

# AFFORDABLE OPTIONS

## HONG KONG, JAPAN AND THAILAND



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& Oceania 2026

# Session Outline

- **World-Class Universities**
- **Cultural Diversity and Global Perspective**
- **Post study opportunities**
- **Let's talk about money!**
- **Other considerations**
- **Essential Info; top tips**
- **Extra Resources slide; quick links for Counsellors**



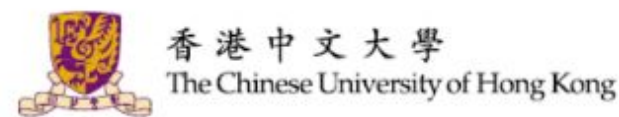
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# Hong Kong as a destination

## Essential Info to know

### 1 Home to 8 Public Universities

- Internationally recognized
- Semester starts in September
- No entrance exam needed
- Private universities in Hong Kong may have different practices— please check directly with those institutions.



### 2 Welcomes International Students

- Non-HK, non-Chinese passport holders
- International/National/Regional curriculum
- Apply via Non-JUPAS
- Some admissions info (scholarships, visa extension, application timeline) applies specifically to international students without HK/Chinese passports.



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# Home to Eight **World-Class** Public Universities, Five in the World's Top 100 (QS 2026 & THE 2026)

## Major Policy Shifts for International Students:

- **Non-local student quota: 20% → 50%**
- **Friendly visa policy** – only 3 countries excluded (Afghanistan, Cuba, North Korea)
- **Work restrictions lifted** – students can work part-time on-campus/off-campus during studies
- **Belt & Road Scholarship increased** from 100 to **150** places per year ([source](#))
- **Enhanced hostel facilities** to accommodate growth

## What this means for your students:

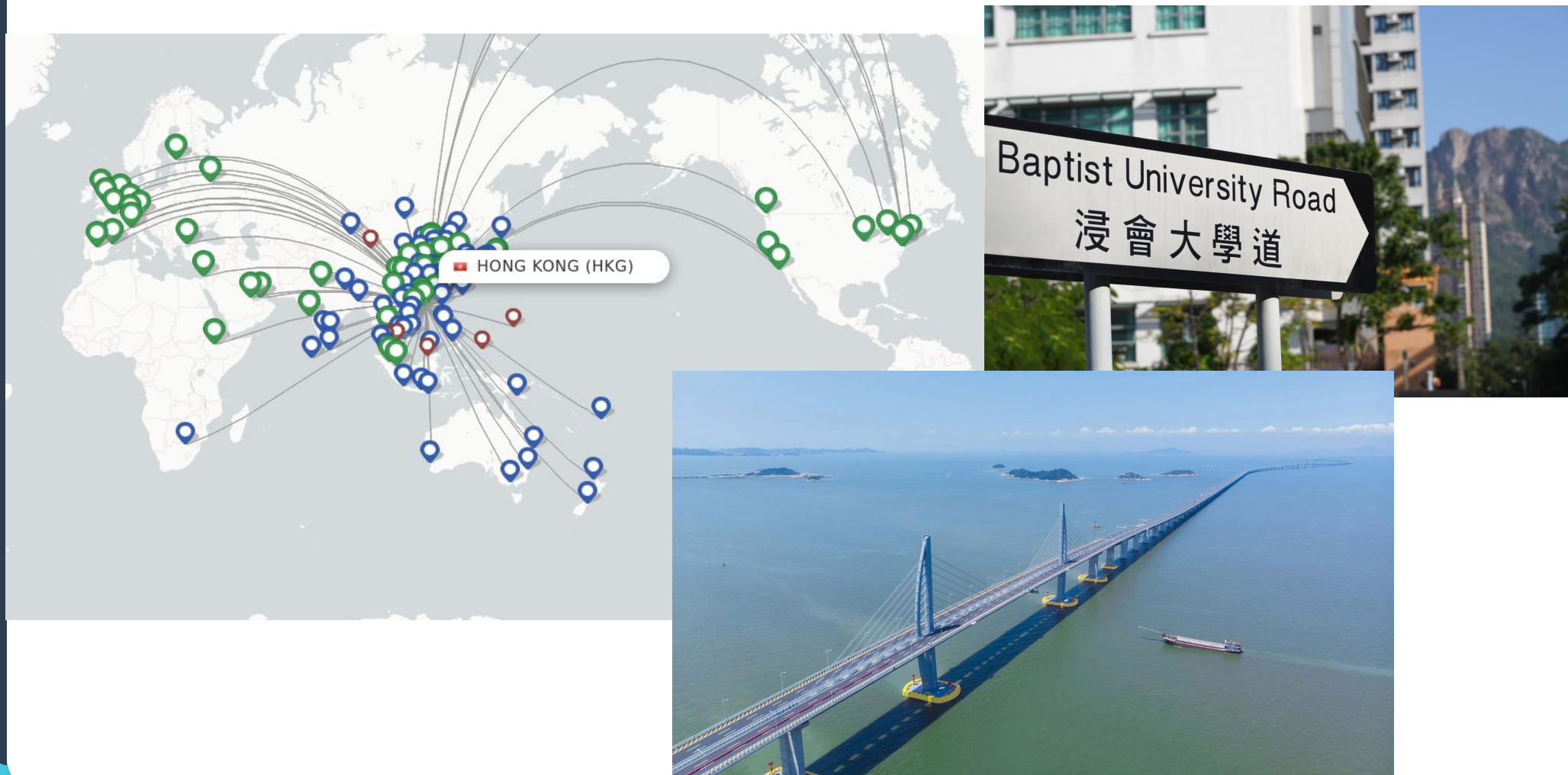
- Access to world-class education in the heart of Asia
- More acceptance opportunities
- Increased scholarship funding
- Expand on-campus hostel capacity
- Greater flexibility to work and intern during studies
- Pathway to stay, work, and get a PR after graduation



