

May 30, 2019

To All Entrance Applicants

Graduate School of Governance Studies
Meiji University

Notice on Obtaining a “Student” Visa

Please take note of the following information on obtaining a “Student” visa.

Applicants who do not hold a status of residence in Japan, in particular, should complete procedures without delay after passing the entrance examination, as the process of issuance is very time-consuming.

Those holding a status of residence in Japan
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A. Those staying on a “Student” visa

You have no need to notify the Immigration Bureau (Ministry of Justice) of your enrollment in Meiji University. For permission to extend your period of stay, you may submit an application three months before your period of stay expires. When changing universities, you are obliged to notify the Immigration Bureau within 14 days of a change in the organization for your activity in Japan.

B. Those staying on a visa other than “Student” and seeking to obtain a “Student” visa

Please apply for a change in status of residence. In the course of admission procedures, the Professional Graduate School Office will issue a letter of acceptance. Use this letter to submit an application in Japan for a change to “Student” visa.

Note, however, that those who have entered Japan on a “Temporary Visitor” visa, as a rule, are not permitted to submit an application in Japan for a change in status of residence, and may need to obtain a “Student” visa outside Japan.

If you were enrolled in a Japanese language education facility or vocational school (Japanese language school, Japanese language course at university or junior college, or other special training school) in Japan prior to enrollment in Meiji University, you are

required to submit an attendance certificate issued by that institution to the Immigration Bureau (Ministry of Justice) when applying for permission to extend your period of stay or for a change in your status of residence.

Those NOT holding a status of residence in Japan

Please apply for a “Student” visa at a Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country.

Note that the process of issuance is generally smoother when either you or a proxy (relative, financial sponsor, or scholarship provider in Japan) obtains a Certificate of Eligibility at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (Ministry of Justice) before submitting an application for “Student” visa.

- * Visa applications are examined by the Ministry of Justice. Meiji University cannot assume any responsibility should an application be denied, or provide any special measures such as make-up classes should arrival in Japan be delayed owing to the visa application process.**
- * The process of issuance is very time-consuming. Those who pass the entrance examination may not be able to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility or visa for arriving in Japan in time for the start of classes. Please complete procedures without delay after passing the entrance examination.**
- * Many scholarships for international students require a “Student” status of residence.

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