



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



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Credentials Evaluation Service

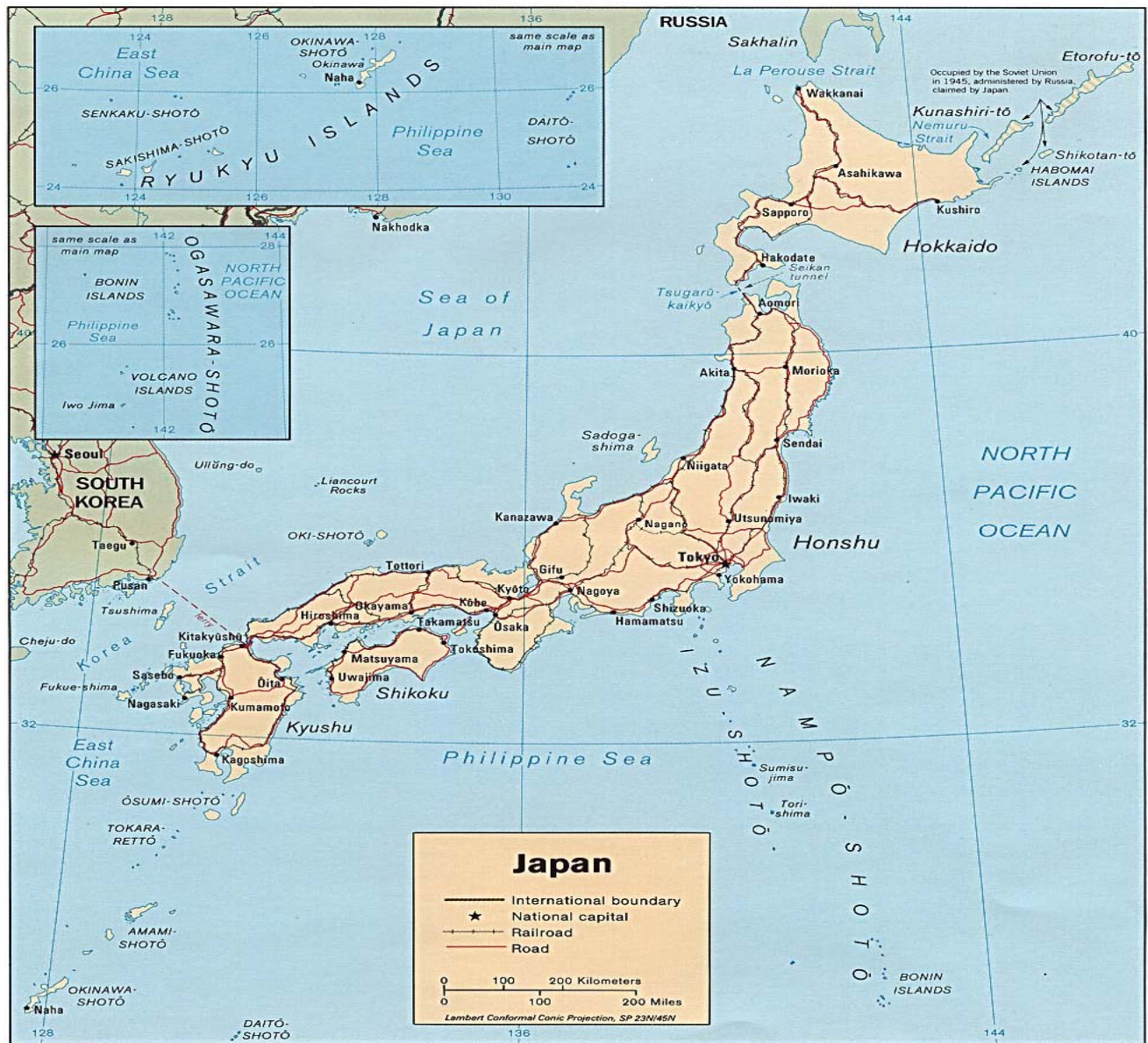
Junior, Vocational, & Technical Colleges in Japan

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Making sense of international credentials



http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/japan_pol96.jpg



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Introduction

- **Group of islands in North Pacific Ocean**
- **East of Korea**
- **Land area slightly smaller than California**
- **9 regions, 47 prefectures**
- **Constitutional monarchy**



