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Why Study in Japan?

01 Japan has a high standard of education with affordable tuition and generous scholarships. There are many study programmes to choose from and excellent employment opportunities for international students. Not forgetting that you can learn Japanese as you earn a degree!

02 Studying in Japan will allow you to foster a spirit of adventure and develop as an individual while also having an opportunity to form lifelong friendships and international career connections.

03 Japan offers a rich cultural heritage. As you explore Japan, you will find a clean, safe and secure environment with all regions accessible and travel friendly. You will be delighted to discover diverse authentic Japanese food and an excellent medical system.

EMBASSY OF JAPAN BULLETIN

Study in Japan



Edition



Japanese Government Scholarship

The Japanese Government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology (MEXT) offers scholarships to students who wish to study at Japanese higher education institutions in Japan. This scholarship covers tuition fees, air fares and an adequate living allowance.

The Japanese Government scholarship program in Kenya is offered in 5 student categories. These are:

1. Research (Graduate) Student
2. Undergraduate Student
3. College of Technology Student
4. Specialised Training College Student
5. Teacher Training Student

MEXT Scholarship students are recruited in two ways:

1. Embassy recommendation
Candidates are recruited and initially screened by the Embassy of Japan. Applications open in April of every year. The minimum qualification requirements as well as application procedures and documents are shared on the Embassy's official communication channels.

2. University recommendation
Research students who wish to study in Japan can be directly recommended by national, public or private universities in Japan for the scholarship.

Applications for the scholarship is free and the Embassy does not charge any fee at any stage. We welcome applications from all interested and qualified candidates for this scholarship.

Ms. Catherine Karengo, Research Student

Japan is beautiful and amazing. There are so many things to learn and see. I am still in the process of fully settling in Japan. People are kind and willing to help if you get lost or don't know how to do something like buy a train ticket. The technology is very advanced making things easier. Time is very important in Japan and everyone keeps time, trains are very punctual and convenient. Currently am on winter break and preparing to join the graduate school that is set to begin in April.

Studying in Japan under the MEXT scholarship is ultimately a golden opportunity. My experience in Japan is a turning point in my life since I have been exposed to a wider world view and many opportunities.

The exposure in Japan will definitely bring out the best out of me and define my career as a global citizen.



Mr. David Nduru, Research Student



My experience so far in Japan has positively contributed to my growth especially in terms of my career and perception of respect to humanity as a whole. For the 4 months that I have been here, I was able to finish my basic Japanese language course which has really helped me interact more closely with the community around me.

I joined Cell Signaling and Metabolic Medicine Department in Kumamoto University. I am currently doing a preliminary study in relation to Cancer research which is my area of interest.

In all this, I feel really proud that I am able to practice and improve my career and life courtesy of the Japanese government and to this end I say ありがとうございます。

Ms. Joyce Njoroge, Teacher Training Student



I am currently studying Special Needs Education majoring in Inclusive Education at the Hyogo University of Teacher Education in Kato City, Hyogo, Japan. I have been in Japan for 3 months now.

Even if I have only lived here for a short time, Japan has taught me many values of humanity and good manners. As I have interacted with Japanese people, I have learned the importance of punctuality, respect, integrity and work value. I am grateful for the MEXT Scholarship and the Japanese government for allowing me to have such an opportunity.

African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

The ABE Initiative scholarship was initiated at the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) which was held in Yokohama, Japan in 2013. ABE initiative aims to equip African students with the much needed human resource development and capacity building in the private and public sector geared towards transforming the continent.

Scholars pursue a Master's degree in Japan followed by an internship at a Japanese company. The participants gain the skills and knowledge necessary to become experts in their various fields, plus the unique opportunity to attain first hand experience in living and working in Japan. The ABE Initiative scholarship is facilitated by the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and is open to youth in the Private Sector, Governmental Officials and Educators.

Mr. Martin Otini, ABE Initiative



I was fortunate to participate in the programme in 2014. This was as a private sector scholar to undertake an MBA in Innovation and Operations Management at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University.

I quickly settled at my university, a world class and multicultural institution that enabled me to appreciate the interconnectedness of our world and the diverse perspectives and opinions. Furthermore, Beppu is a serene and scenic town with numerous activities that enriched my stay.

My experience would not be complete without my engagement with leading Japanese organizations as well as internship opportunities in Japan (Monsoon Japan Company) and Kenya (Lixil Company).

