

7. Data & Information

7-1 Career Path after Graduation of International Students 2019

Definition of International Students

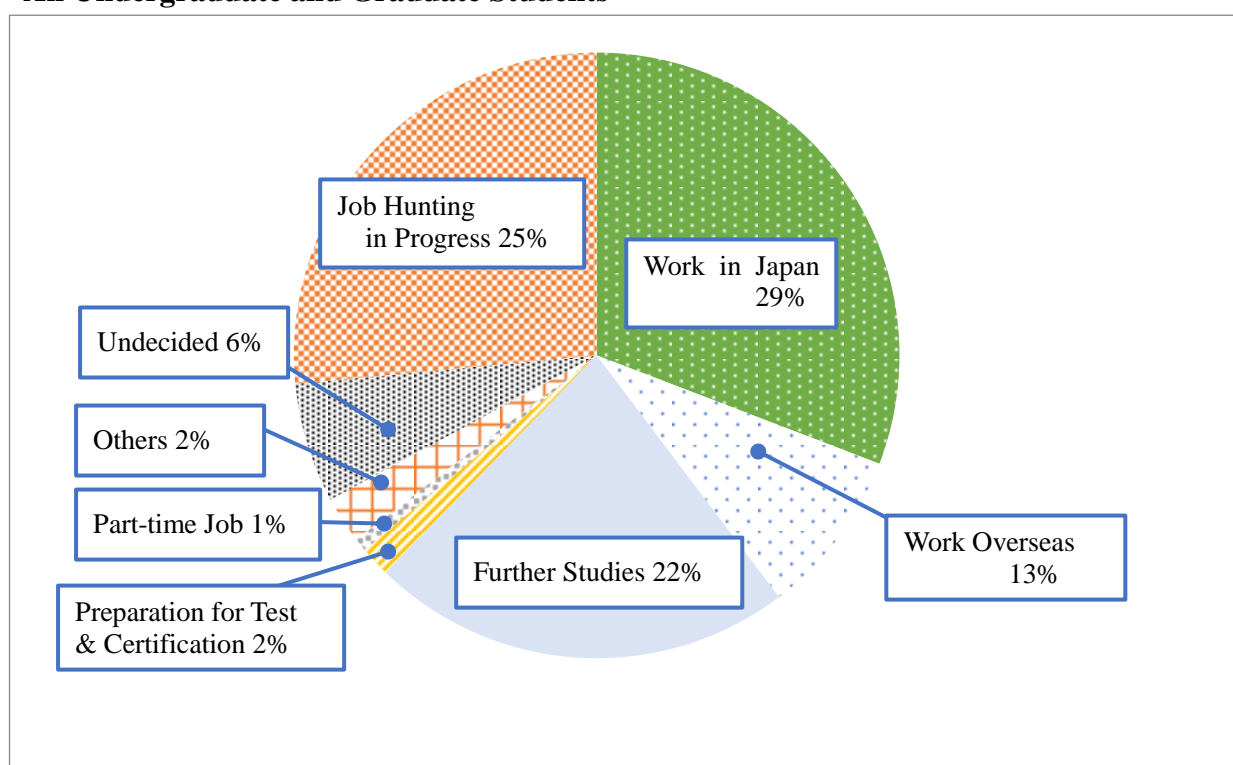
Waseda University undergraduate and graduate students with college student visa

12,483 undergraduates and graduates who graduated in September 2019 and March 2020