Overview of Educational System

- **Academic calendar: April through March**
- **Medium of instruction: Japanese**
- **New system of education: 1946**
- **6+3+3 structure: primary, lower secondary and upper secondary**
- **Compulsory education: primary through lower secondary**



Grading Scale

Japan

A	80 - 100%	<i>Shu</i>	Superior
B	70 - 79%	<i>Yu</i>	Excellent
C	60 - 69%	<i>Ryo</i>	Good
F	0 - 59%	<i>Fuka</i>	Fail

United States

A = 4.00
B = 3.00
C = 2.00
F = 0.00



Higher Education

- MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
- University (*daigaku*)
- Bachelor's Degree (*gakushi*) – 4 yrs
- Master's Degree (*shushui*) – 2 yrs
- Doctorate Degree (*hakushi*) – 3 yrs



History of Junior/Community Colleges

- Introduced in 1901 with Joliet Junior College in IL
- Need for a more skilled workforce during 20th century
- Additional programs provided at high schools (teacher training)
- Joliet Junior College created out of Central HS in Joliet, IL
- Created to provide first two years of university education at institutions close to the community and at affordable costs
- Historically, well attended by women and led to many teacher preparation programs



Junior/Community Colleges in the U.S.

- 1 of 6 regional accrediting boards
- General (Academic) Education
e.g., Associate's degree (usually 2 years)
- Occupational Education
e.g., Certificate programs (usually 1 year)
- Developmental Education
e.g., non-credit courses, ESL, GED



Examples of Certificate Programs

- Accounting
- Business
- Aircraft Powerplant Maintenance Technology
- Construction Inspection
- Computer Information Systems – Java Programming
- Fire Technology
- Livestock Management
- Landscape and Park Maintenance



Two-Year Colleges in Japan

- *Tanki-Daigaku* (Junior College)
- *Koto Senmon Gakko* (College of Technology)
- *Senmon Gakko* (Professional Training College)



***Tanki-Daigaku* (Junior Colleges)**

- Under the Ministry of Education (MEXT)
- Entrance requirement: high school (12 yrs)
- Qualification: associate's degree (*jun-gaikushi*)
- Duration: 2 – 3 years
- Introduced in 1947 as a temporary measure
- Given full status in 1964
- Not as comprehensive in subject offerings
- About 500 in number



Koto Senmon Gakko (College of Technology)

- Under the Ministry of Education (MEXT)
- Entrance requirement: lower secondary (9 yrs)
- Duration: 5 years
- Qualification: associate's degree (*jun-gaikushi*)
- Specializations: engineering & mercantile marine
- Purpose: train mid-level technicians, especially
in mechanical and electrical engineering
- Introduced in 1962
- 62 schools, at least 1 in each prefecture



Koto Senmon Gakko (continued)

- Competitive admission and high employment rate
- HS graduates may enter 4th year of *koto senmon gakko*
- Receiving institutions of *koto senmon gakko* graduates:
 - Technological University of Nagaoka and
 - Toyohashi University of Technology
- Since 1992, also provide advanced 2-year course
 - Bachelor's degree may be received through
 - National Institution for Academic Degrees (NIAD).



Senmon Gakko (Professional Training Colleges)

- Under the Metropolitan Government
- Entrance requirement: high school (12 yrs)
- Qualification: since 1998, technical associate (*semonshi*)
- Duration: 1, 2 or more years
- Dates back to pre-war period, but institutionalized in 1976
- Over 3500 in number



Senmon Gakko (continued)

Primary Purpose: Vocational Training

- Medical Care (Dental Technology, Dental Hygiene, Radiology...)
- Home Economics and Culture (Design, Arts, Music...)
- Educational/Social Welfare (Early Childhood Education...)
- Health and Hygiene (Nutrition, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts...)
- Practical Commerce (Bookkeeping, Secretarial Sciences...)
- Industry/Agriculture (Electronics, Information Technology, Printing...)

62- Unit Minimum

- 8 units in general education
- 2 units in health or physical education
- 28 in the major



Two-Year Colleges in Japan (continued)

- Most graduates do not continue on to university.
- Employment is more common.
- Historically, they are well attended by women.
- One exception is the *koto senmon gakko*, where over 80% of graduates are male.