The ABE Initiative is vital bridge to understand and learn what enabled Japan achieve great strides in its development through well proven management practices that is confirmed by its numerous companies featuring on the Fortune 500 global list and excellent products.

I could not possibly fit all my experiences in this one article but would wish to say Domo Arigatou Gozaimasu, Asante Sana to Japan and its great people for an opportunity to learn and experience the possibilities that Kenya and Africa can emulate towards our common goals of development and prosperity for all.

JICA Training Programmes

JICA has over the years had various training programmes offered to professionals in a variety of fields as part of the Kenya-Japan technical assistance. It is estimated that over 4500 Kenyans representing all shades of professionalism have gone through various programmes offered by JICA since its inception.

Mr. Sammy Shileche, JICA Training Programme



I participated in the Comprehensive Training Programme of Urban Transportation Planning & Projects for a duration of two months in TIC, Tokyo. The course emphasized the importance of urban transportation in influencing the spatial planning and economic growth of cities and urban areas.

Japan uses the Mass Rapid Transit system that allows a bigger population of passengers to travel per trip. The system uses rail transit (metro lines, light rails, and bullet trains) and the bus rapid transit series. My visit uncovered that Japan's infrastructure was well designed, implemented, and maintained. The lessons and experiences gained from the visit to Japan enabled me to apply the lessons I learned to the unique transportation challenges and urban growth trends in Nairobi. In addition to this, my experiences in Japan motivated me to start community programs in Lukanji, Kakamega County, through the Organization of Local Communities Against Poverty (OLCAP) aimed at transforming the lives of the local community.

The Ship for World Youth Leaders (SWY) Programme

The SWY programme is operated by the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan. Youth with various backgrounds from Japan and around the world join together to discuss and study common issues from a global perspective.

SWY activities include seminars, discussions, cultural exchange and communal living. These multicultural exchange opportunities aim to cultivate international awareness and leadership with the hope that their interactions will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and hence the betterment of society.

The programme runs for a few weeks, starting and ending in Japan, with the majority of time spent on board the ship, and includes international ports of call.

Mr. Peter Ongera, SWY



I joined the SWY exchange programme at age the age of 22 while pursuing my undergraduate studies at Egerton University. It was my first time to get my Kenyan passport and to fly out of my country, travel by a water vessel, the Maru ship, and meet with non-Kenyans!

My main highlight was the cultural exchange and immersion during my homestay with the Sakamoto family. When I left my homestay in Kitakyushu, I had another exchange meeting with youth in Kitakyushu City Municipal at Yomiya Youth Centre. After my participation in the program, I started a cultural tourism business based on the homestay experiences.

I regard the program as SWY University that offers the best free non-academic and honorary training. Participants graduate with the best experiences, knowledge and skills. Welcome to SWY and turn your learning into earning; you earn status and reputation! Long live SWY.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

JSPS started in 1932 with an imperial endowment. Its aim is to promote the advancement of science. JSPS carries out various programmes to achieve its mandate of promoting sciences. These include:

- Support/Funding for Research Initiatives
- Strengthening Linkage with Society
- International Collaborations (Promoting International Joint Research, Forming International Research-Support Networks, Providing International Training Opportunities for Young Researchers and Inviting Excellent Researchers from other countries to Japan)
- Fostering the Next Generation of Researchers
- Enhancing the Education and Research Functions of Universities
- Awards of Recognition (International Prize for Biology, Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize, JSPS Prize and JSPS Ikushi Prize)
- Research Integrity

Dr. Gabriel Aboge, JSPS



I became aware of JSPS fellowship while studying for my PhD at the United Graduate School of Veterinary Sciences at Gifu University in Japan. The impressive and advanced laboratories as well as very supportive professors encouraged me to pursue my postdoctoral fellowship in Japan after winning a competitive and prestigious JSPS postdoctoral fellowship award.

Culturally, my life as a Postdoctoral Researcher was fascinating because I experienced various memorable events

and enjoyed various Japanese foods. The heavy snow in Hokkaido was also an interesting experience because this was the first time I saw and touched snow. In fact I even tried skiing although this was a very difficult sport for me.

After finishing my two-year postdoctoral research, I returned to my home country. I still promote collaborative scientific research between the University of Nairobi and Japanese Universities. I look forward to further promoting international research collaboration and cultural exchanges between Kenya and Japan.

The Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS)

AOTS focuses on Human Resource development in developing countries with the aim to bolster technical collaboration through activities such as training and the dispatch of experts. Through these, AOTS aims to contribute to the economic growth of both developing countries and Japan while also enhancing friendly relations between the countries involved.



Mr. Dickens Huko, AOTS

I have been to Japan twice in both 2001 and 2006. My first visit was on general orientation where I was trained on Japanese culture, economy and industry development. This was followed by specialist training on automobile maintenance and parts production in Toyota Tsusho Corporation in Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture in Japan. During my time in Japan, I gained training in Time Management, Quality Improvement, Self Discipline and Honesty. These key pillars have enabled me to perform, win trust and succeed in conducting my public engagements and in delivering quality outcomes in my Projects.

I will hence continue in our joint effort to promote our relationship with the government and people of Japan with all concerned parties I relate to. I'll further endeavor in seeking more training for Kenyans in Japan.

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme

The JET programme, which began in 1987, aims to increase mutual understanding between Japan and the international community. To achieve this goal, the programme promotes grassroots interaction at the local level by inviting university graduates from around the world to participate in initiatives and be involved in foreign language education at Japan's local government offices, Boards of Education, elementary schools, junior high schools and senior high schools.

JET Programme participants fall into three categories:

1. **Coordinator for International Relations (CIR):** CIRs, assist local government offices in international exchange activities such as translation/interpretation for government officials and international exchange event planning and implementation at the local level.
2. **Assistant Language Teacher (ALT):** ALTs are placed mainly in public schools or local boards of education and they assist with classes taught by Japanese Teachers of English.
3. **Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA):** SEAs are sports professionals whose role is to assist with sports training and the planning of sports related projects.

JET participants work in organisations all across Japan, in locations varying from vibrant, neon cities to remote mountain villages of just a few hundred inhabitants.

Mr. John Opondo, CIR



I had the privilege of being on the first ever group of the JET Programme representatives from Kenya back in 2006. I applied for the job upon reading an advertisement in the local daily newspaper and was

blessed to be awarded the opportunity to represent the country in Japan.

Having studied Japanese at a language college in Nairobi coupled with a years' experience as an exchange student at the Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, I was equipped with a good level of Japanese language skills, both written and spoken. Skills which I was able to put into good use as a JET working for Mie Prefecture.

My duties included translation/interpretation (Japanese to English and vice versa) for government officials, teaching about multicultural coexistence and intercultural communication to local community groups and schoolchildren, planning and implementing international exchange events as an ambassador of my country, hosting a weekly information sharing radio program (INFO MIE) on a local radio station known as FM Mie, and the list goes on and on.

JET gave me the perfect start to a very challenging yet fulfilling 17-year career working in both the public and private Japanese corporate world.

Ms. Eddah Gichuru, ALT



I was selected to work as an Assistant Language Teacher on August 6th 2006. My experience from that moment was like a dream.

We were well received in Tokyo by former JET participants, then proceeded to our various prefectures (counties). I was posted to the small town of Ohda shi next to the Sea of Japan in Shimane Prefecture. The

next five years were truly an amazing experience. I did not know Japanese and so part of my plan was to learn this language of characters, a task that was to prove to be harder than initially perceived but after spending a minimum of 5 hours each day for three years, I finally managed to pass N2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

I worked in high school during my first three years as an ALT. I then moved to junior high school while visiting one elementary school once a month. I assisted with the teaching of English as well as teaching the students and the community more about my country and other countries in general.

I enjoyed the beautiful and clean nature of Japan. How diligently everyone tidied up after eating, especially in the park. I learned a lot of things: like the value of keeping time, how to work without supervision, how to give more than is expected of you and above all, how to be a good team player. These are the things that carry me each day as I continue with my life. Japan will forever remain my second home.

Mr. Andrew Maritim, SEA



I was in Japan for the JET programme between the year 2011-2013. While in Japan I coached and advised high school and club athletes on the way the Kenyans are trained to become world champions.

I really enjoyed working as a Sports Exchange Advisor since most athletes were very co-operative.

I am currently coaching Kenya National Team and the experience I learnt in Japan has elevated me to the post of a head coach in sprints.

I enjoyed the Japanese culture and food. I am looking forward to going back to Japan for sports activities.

Study in Japan for Africa

The Study-in-Japan Global Network Project, Regional Office in Sub-Saharan Africa is entrusted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Japan to expand opportunities for prospective students in Sub-Saharan Africa to study in Japan.

Contact Study in Japan for Africa for more opportunities:

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