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# Cultural Diversity and Global Perspective

- **Bilingual environment** – English medium instruction in a multicultural city; no Chinese language required
- **Global financial hub** – access to career with a simple and low tax system
- **Gateway to Chinese Mainland and Asia-Pacific**
- **One of the world's safest cities**
- **Diverse student exchange and internship opportunities**
- **Heart of Asia – 2 – 5 hours flight radius** to major Asian cities (Vietnam, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok, Singapore, Manila, etc.)



## 👥 Student Diversity (2024/25)

**26,600+**

Non-local students in government-funded programmes

**100+**

Countries and regions represented

**1 in 4**

Students are non-local

**70%**

Academic staff from outside Hong Kong

(source)



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# Post study opportunities for jobs and working

## During Studies

- Part-time job on/off campus
- Internship

## After Graduation: IANG Visa

Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates

- **2-year stay** with no job offer required at application
- Over **172,000 IANG applications** have been approved since 2008 (**90%+ approval rate**) ([source](#))
- Pathway to Hong Kong employment and **permanent residency** after 7 years of ordinary residence



## Top 5 Industries for IANG Holders

Financial Services

Academic research  
and education

Information  
technology

Commerce and trade

Telecommunications

([source](#))

## Career Advantages

### Robust Job Market

Access to finance, tech, media, and business sectors in one of Asia's leading economies. Hong Kong's unemployment rate stands at **just 3.8%** ([Feb 2026, source](#)), lower than the global average of 4.9%. ([source](#))

### Greater Bay Area Gateway

11-city mega-region with **86 million people** – China's most dynamic economic zone.

### Regional Multinational Corporation Hub

Headquarters for multinational corporations across Asia-Pacific.



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# Let's talk about money!

- Tuition fees and student residence costs vary across universities and programmes.
- Personal expenses also differ depending on individual lifestyle choices.

