

## September (Fall) Graduation

A lot of fall graduates have voiced their concern that “Since I graduate in September, wouldn’t I be at a disadvantage for job hunting?” However, it’s not about being at an advantage or disadvantage, but about how you plan ahead in your preparations and your job hunting schedule. If you are well prepared in thinking ahead of what you should be doing and acting early, there is no such thing as being at a disadvantage.

While a majority of Japanese companies hire new employees to start their employment in April each year, there are now more opportunities available for Fall graduates. There are companies who have recruiting schedules targeting graduates from overseas universities, recruit year round, etc. Feel free to consult with the Career Office if you have any concerns.

### Changing Status of Residence

For Fall graduates who will be starting their employment in April, you will need to return to your home country temporarily after graduation. Therefore, the preparation process to begin your employment in Japan differs from Spring graduates.

First off, your employer company will need to obtain the 「在留資格認定証明書」<sup>ざいりゅうしかくにんていしょうめいしょ</sup> (Certificate of Eligibility for Resident Status) from the immigration office to then be sent to you. Once you have received it, you will need to take the documents to your local Japanese Embassy or Consulate General in your home country to apply for the working visa. Once you have received your working visa on your 「在留資格認定証明書」<sup>ざいりゅうしかくにんていしょうめいしょ</sup>, you are then able to return back to Japan. The 「在留資格認定証明書」<sup>ざいりゅうしかくにんていしょうめいしょ</sup> is only valid for 3 months, so you return to Japan within 3 months of receiving the form. Before you graduate from and return to your home country, be sure to confirm the schedule between graduation and your first day of employment and prepare accordingly. Please also refer to p. 72 (From Receiving the Job Offer Until You Enter the Company)

In the case where there is no Japanese Embassy or Consulate General in your home country, you will then need to apply for your visa at your other designated country. For more details, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Visa Information Center).

### Visa Information Center at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Address: First Floor, South building, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919  
(2 min. walking distance from Kasumigaseki Station on the Chiyoda, Hibiya, and Marunouchi subway lines)

Open Hours : 09:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00 (except Saturday, Sunday and Holidays)

TEL : 03-5501-8431

(Automatic answering machine service (24 hours, Japanese only))

Website (Japanese) : <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/toko/visa/otoiawase.html>

Website (English) : [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/)