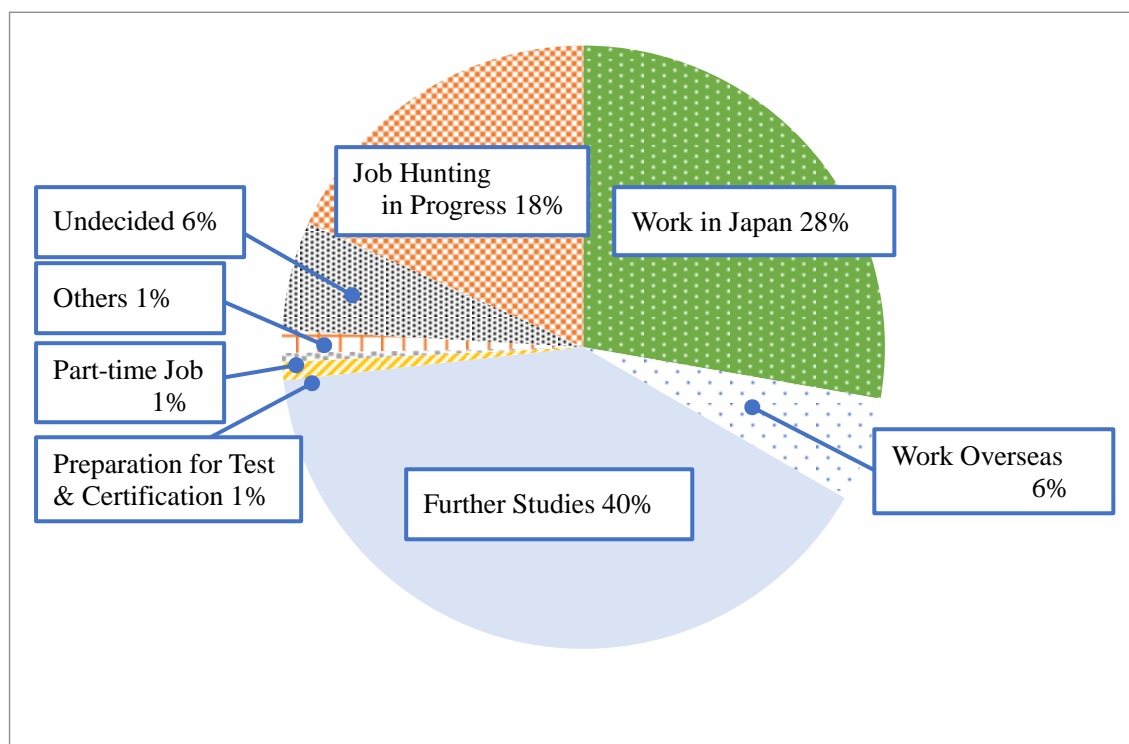
1,378 international undergraduates and graduates who graduated in September 2019 and March 2020 (11% of all graduates)

1,323 international undergraduates and graduates who submitted graduation record (Valid response ratio: 96%)