## Scholarship Opportunities

### Admissions Scholarships

- Offered by individual universities
- Universities offer their own entry scholarships based on different criteria (merit-based, non-merit-based for non-academic talents, etc.)
  - Full (100% Tuition + living subsidies)
  - 100% Tuition
  - Half (50% of Full Scholarship)
  - Others (25% tuition or above), etc.
- Renewable subject to satisfactory academic performance
- No separate application needed

### Belt & Road Scholarship

- Offered by the HKSAR Government
- 100% tuition waiver to competitive students holding passport of Belt & Road countries
- Only those accepted an offer will be considered for nomination
- Universities nominate candidates who then compete among 8 public universities
- Nomination process usually starts in February
- Students are encouraged to apply early to ensure they can be considered for nomination, especially as quotas for this scholarship are limited

# Other considerations

## Flexible Curriculum Options

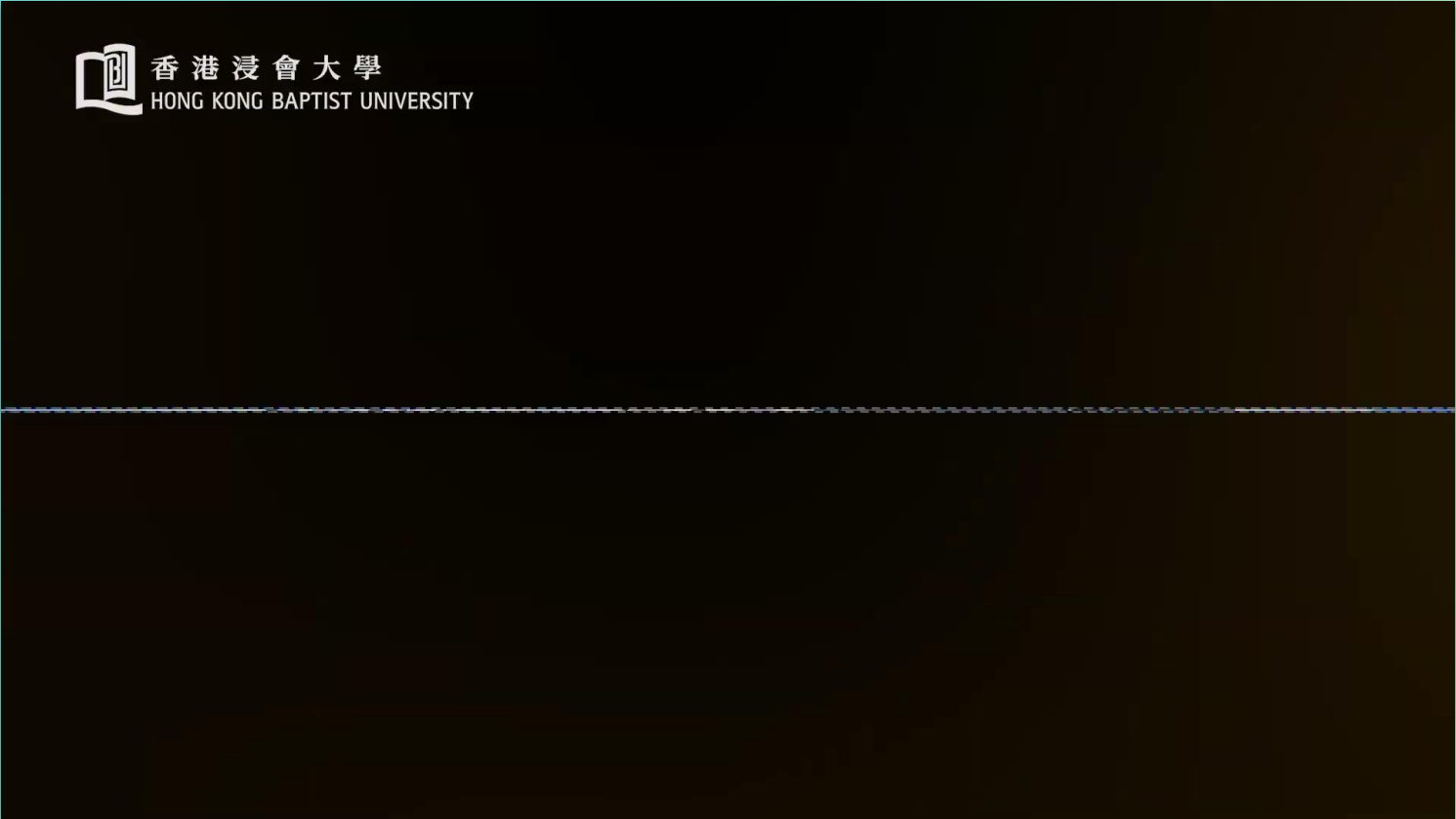
- Single Major / Major + Minor
- 2+ Majors (Different Fields)
- Declare Major Later / Change Major
- Design Your Own Major
- Interdisciplinary Programmes