Part II (Overview)

- **Academic Records and Documentation**
- **Terms and Seals in Japanese**
- **Conversion of Japanese Calendar**
- **Exercises**



Required Documentation

Nearly all schools in Japan issue official academic records (transcripts and certificates) in both English and Japanese.

The transcripts will normally provide the following:

Name

Date of Birth

Entrance/Graduation Date

Program of Study

If the graduation date is missing, the diploma should be requested.



Additional Supporting Documentation: Transcripts/Diplomas in Japanese

Many non-university institutions translate their names with the word college. As such, it can be difficult to determine what type of institution they actually are.

Note that according to the educational law in Japan, only accredited colleges can call themselves

短期大学; 専門学校.

Having the Japanese academic records can help to identify the accreditation and the types of institution as well.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

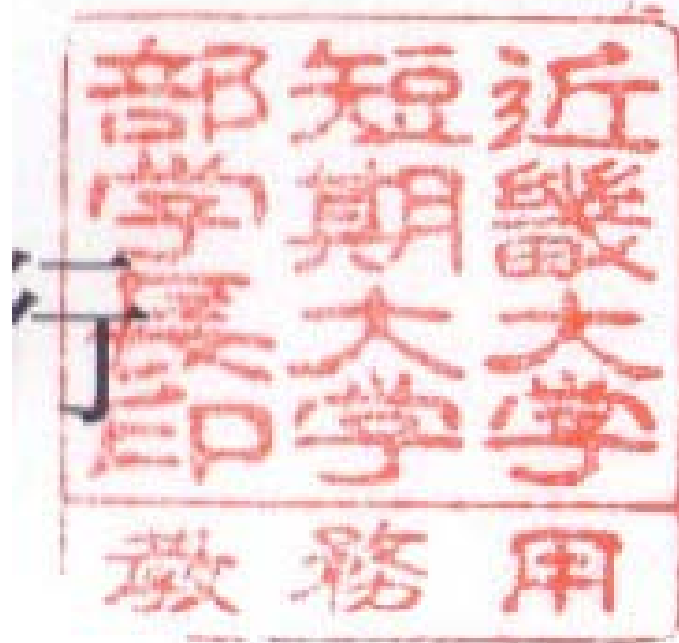
<u>Kanji</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Translation</u>
大学	Daigaku	University
短期 大学	Tanki Daigaku	Junior College
高等 専門 学校	Koto Senmon Gakko	College of Technology
専門 学校	Senmon Gakko	Professional Training College
専修 学校	Senshu Gakko	Special Training School
高等 専修 学校	Koto Senshu Gakko	Upper Secondary School

University (Daigaku)



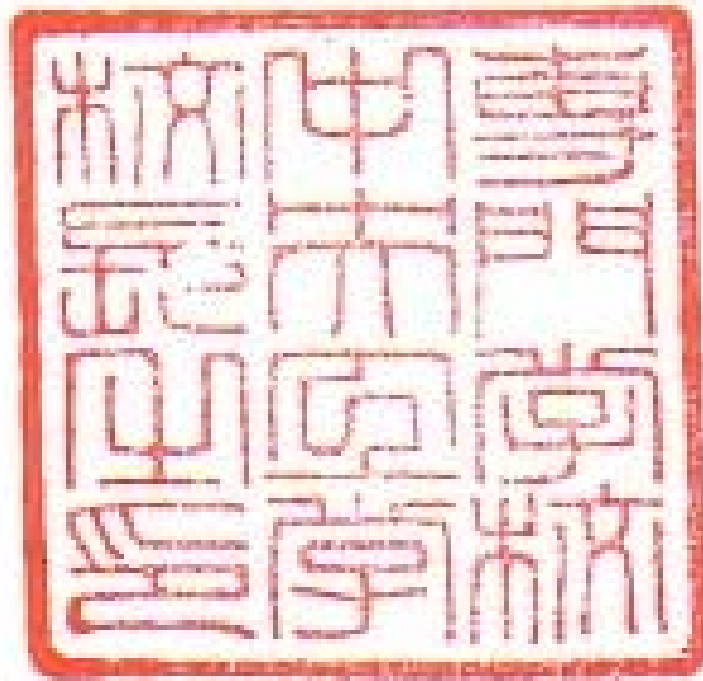
大 学

Junior College (Tanki Daigaku)



