

Points-Based Preferential Immigration Treatment for Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals

Under the points-based system, foreign nationals recognized as “highly-skilled foreign professionals” will be given preferential immigration treatment!



The Three Categories of Activities of Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals

For further details, please turn to the Points Calculation Table overleaf



Advanced academic research activities

Activities of engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan.



Advanced specialized/technical activities

Activities of engaging in work requiring specialized knowledge or skills in the field of natural sciences or humanities based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan.



Advanced business management activities

Activities of engaging in the operation or management of a business organization in Japan.



Details of the preferential treatment

① Permission for multiple purposes of activities

② Grant of the “five years” period of stay

③ Easing of requirements for permanent residence

④ Preferential processing of entry and residence procedures

⑤ Permission for the spouse of the highly-skilled foreign professional to work

⑥ Permission for the parent(s) to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions

⑦ Permission for a domestic worker to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions

In addition, the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act is due to be revised to allow for the required number of years of residence in Japan in order to permit permanent residence to be reduced (e.g., reducing the current number of five years to three years). (Japan Revitalization Strategy (Cabinet decision of June 14, 2013))



Immigration Bureau, MOJ

For further details please check the Immigration Bureau website!

http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_3/en/index.html

※Inquiries may also be made at your nearest regional immigration bureau.



Points Calculation Table

Advanced academic research activities		
Academic background	Holder of a doctor's degree (excluding professional degrees)	30
	Holder of a master's degree (including professional degrees)	20
Professional Career (Research experience) * Limited to experience related to the research, research guidance or education in which the person intends to engage.	7 years or more	15
	5 years or more	10
	3 years or more	5
Annual salary *1 The annual amount to be paid by the principal accepting organization. *2 In cases of a transfer from an overseas organization, including the annual amount to be paid by such organization. *3 Bonuses are also to be included in the annual amount.	The lower limit of the annual salary, to which points are awarded, will differ depending on the age classification. For further details, see ② .	40 10
Age	Up to 29 years of age	15
	Between 30 and 34 years of age	10
	Between 35 and 39 years of age	5
Bonus Point 1 (Research Achievements)	For further details, see ③ .	25
Bonus Point 2	Work for an organization which receives financial support measures related to innovation (measures provided for separately in a public notice). See Note 1.	10
Bonus Point 3	Employment in a small or medium-sized enterprise whose experiment and research expenses is more than 3% of total revenue.	5
Bonus Point 4	Holder of a foreign work-related qualification, etc. (See Note 4)	5
Bonus Point 5	Person who has earned a degree at a higher education institution in Japan.	10
Bonus Point 6	Person who has passed Level [N1] of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test or has been approved through another test (See Note 2) as having equivalent or higher language proficiency, or the person who majored in Japanese language at a foreign university and graduated from the university.	15
Total score		70

Advanced specialized/ technical activities		
Academic background	Holder of a doctor's degree (excluding professional degrees)	30
	Holder of a master's degree (including professional degrees) See Note 3.	20
	Holder of a bachelor's degree or equivalent (excluding a person with a doctor's degree or master's degree)	10
Professional Career (Business experience) * Limited to work experience related to the business in which the person intends to engage.	10 years or more	20
	7 years or more	15
	5 years or more	10
	3 years or more	5
Annual salary *1 The annual amount to be paid by the principal accepting organization. *2 In cases of a transfer from an overseas organization, including the annual amount to be paid by such organization. *3 Bonuses are also to be included in the annual amount.	The lower limit of the annual salary, to which points are awarded, will differ depending on the age classification. For further details, see ② .	40 ~ 10
Age	Up to 29 years of age	15
	Between 30 and 34 years of age	10
	Between 35 and 39 years of age	5
Bonus Point 1 (Research Achievements)	For further details, see ③ .	15
Bonus Point 2	Holder of a Japanese work-related qualification (5 points per one qualification)	10
Bonus Point 3	Work for an organization which receives financial support measures related to innovation (measures provided for separately in a public notice). See Note 1.	10
Bonus Point 4	Employment in a small or medium-sized enterprise whose experiment and research expenses is more than 3% of total revenue.	5
Bonus Point 5	Holder of a foreign work-related qualification, etc. (See Note 4)	5
Bonus Point 6	Person who has earned a degree at a higher education institution in Japan.	10
Bonus Point 7	Person who has passed Level [N1] of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test or has been approved through another test (See Note 2) as having equivalent or higher language proficiency, or the person who majored in Japanese language at a foreign university and graduated from the university.	15
Total score		70

Advanced business management activities		
Academic background	Holder of a doctor's degree or a master's degree. See Note 3.	20
	Holder of a bachelor's degree or equivalent (excluding a person with a doctor's degree or master's degree)	10
Professional Career (Business experience) * Limited to work experience related to business management.	10 years or more	25
	7 years or more	20
	5 years or more	15
	3 years or more	10
Annual salary *1 The annual amount to be paid by the principal accepting organization. *2 In cases of a transfer from an overseas organization, including the annual amount to be paid by such organization. *3 Bonuses are also to be included in the annual amount.	30 million yen or more	50
	25 million yen or more	40
	20 million yen or more	30
	15 million yen or more	20
	10 million yen or more	10
Bonus Point 1 (Position)	Person to be accepted as a representative director or representative executive officer	10
	Person to be accepted as a director or executive officer	5
Bonus Point 2	Work for an organization which receives financial support measures related to innovation (measures provided for separately in a public notice). See Note 1.	10
Bonus Point 3	Employment in a small or medium-sized enterprise whose experiment and research expenses is more than 3% of total revenue.	5
Bonus Point 4	Holder of a foreign work-related qualification, etc. (See Note 4)	5
Bonus Point 5	Person who has earned a degree at a higher education institution in Japan.	10
Bonus Point 6	Person who has passed Level [N1] of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test or has been approved through another test (See Note 2) as having equivalent or higher language proficiency, or the person who majored in Japanese language at a foreign university and graduated from the university.	15
Total score		70

(Note 1) An additional 10 points will be awarded in cases where the organization employing the applicant is a small or medium-sized enterprise.
(Note 2) e.g., a score of 480 points or more on the BJT Business Japanese Proficiency Test.
(Note 3) An additional 5 points will be awarded in cases where the applicant holds a professional degree relating to business management (MBA, MOT) .
(Note 4) For further details please check the Immigration Bureau website. (http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_3/en/index.html)

① Required minimum annual salary				
An annual salary of <u>more than 3 million yen</u> is required for the fields of advanced specialized/ technical activities and advanced business management activities.				
② Annual salary points allocation table				
	Younger than 30 years	Between 30 and 34 years	Between 35 and 39 years	40 years or older
10 million yen	40	40	40	40
9 million yen	35	35	35	35
8 million yen	30	30	30	30
7 million yen	25	25	25	—
6 million yen	20	20	20	—
5 million yen	15	15	—	—
4 million yen	10	—	—	—

③ Research Achievements			
Research Achievements ※	Patent invention 1 item -	20	15
	Record of engaging in research using a grant funded by a public agency prior to entry into Japan 3 items -	20	15
	Past record of research papers: research papers (limited to those for which the applicant is the corresponding author), which appeared in an academic magazine registered in the academic research paper database used by Japanese national organizations 3 papers or more.	20	15
	For items other than above: where the applicant submits a research record equivalent to the above items (such as a record of winning a distinguished award), the Minister of Justice will determine whether to give points to the applicant on a case-by-case basis, after listening to opinions from a number of heads of the relevant administrative organizations.	20	15

※ In the field of advanced academic research activities, 25 points will be awarded in cases where the applicant comes under two or more of the above.