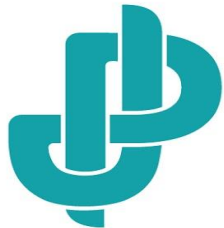




Japan-Ukraine Language School Pathways(JULP) Recruitment 2027



PATHWAYS JAPAN

About Pathways Japan



Public-benefit Incorporated Foundation accredited in Japan

Established: 7th July 2021 (succeeding JSLP from Japan Association for Refugees (JAR))

Office: Koraku, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo

Website: www.pathways-j.org

Project:

- *Higher education support for people with refugee experience
- *Admission of refugee-background people from abroad to Japan
- *Support for employment and self-reliance
- *Advocacy and awareness raising



About Japanese School Program



School for admission: Japanese language schools(JLS)

⇒ Tokyo and in other regions

*University admission will be responsibility of applicants.

Language study period: 2 years (may need to study more)

Legal status in Japan: **Student *not evacuee visa** (After graduation of JLS, it has to be renewed. Working permit can be obtained only with graduation certificate of university or vocational school.)

Number of admittance: around **15** students

Financial condition: Tuition fee for JLS exempted.

Travel fee and preparatory language training offered by PJ.

Living and accommodation cost covered by students by working part time within 28 hours per week.

Application Requirements



- Ukrainian national residing in Ukraine or evacuated after 24th Feb 2022
- Single with no dependents (or agree to travel without a partner and with no dependents)
- Graduated / will graduate from high school or university can submit its certificate
- Aged 26 or less (high school graduates) or 33 or less (university graduates)
- Have strong interest in mastering Japanese language and understanding Japanese society and culture
- Motivated to build working career in Japan or internationally
- Agree with condition that one has to work part-time to cover living cost while being language student
- Not necessary to support family financially

Timeframe (Before selection)



23(Thu)Jul-14(Fri) Aug	Application Period
14 (Fri) Aug–27 (Thu)Aug 2026	Document screening
11(Fri) Sep 2026 (Planned)	Announcement of Document screening result (first screening)
19(Sat), 20(Sun) and 26(Sat) Sep 2026 (Planned)	Trial Japanese language classes (online)
14(Mon)Sep-25(Fri)Sep 2026	Interview (online) by Pathways Japan (second screening)
8 (Thu) Oct 2026 (Planned)	Announcement of second screening result
23(Fri)Oct-30(Fri) Oct	Interview (online) by Japanese language schools (third screening)
6 (Fri) Nov 2026 or later	Announcement of final results

Timeframe (After selection)



Between 8 Oct and mid Nov 2026	Application for resident status of Japan
Mid Nov 2026 – Mar 2027	Preparatory language study and pre-departure orientation online
End of Mar	Travel to Japan
1st week of Apr	Orientation
2nd week of Apr	School starts



Note: Policy Change Regarding the Required Japanese Language Proficiency



- The Government of Japan has recently introduced a new requirement for students enrolling in Japanese language schools.
- However, if you have a university certificate issued in the countries designated by the Government of Japan [in the list here](#), **including Ukraine**, the A1 certificate described below will not be required.

So, for those of you who do not possess a university certificate issued in the countries listed above, please follow the instructions next;

Note: Policy Change Regarding the Required Japanese Language Proficiency



- Under this policy, applicants must demonstrate Japanese language proficiency equivalent to **A1** or higher at the time of the entrance assessment.
- The assessment will be conducted **by the Japanese language school during the admission interview.**
- Applicants who are assessed as not yet having reached the required A1 level will **need to continue studying Japanese and may be asked to postpone their enrollment until July 2027 or April 2028.**
- Applicants who have already obtained an **A1 or higher level qualification through one of the approved Japanese language tests listed below** or by graduating a Japanese language faculty of a university, may use the certificate as proof of their Japanese language proficiency.

List of Japanese Language Exams as a proof of A1 level or higher upon application



- JLPT 日本語能力試験
- BJT ビジネス日本語能力テスト
- J.TEST
- NAT-TEST
- STBJ
- TOPJ
- J-CERT 生活・職能日本語検定
- JLCT-JCT5 外国人日本語能力検定
- PJC Bridge 実践日本語コミュニケーション検定
- JPT
- JPT Elementary
- JOT

Support after arrival in Japan



- Orientation on legal status, life and career planning in Japan
- Support to find accommodation and a part time job
- Consultation for study and daily life by schools.
- Regular Consultation by PJ every three months.
- Career planning support for university admission, scholarship and job hunting by PJ and school

* Support for Ukrainian students is limited compared to the past



Advantage of studying in Japan



- Society with security
- Student legal status can be obtained for Japanese Language School students.
- University scholarship programs available for refugee- background students
- Opportunities of part time job for students and full-time employment for university/vocational school graduates.
- After completion of language study, working legal status can be obtained for university/vocational school graduates, when one gets employed.
(Humanitarian status can be obtained in case one cannot get employment)
- Naturalization and permanent residence attainable after living 5-10 years.
- Open for success for those who make efforts with diligence.

Challenges for studying in Japan



- Limited population of foreigners (3.4%), with less social support system for foreign residents compared with the immigrant nations.
- Japanese language is necessary for life and job hunting. It takes at least 2 years to reach business/academic level.
- Different climate, culture and food.
- High living cost, especially for housing
- Health care and mental health challenges (cultural gap, separation from families and friends, war situation in home country)

Achievement of Ukrainian alumni and students



Numbers of acceptance : 132 persons (including accompanied family members)
as of 2026.2

Status	# of persons
Full-time work /Freelance	31
Job searching (including part-time work)	12
Graduate student (Master's degree and PhD)	12
University student	32
Non-degree University student	3
Vocational School	4
Japanese Language School student	14
Others (Moved to the third country, Returned to Ukraine)	24

Web site links to learn Japanese language



1. **NHK World** on simple Japanese in Farsi. Suitable to know the basic of the language.
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/fa/learnjapanese/>

2. **Erin's Challenge:** Suitable to know online about Japanese language and culture
<https://www.erin.ne.jp/en/>

3. **Minato(Japanese e-learning):** Suitable to learn the language systematically online.
<https://minato-jf.jp/>

4. **TSUNAGARU:** Offered by the Ministry of Education for the people who are starting new life in Japan.
https://tsunagarujp.mext.go.jp/?lang_id=EN

5. **Irodori:** Most lately developed for the Japanese learners who wants to study systematically. <https://www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/en/starter/pdf.html>
There is also an online learning site. <https://www.irodori-online.jpf.go.jp/>

Web site links to know about studying in Japan



Study in Japan Comprehensive Guide

<https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/ja/>

Japanese Language Proficiency Test(JLPT)

<https://www.jlpt.jp/e/index.html>

Examination for Japanese Universities(EJU)

<https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/ryugaku/eju/index.html>

Refugee Higher Education Program(RHEP)

https://rhepalliance.org/en_home

Japanese language school of JIIC (as example)

<https://www.nkk.ac.jp/japanese/en/>

Before preparing applications



1. Check the Program Guideline

https://pathways-j.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Programme-Guidance_for-JULP2027-4.pdf



2. Check FAQ

<https://pathways-j.org/en/julp2027/faq>