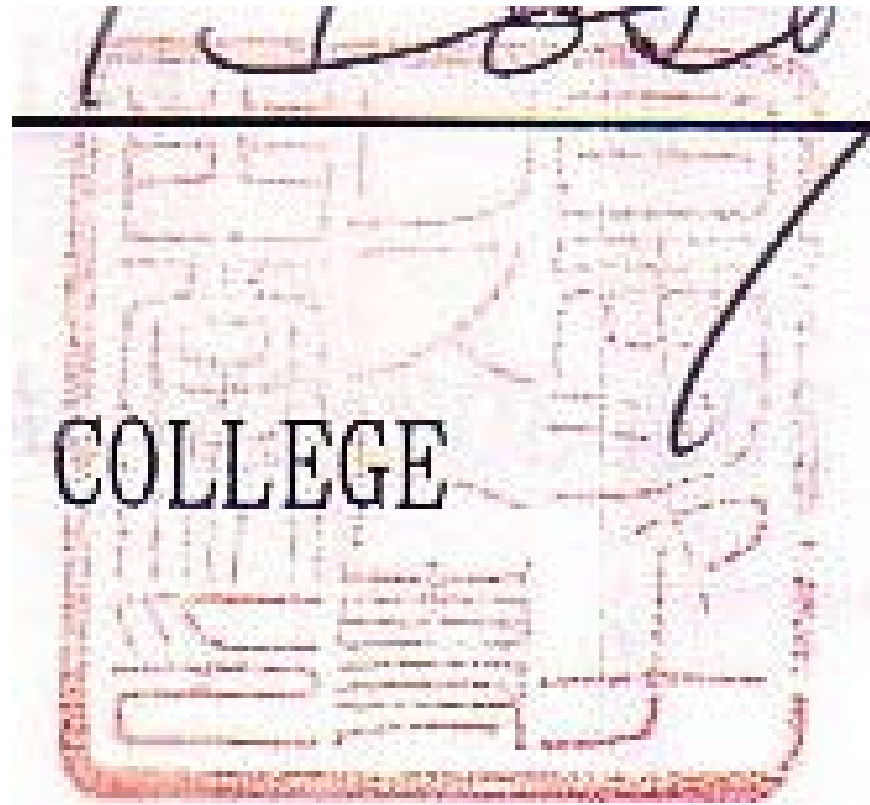
短期大学

College of Technology (Koto Senmon Gakko)



高等専門学校

Professional Training College (Senmon Gakko)



専門学校



The Traditional Japanese Calendar

- Based on reign of the emperors
- (明治) Meiji 1-45 = 1868-1912
- (大正) Taishou 1-15 = 1912-1926
- (昭和) Showa 1-64 = 1926-1989
- (平成) Heisei 1 = 1989



Conversion of the Japanese Calendar

Example:

- 平成 10 年
- Heisei 10
- 10th year of the Heisei era
- $1989 + 9 = 1998$



GLOSSARY OF JAPANESE NUMBERS AND CALENDAR TERMS

ONE	一; 元	SIX	六
TWO	二	SEVEN	七
THREE	三	EIGHT	八
FOUR	四	NINE	九
FIVE	五	TEN	十
MONTH	月	DAY	日
YEAR	年		



Useful Links

1. <http://www.kochi-ct.ac.jp/colleges.html> Colleges of Technology in Japan
2. <http://www.shidairen.or.jp/english/outline/about.html> Japan Association of Private Colleges and Universities (JAPCU)
3. http://www.niad.ac.jp/index_e.html National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)
4. <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/> Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
5. <http://www.tokyo-senmon.com/cgi-bin/view.pl?MODE=2> Tokyo Senmon Official Site *
6. <http://sunsite.tus.ac.jp/asia/japan/edu/> List of Universities and Colleges in Japan
7. <http://23d6.myrice.com/new/school/rbddx.htm> List of Universities and Colleges in Japan *

* Available in Japanese only.