## Style of the University

- Size
- Location
- Liberal Arts vs Comprehensive

## Experience

- Dormitory & Campus Life
- Sports Teams
- Student Societies
- Counselling & Mental Health Support



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# Japan as a destination

Japan is gaining ground in Asia & globally  
World-Class Universities & Academic Excellence

## GLOBAL THE

## GLOBAL QS

## SHANGHAI RANK

## NATIONAL

THE Times Higher Education

Home News Rankings

Rankings < World University Rankings 2026 Rankings by sub

University name: Japan

Rank	Name	Overall
26	The University of Tokyo Japan	83.5
61	Kyoto University Japan	74.0
=103	Tohoku University Japan	65.8
=151	The University of Osaka Japan	61.8

Overall Rank University Research Citations Faculty

=36	The University of Tokyo Tokyo, Japan	69.9
57	Kyoto University Kyoto, Japan	50.9
85	Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) Tokyo, Japan	54.2
91	Osaka University Osaka City, Japan	
109	Tohoku University Sendai City, Japan	
164	Nagoya University Nagoya, Japan	
=170	Hokkaido University Sapporo, Japan	
=170	Kyushu University Fukuoka City, Japan	

SHANGHAI RANKING Home Rankings Universities

Academic Ranking of World Universities 29 Institutions

World Rank	Institution	National/Regional Rank
31	The University of Tokyo Japan	1
46	Kyoto University Japan	2
101-150	Institute of Science Tokyo Japan	3-4
101-150	Nagoya University Japan	3-4
201-300	Hokkaido University Japan	5-10
201-300	Keio University Japan	5-10

THE Times Higher Education Home News Rankings

Rankings Home World University Rankings 2026

Rank	Name	Country/Region
1	Tohoku University	Miyagi
2	Tokyo Institute of Technology	Tokyo
3	The University of Tokyo	Tokyo
4	Kyoto University	Kyoto
5	Kyushu University	Fukuoka



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# Cultural Diversity and Global Perspective



10. The Major Universities with the Highest Number of International Students (As of May 1, 2024)

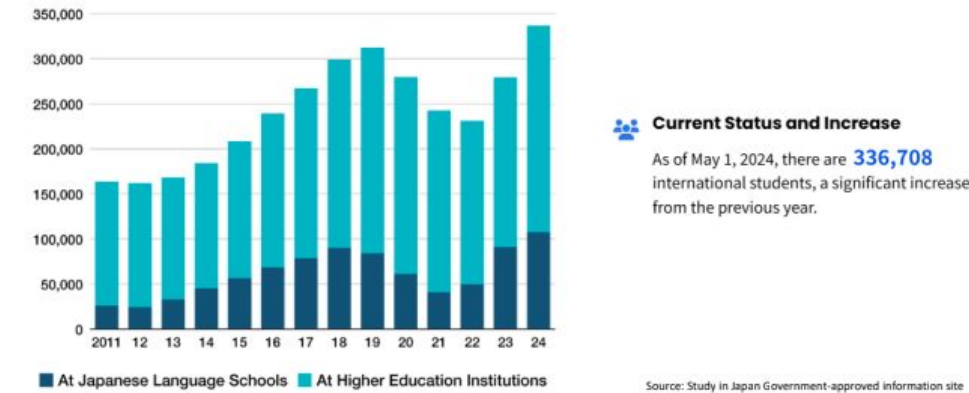
University name		Number of students	
Waseda University	Private	5,562	(5,560)
The University of Tokyo	National	4,793	(4,658)
Ritsumeikan University	Private	3,258	(3,027)
Kyoto University	National	2,791	(2,844)
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Private	2,776	(2,662)
Japan University of Economics	Private	2,675	(2,334)
Osaka University	National	2,595	(2,712)
Kyushu University	National	2,568	(2,526)
Tokyo University of Social Welfare	Private	2,470	(1,669)
University of Tsukuba	National	2,337	(2,342)
The Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics	Private	2,200	(1,688)
Keio University	Private	2,169	(2,146)
Tohoku University	National	2,142	(2,145)
Tokai University	Private	2,117	(1,610)
Hokkaido University	National	2,031	(2,116)
Nihon University	Private	2,007	(1,708)
Nagoya University	National	2,002	(2,140)

## RENKEI Member Universities



Institutions with the highest number of International students (2024 data) [Source:](#)

## International Students in Japan: Increasing Trend



## Study Abroad & Exchange Partner Institutions

Home > Partner Universities > Study Abroad & Exchange Partner Institutions

DBMD Partner Institutions

Study Abroad & Exchange Partner Institutions

Apply [↗](#)

Visit [↗](#)

Request More Info [>](#)

**AUSTRALIA**

[Griffith University](#)

**AUSTRIA**

[Modul University](#) (School of Sport, Tourism, & Hospitality Management only)

**BRAZIL**

[Insper Institute of Education and Research](#)

[São Paulo State University](#)

[Universidade de Brasília](#)

[Universidade Federal da Bahia](#)

[Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora](#)

[Universidade Positivo](#)

**CHINA**

[Beijing Forestry University](#)

[Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications](#) (College of Science & Technology only)

[Capital University of Economics and Business](#)

- a premier, safe destination offering high-quality education, particularly in technology and business, blending traditional culture with modern innovation.
- "Top Global University Project," - 300,000 Intl students achieved 2019.
- Focus on science, robotics, and engineering.
- strong industry-university partnerships
- Examples of global outreach & partnerships:
  - [Kyoto's network of partners](#)
  - [RENKI - UK partnerships](#)
  - [Temple, Japan](#)
  - [Waseda University](#)



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# Post study opportunities for jobs and working

Figure 1 Average employment rate of Japanese university and college graduates in the past 10 years

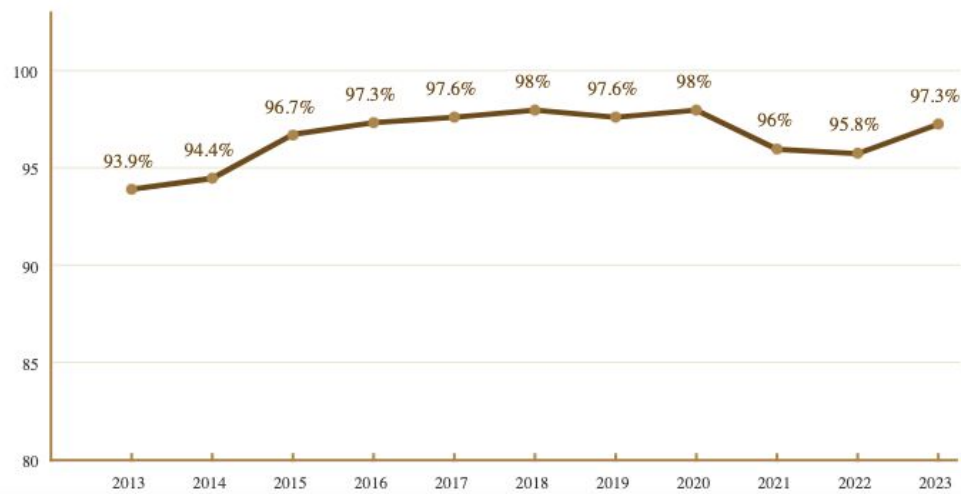
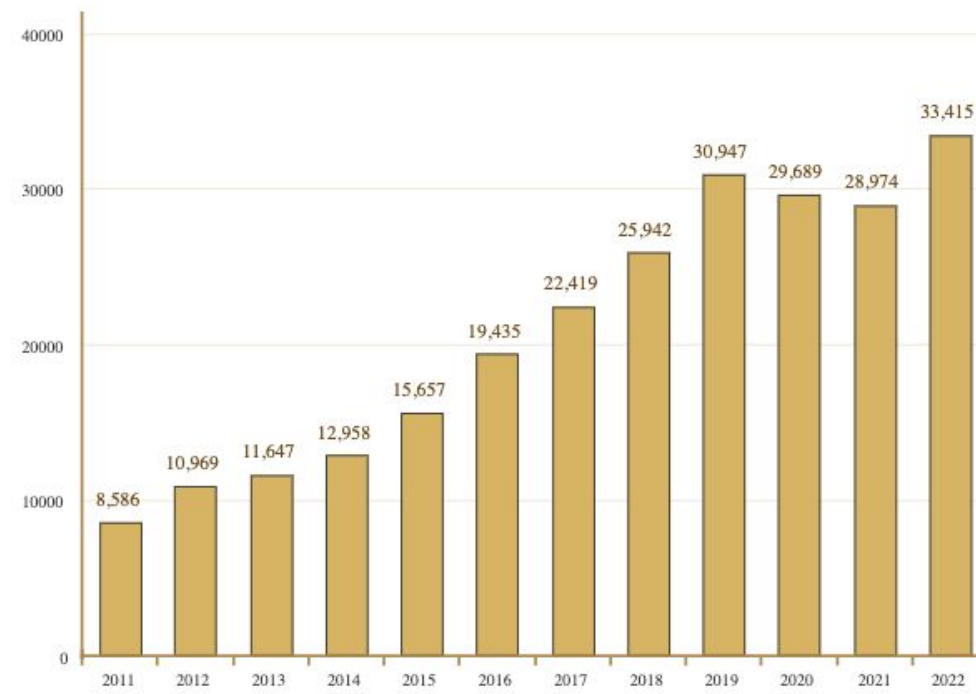


Figure 4 Number of international students graduating and working



“new graduates market”; word for ‘starting salary’ = Shoninkyu

Employment in Japan has consistently been over 90% last 10 years= **excellent prospects**

**Average salaries** undergrad; ¥210,000 - ¥225,457

International students **6-month to 1-year** "Designated Activities" visa to continue job hunting after graduation.

Figure 6 Industries of employment

Industry	Ratio	Industry	Ratio
Metal products	2.7%	Wholesale/retail	19.3%
Food products	2.0%	Academic research/professional and technical services	8.4%
Electrical machines/equipment	1.9%	Information and communications	7.8%
Transportation machinery/equipment	1.4%	Lodging	6.5%
Plastic products	1.3%	Placement services/worker dispatch services	6.4%
Production machinery/equipment	1.0%	Medical and welfare services	5.7%
Textiles	0.5%	Food and beverage services	5.7%
Other manufacturing	4.4%	Education	4.1%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	Construction	3.1%
		Real estate and rentals	2.9%
		Transportation and correspondence delivery	1.5%
		Finance and insurance	0.7%
		Other non-manufacturing industries	12.5%
		<b>Non-manufacturing industries</b>	<b>84.4%</b>

**Once employed-** switch to a work visa, usually valid for 1, 3, or 5 years, & renewable as long as employed

Options for visa status & changes [HERE](#)

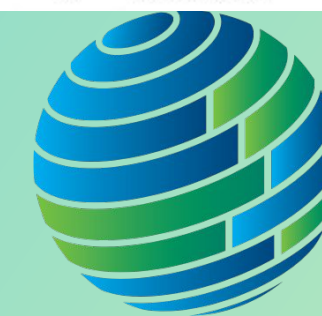
## Universities Strong in Employment

The number of 2024 graduates employed at top 400 major companies in Japan.

Rank	University	Number of Graduates
1	Waseda University	3,526
2	Keio University	2,831
3	Meiji University	1,946
4	Doshisha University	1,845
5	Osaka University	1,566
6	Ritsumeikan University	1,561
7	University of Tokyo	1,540
8	Chuo University	1,325
9	Kwansai Gakuin University	1,319
10	Kyoto University	1,264

**Strong alumni networks among big major companies**

Source: Toyo Keizai Online (<https://toyokeizai.net/articles>)



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# Let's talk about money!

- Scholarships; Many - see individual websites!

(Image Source: CIS2025)

<b>ICU Peace Bell Scholarship</b>  1,000,000 / Year  Admissions	<b>Ritsumeikan International Students Assistance Scholarship</b>  250,000 / Year  International Students (After Enrolment)	<b>Kyoto Advanced Sciences KUAS-E Scholarship</b>  Full Tuition Waiver  International Students (Admissions)	<b>NUCB Admissions Scholarship</b>  300,000 or 600,000 or 900,000 / Year  Admissions
<b>Temple University, Japan Dean's Scholarship</b>  50% Tuition Waiver  Admissions & Maintain GPA	<b>Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship</b>  50% Tuition Waiver  Japanese Nationality Admissions	<b>iCLA Yamanashi Gakuin Academic Scholarship</b>  25 to 100% Tuition Waiver  Admissions	<b>Ritsumeikan Ando Momofuku Scholarship</b>  1,000,000 / Year  Under 30 Years Old & Countries from Asia

Amounts shown above in Japanese Yen

**10 Universities in Japan** with high acceptance rates, affordable prices & scholarships

## Japanese Government [MEXT scholarship](#):

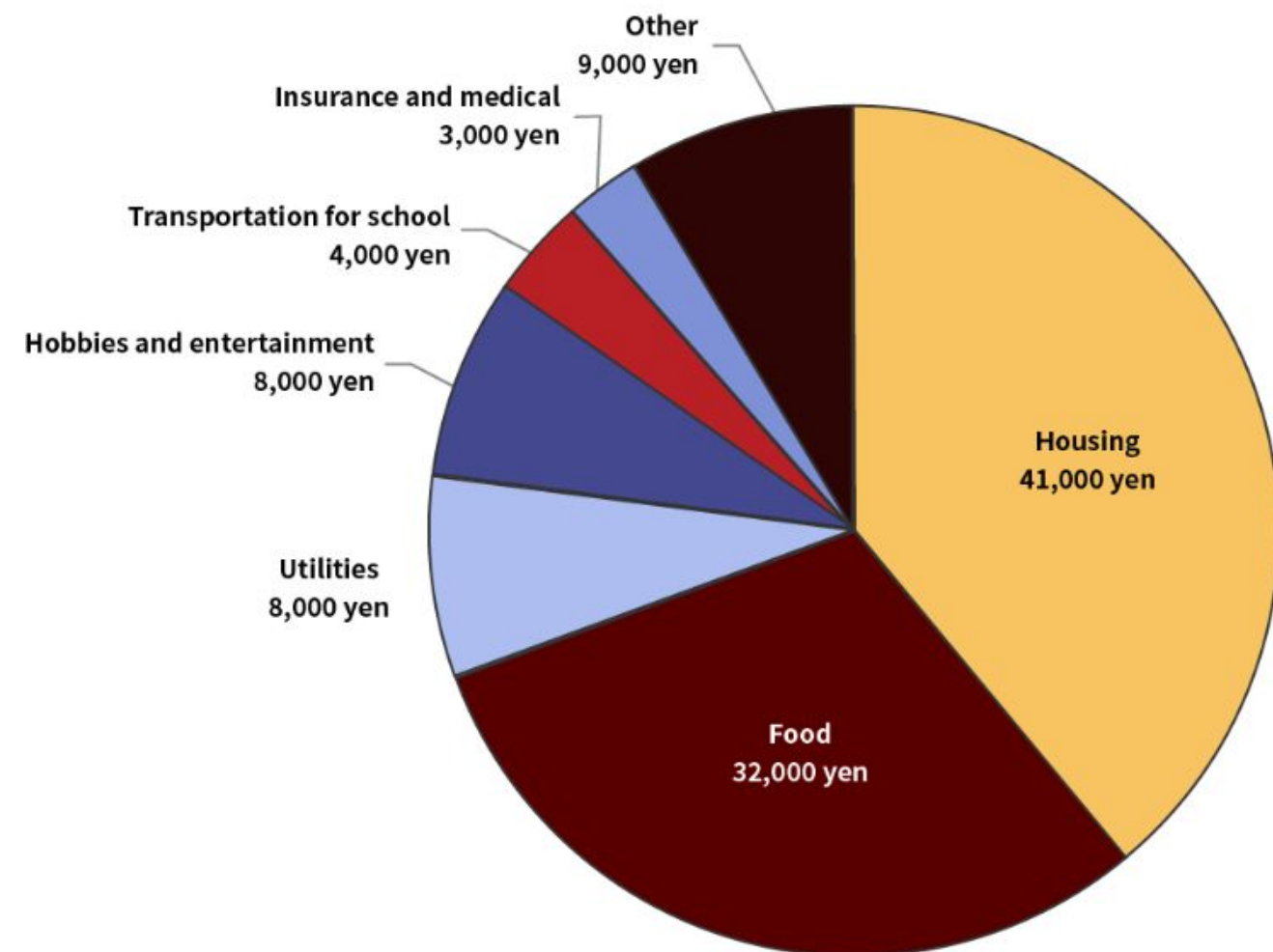
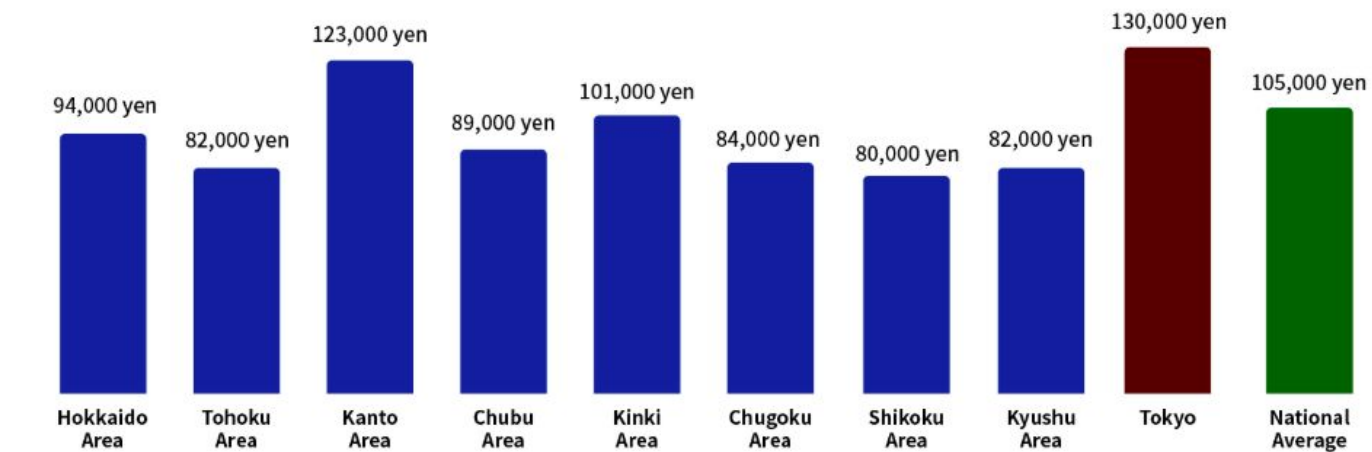
- prestigious, fully-funded program for international students offered by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- covers tuition fees, flights, & gives monthly allowance
- embassy recommendation vs university rec
  - Only a select number of universities approved by the MEXT can make recommendations; see [this website](#) for full details & eligibility
- 7 types of Japanese Government Scholarship program
  - Research students,
  - Teacher training students,
  - Undergraduate students,
  - Japanese studies students,
  - college of technology students,
  - Specialized training college students,
  - Young Leaders Program (YLP) students.



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# Other considerations; living costs, part-time work

Average monthly cost of living (Excluding the cost of study and research)



[Source 2023 data](#)

- **Tokyo** Living costs affordable (¥180,000–¥320,000 = \$1,200 to \$2,100 USD (Includes housing rent))
- **Kyoto cheaper:** Kyoto for a single person is approximately \$1,100–\$1,300 USD (approx. ¥160,000–¥190,000 JPY), covering rent, utilities, and food.
- