

2020-2021 Japanese-Language Programs for Foreign Service Officers and Public Officials

Program Description

The Japan Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan invite, each year, young foreign service officers and public officials in relevant ministries who are engaged in or expected to be engaged in duties that require a command of the Japanese language to Japan to provide an eight-month intensive training course in Japanese language as well as activities to understand Japanese culture and society. In principle, the programs are designed for total beginners or those who are still at an introductory level in learning Japanese language.

Outline of the Programs

(1) Japanese-Language Training

This intensive course aims to develop practical skills in the Japanese language required for diplomatic services in Japan, through an intensive curriculum specially designed for their occupational needs. The primary emphasis of the course is laid on oral communication skills (speaking and listening). Hiragana, Katakana and basic Kanji learning is covered by the curriculum. In addition, subjects such as speech & presentation and diplomatic vocabulary are prepared. As for the textbook, “*Marugoto: Japanese culture and society*,” a new series of course books which comply with the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education, will be used as main textbook.

(2) Understanding Japanese Culture and Society

Activities such as lectures, discussion and seminars in English, visits, field trips and cultural experiences will be organized to learn and become familiar with various aspects of Japanese culture and society.

(3) Networking (Meeting People)

The programs provide opportunities to meet Japanese diplomats, public officials, business people and university students, etc. The network built throughout the programs will become a valuable asset for the participants.

Duration: Eight months (from September 24, 2020 to May 21, 2021).