:

- Salary: ≥¥4.5M/year

- Visa sponsorship: Yes

- Growth opportunities: Clear path to mid-level

- Tech stack: Modern (React, Go, or Python)

- Company type: Product company (not SES)

Resources

Job Search Platforms

Major Platforms:

- **Indeed Japan**: https://jp.indeed.com/ (largest selection)

- **Wantedly**: https://www.wantedly.com/ (startup-focused)

- **Green**: https://www.green-japan.com/ (IT/tech-focused)

- **LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/ (international companies)

Startup-Specific:

- **forkwell**: https://forkwell.com/ (tech startup jobs)

- **Findy**: https://findy-code.io/ (GitHub profile-based matching)

- **Paiza**: https://paiza.jp/ (coding skill-based jobs)

Foreigner-Friendly:

- **TokyoDev**: https://www.tokyodev.com/

- **Japan Dev**: https://japan-dev.com/

- **Gaijinpot Jobs**: https://jobs.gaijinpot.com/

Salary Research

- **OpenWork**: https://www.vorkers.com/ (employee reviews + salary)

- **転職会議**: https://jobtalk.jp/ (company reviews)

- **Levels.fyi**: https://www.levels.fyi/ (tech company compensation)
- **Glassdoor Japan**: https://www.glassdoor.com/

Interview Preparation

Coding Practice:

- **LeetCode**: https://leetcode.com/ (start with Easy, then Medium)
- **AtCoder**: https://atcoder.jp/ (Japanese competitive programming)
- **HackerRank**: https://www.hackerrank.com/

System Design:

- **System Design Primer**: https://github.com/donnemartin/system-design-primer
- **Grokking System Design**: educative.io courses

Japanese Interview:

- 日本語での技術面接対策: Practice explaining portfolio in Japanese
- 敬語練習: Business Japanese practice

Visa Information

- **Japan Immigration**: https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/
- **HSP Points Calculator**: Immigration bureau website
- **Visa Application Guide**: Consult company HR or immigration lawyer

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Final Advice

Realistic Expectations

Timeline:

- Job search to offer: 3-4 months
- Visa processing: 1-3 months

- Total to start: 4-7 months

Success Rate:

- Applications → Interviews: 20-30%

- Interviews → Offers: 30-50%

- Overall: 6-15% (apply to 20-30 to get 2-3 offers)

Portfolio as Your Differentiator

What Makes You Stand Out:

1. **OR-Tools expertise** - Rare, valuable skill

2. **Production metrics** - Not a toy project

3. **Full-stack capability** - End-to-end ownership

4. **Research rigor** - Academic background

How to Leverage:

- Lead with portfolio in resume summary

- Prepare 5-min portfolio presentation

- Have GitHub README ready on tablet for in-person interviews

- Emphasize problem-solving approach, not just tech stack

Growth Mindset

First Job Priority:

- ✅ Company with good mentorship

- ✅ Modern tech stack

- ✅ Growth opportunities

- ✅ Visa stability

Less Important Initially:

- ❌ Highest salary (¥500K difference is ~¥40K/month, less important than learning)

- ❌ Brand name (startup experience often better for skill growth)
- ❌ Perfect tech stack match (transferable skills matter more)

Remember:

- First job is foundation, not destination
- 1-2 years → mid-level with portfolio + experience
- 3-4 years → senior roles and FAANG possible
- Portfolio gives you head start, not shortcut to senior roles

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Portfolio Reference: https://github.com/theshidiq/SSM-or-tools

Good luck with your job search!

Last Updated: January 2026 Version: 2.0 (Realistic Entry-Level Focus)