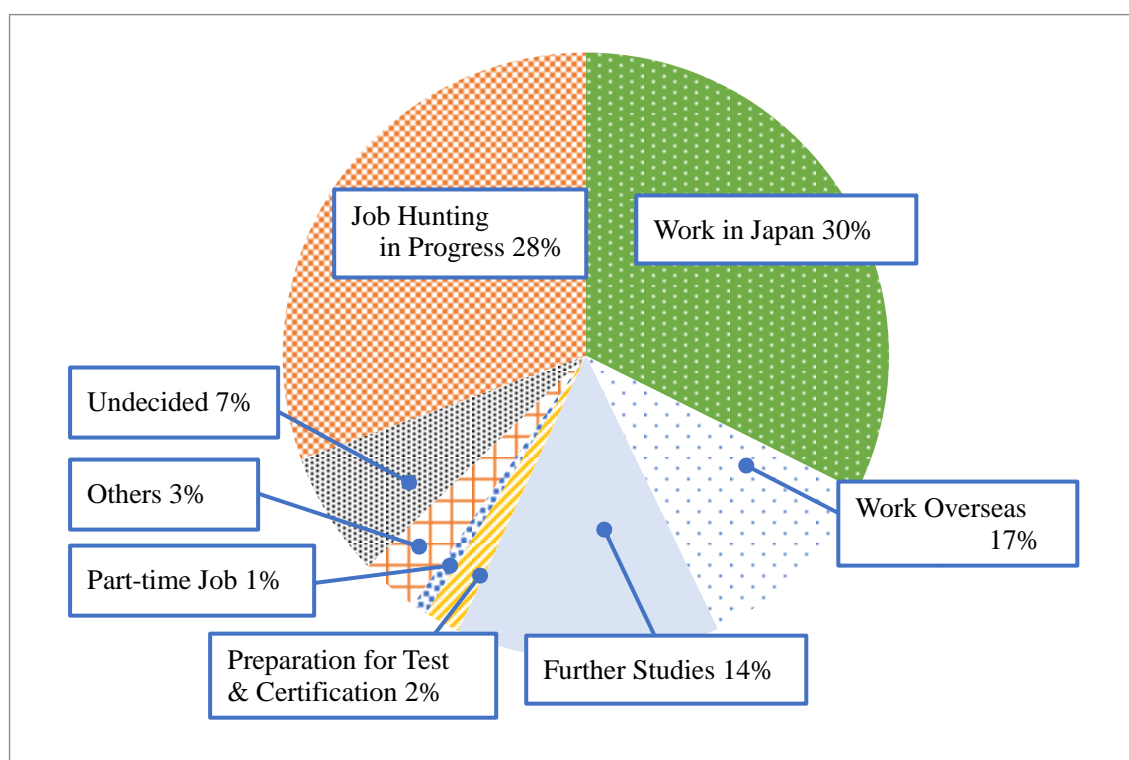
All Undergraduate and Graduate Students



Undergraduate Students



Graduate Students



Consideration of figures

- [As a whole] About 42% of students start working after graduation, while about 25% are still searching for jobs. Another 22% go on to further studies.
- [Undergraduates] About 34% start working; 40% go on to higher education.
- [Graduates] About 75% of students start working and/or seeking jobs; 13% go on to further studies. Rate of Work Overseas is higher than that of undergraduates.

Top 5 companies that hired Waseda International Students the most in 2019 (From reported numbers)

1	Accenture Japan Ltd.
2	IBM Japan, Ltd.
3	ABeam Consulting Ltd.
4	Mizuho Financial Group, Inc.
5	FUJITSU LIMITED

List of major Japanese companies that hired Waseda International Student(s) in 2019 (alphabetical order)

ABeam Consulting Ltd.	NEC Solution Innovators, Ltd.
Accenture Japan Ltd.	Nippon Life Insurance Company
Amazon Overseas Holdings, Inc.	Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.
British American Tobacco Japan, Ltd.	Nitori Holdings Co., Ltd.
Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting LLC	Nomura Research Institute, Ltd.
Deloitte Tohmatsu Financial Advisory LLC	Panasonic Corporation
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu LLC	PricewaterhouseCoopers Aarata LLC
DENSO Corporation	PwC Consulting LLC
EY Advisory & Consulting Co., Ltd.	Rakuten, Inc.
FUJI SOFT INCORPORATED	Renesas Electronics Corporation
Fujitsu Limited	SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION
HITACHI, Ltd.	Shiseido Company, Limited
Honda Motor Co., Ltd.	Simplex Inc.
IBM Japan Digital Services Company	SoftBank Corp.
INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
International Business Machines Corporation	Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited
Micron Memory Japan, G.K.	TAISEI CORPORATION
MISUMI Group Inc.	Tata Consultancy Services
Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	TECMO KOEI HOLDINGS CO., LTD.
Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation	transcosmos inc.
Mizuho Financial Group, Inc.	WEATHERNEWS INC.
NEC Corporation	Works Applications Co., Ltd.

7-2 My Job-Hunting Experience in Japan

~Case Study A~

Bachelor's Degree Program, South Korea
Will graduate in September 2020, and will start working in the field of semiconductor manufacturing



Reasons for Working in Japan

The reasons for working in Japan are simple. Better job-hunting opportunities as a university undergrad where you can choose the right career after graduation. Another reason is access to information. It is easier to get the necessary information and support in job hunting than doing job hunting outside Japan.

Job-Hunting Period

My job hunting was much longer compared to other Japanese and international students. I started my pre-job-hunting in February 2020 (first semester of 3rd year) by doing internships at various companies. The official job hunting began in October 2019 and finished in April 2020. It is crucial for international students to prepare job hunting (or at least be aware of job hunting) in advance because international students have language & information barrier which Japanese students do not have.

Industries & Corporations Approached

Total of 14 companies in consulting, IT, and manufacturing industries. Regardless of the industry, all the companies were future-oriented companies that are leading the 4th Industrial Revolution. Please have clear criteria (or reasoning) in selecting companies. You will be asked why by the company multiple times.

Methods of Job Hunting

My core strategy in job hunting was "focusing." Once you start job hunting, you will see and hear other students applying to more than a hundred companies. But this usually works only for Japanese students who have no problem writing dozens of entry sheets and preparing multiple interviews in a single day. As an international student, it is better to narrow down the industries and companies to enhance your chance of success. But feel free to apply to other "unnecessary" companies for practice.

Challenges Faced

The biggest challenge was the language, of course. For most companies, the entire process of job hunting (company orientation, document screening, and interviews) will be conducted in Japanese. The Japanese language is the most important factor in document screening. Leading companies require foreigners to have JLPT N1 as a prerequisite. I strongly recommend that everyone acquire N1 one year before job hunting to prepare for the entry sheet, SPI test, and the interviews. As for the entry sheet, it is vital to articulate a native level of Japanese because the screeners easily catch the flaws in Japanese. The next is the interview. Although you can expect some "Gaijin Premium" in the interviews, you must show confidence and deliver your thoughts to the interviewers efficiently in Japanese.

Message to Potential Job Seekers

Let me remind you of and add essential points in job hunting.

First, please study Japanese in advance, so that you can focus on job hunting itself.

Second, know your strengths and be confident of them. Provided that you can speak Japanese at business level, your unique experience and foreign-language ability are comparative advantages you have over Japanese students.

Third, know your interests. Do you want to work in a Japanese company or a foreign company? In what kind of industry do you want to work? And why? Which traits and characteristics do you have that match with that specific industry? You must have a well-constructed answer to these questions. Having a clear standard will also help you manage your time and energy in job hunting and deliver a sincere image during the interviews.

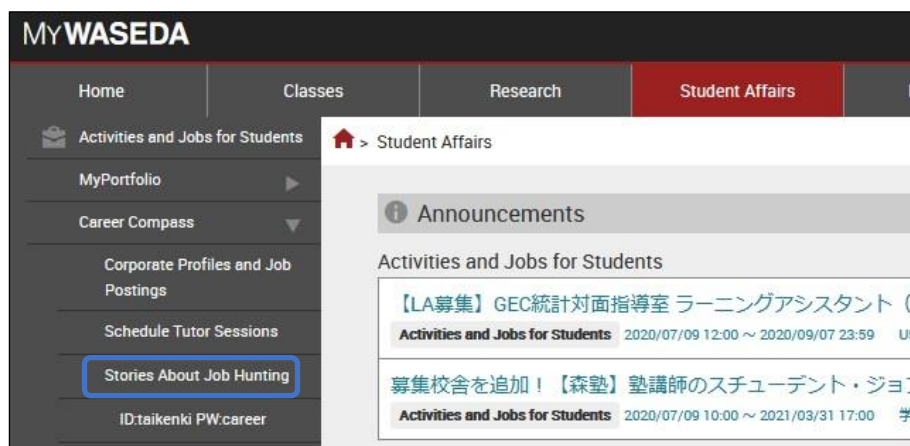
Fourth, join club activities or any kind of organization. Japanese companies put a significant emphasis on an applicant's organizational skills. To be honest, they don't care much about GPA. This does not mean a high GPA is meaningless. But they prefer an individual who can adapt to the organization to a lonely scholar.

Last, make Japanese friends, and work together with them. It is technically impossible for foreigners to write a flawless entry sheet and to speak native level Japanese in the interview. Ask your Japanese friends for advice and corrections. Practice interviews with them. This is the once in a lifetime event. So don't be shy.

Point

You can read other job-hunting experiences by Waseda University alumni on MyWaseda. Please refer to Career Compass (就職活動体験記). Some of them are written in English.

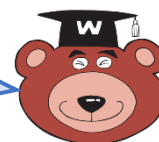
Log in to MyWaseda → Student Affairs → Career Compass → Stories About Job Hunting



※Enter the ID and the PW described here.

~Case Study B~

Bachelor's Degree Program, Taiwan
Will graduate in September 2020, and will start working in the
field of real estate development



Reasons for Working in Japan

There are two reasons I decided to work in Japan. First, given that I have living experiences in the United States, Japan and my home country, Taiwan; I would like to be in a position that can connect the East and the West through my work. Also, my Asian identity is very important to me, I thought Japan would be a perfect place for me to realize my dream because of the country's diversity, uniqueness and globalization. Second, I didn't come to Japan until college, so I would like to have a full experience of living in Japan not only as a student but also as a working person.

Your Job-Hunting Period

Late-October 2019 to beginning of July 2020.

I started job hunting in the first semester of my senior year. Compared to Japanese students, I'm not familiar with the job-hunting process in Japan, so I started the journey with doing company and industry research by attending job-hunting support seminars, company information sessions and applying just to see whether I fit the industry/company. I got my first offer at the Tokyo Winter Career Forum in December. However, given that I had just started job hunting at that time, I decided to continue job hunting. April and May became the busiest time of my job-hunting journey. Originally, I planned to finish job hunting around May, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the recruitment schedule was delayed for most companies, I didn't start hearing good news from companies until late-June. Finally, I received five offers in total, one from the winter career forum and four around late June and early July.

