To those planning to apply for a change of residence status from "Student" to a work visa



Based on information from the Immigration Services Agency's website



If you want to start work from April 1, 2026, please apply by the end of January 2026!

* If your "Student" residence status expiration date is on or before January 31st, and you plan to continue your "Student" activities after that date, do **not** apply for a change of residence status during the above period. Instead, you will need to apply for an extension of period of stay for your "Student" residence status.

【Points to note regarding application】

Please check the types of residence status.

The residence status that applies to you will vary depending on the type of work you will be engaged in, your educational background, work history, etc. A list of residence statuses can be found on the Immigration Services Agency's website.
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/index.html

There is a **"Designated Activities" status of residence (Notification No. 46)** that allows graduates of Japanese universities to engage in a wide range of work at public or private institutions in Japan. Note that to be eligible for this residence status, you must utilize your academic achievements, as well as a high level of Japanese language proficiency gained through experience as an international student.
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/designatedactivities11.html

Check with your employer well in advance regarding the visa change application.

Your affiliated (contracting) organization will need to prepare the necessary documents and fill out the application form, so your employer's cooperation is required.

Check that you have all the necessary documents before applying.

If any documents are missing or if the Regional Immigration Bureau in charge requests additional confirmation during the application process, it may take longer than usual to get your result. You can check the required documents on the Immigration Services Agency's website.

When applying for a change of status to "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" or "Research," you may be able to omit some of the documents you submit if any of the following apply. Please see the link below for details.

① You have graduated (or will graduate) from a Japanese university (including graduate school and junior college)
② You have graduated from a prestigious university overseas
③ You are granted permission to change your residence status from "Student" to a work visa and will work at your current host institution

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/10_00240.html

Ask for help if there's anything you don't understand.

If you have any questions, please contact your nearest Regional Immigration Bureau or the Foreign Residents General Information Center.
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/about/region/index.html

