

To Everyone Planning to Apply for a Change of Status from “Student” to a Work Visa

Every year, from January to March, many applications are submitted with the aim of starting employment in April. If the required documents are incomplete or the application is submitted late, there is a possibility that the review will not be completed by your desired date.

Therefore, **if you wish to start working from April, please submit your application between December 1 and the end of January.**

Please note: If your application lacks required documents or if additional confirmation is needed based on the content of your application, the review may not be completed by your requested date.

Also, missing documents at the time of application can cause delays in the review process. **Please make sure to check the list of required documents and confirm that everything is complete before submitting your application.**

For details on the required documents, please select the status of residence you wish to change to from the page linked below.

*Working at a company: <https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/gijinkoku.html>

*Working as a researcher at a University: <https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/professor.html>

Regarding the Omission of Required Documents (For Those Wishing to Change Status from “Student” to “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” or “Research”)

Starting from **December 1, 2025**, in addition to the existing document omission based on the category of your current institution, for applications to change your status of residence from “Student” to “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” or “Research,” you may omit certain documents if you meet any of the following conditions (the documents eligible for omission are the same as those for Category 2).

Please note that this omission does **not** apply in cases of employment under a dispatch arrangement.

(1) Individuals who have graduated (or are expected to graduate) from a university in Japan (including graduate schools and junior colleges).

Other Important Notes

(1) Notification After Completion of Review

For applications submitted at the counter, a postcard notifying you of the completion of the review will be sent by the Regional Immigration Services Bureau. This notification may arrive before the end of your “Student” activities; however, please visit the Regional Immigration Services Bureau **after your student activities have ended (after receiving your graduation certificate)** with the required documents to receive your new residence card reflecting the changed status.

If you receive a notice specifying a date and time to visit the Bureau, please make sure to come at the designated time.

(2) Checking the Progress of Your Application

- Due to a large number of inquiries about application progress, phone lines are currently difficult to connect, and this is affecting review operations.
- **We cannot provide answers regarding the progress of individual applications. Please refrain from calling to check the status of your application.**