Industries & Corporations Approached

I didn't limit my option to a certain industry. The five offers I got are very diverse in terms of the industry and company size. Those five companies are a venture IT company, a venture-size company in the catering industry, a midsize Japanese PR company, a foreign (U.S.) real estate service company, and a Japanese big corporation in real estate development.

Methods of Job Hunting

There are two special traits of my job-hunting experience. First, I attended several career forums and joint briefing sessions. I would encourage people to do so because they are very efficient in terms of the speed of interviews and the ability to attend many information sessions in a short period of time while you are still doing research. Second, as a foreigner doing job hunting in Japan, there are several career agencies that provide services especially for international students. I've used their services and I would also recommend them to fellow international students because they often have offer requests from companies that have positions for foreigners. Also, they provide extra support for your preparations.

Challenges Faced

Job hunting in Japan as a non-Japanese native is very challenging in many ways. The first challenge I faced is the use of Japanese language. Before job hunting, I'd never use Japanese on such a frequent basis. However, throughout the journey, I've come to get used to using the language and become more confident in using the language. By attending and asking questions during the information sessions, participating in group discussions as a part of the screening process and by doing interviews, my Japanese language ability has improved a lot. Another challenge I faced is how to adjust my mindset when receiving rejection letters (worse case for me was three rejection letters in a week). It's good if you have friends that are job hunting with so you can talk about it with them.

Importance of Japanese Language

If you choose to do the “traditional” job hunting in Japan like I did, I would say Japanese ability is very important. I definitely got rejected by some companies because of insufficient language ability. However, in my opinion, instead of trying to speak “perfect” Japanese using all the correct *keigo* (honorific words), I think the willingness and desire to communicate is more important. In that sense, as long as your Japanese is communicative with no major problems, you will be able to succeed in job hunting in Japan. You will find companies that appreciate your effort of trying and learning the language in such a short time. There are also many ways to look for a job in Japan besides the “traditional” way. Some of them don't require such a high level of Japanese, so don't let language become a barrier if you want to work here.

Message to Potential Job Seekers

Two pieces of advices I would like to give to potential job seekers are the importance of self-analysis and don't be discouraged. First, it is very important to do self-analysis to understand yourself and whether you can image yourself working in the company. It is also important to reflect on incidents that happened during the job-hunting process. This not only is helpful for job hunting but for personal growth as well. Secondly, as I mentioned before, be prepared to get rejected by many companies during the process; however, don't be discouraged. Eventually, you will find a company that wants you and fits you. Good luck!

7-3 Caution

■ You must watch out for the following types of companies and organizations and situations.

- There are too many estimated new staff, given the scale and functions of the company
- Compared to other companies in the same industry, the period of giving notification of a job offer is extremely early. As preconditions of a job offer, forcefully requiring the applicant to work as a part-timer (under the name of “training” or “internship”) at the company, restricting time for attending classes, or interfering with student life
- Terms of employment, such as pay, vacation, job type, and location, are not clearly specified
- Coaxing potential applicants to apply for the job with misleading or false information
- Conducting interviews that can be regarded as sexual harassment and/or calling the applicants in at odd times and to inappropriate locations
- Unilaterally rescinding a job offer without any proper explanation
- Exceptionally high first paycheck
- Too much commission-based pay (uncertain allowances) and too little fixed pay
- Discriminating against the applicant based on alma mater, gender, faith (religion), sexual orientation and job types of immediate family members
- Terms of employment in the job information greatly differ from that in the actual workplace, according to currently employed alumni
- Due to too-rapid growth, various in-house systems are not well organized
- After receiving notification of a job offer, contact with the company is disrupted/discontinued/lost
- In group/mass recruitment, assignment of staff remains uncertain even after employment

■ Watch Out for Off-Campus Recruitment Support Service Providers.

There are some unscrupulous recruitment support service providers who make a profit by taking advantage of student job seekers' sense of anxiety and unfamiliarity with the job market. They will organize seminars and various talks and charge you outrageous prices, when all of them are available free-of-charge at your University Career Center. Before you pay for overpriced seminars, you are advised strongly to confirm in advance whether those seminars are appropriate. They will also use direct mail, e-mail or call you directly. Also, they will linger around interview venues or even on university campuses and approach you for personal details. The Career Center does not tolerate any form of such sales activities by these providers. Should you witness any suspicious person(s) near the Career Center or on campus, please kindly contact us.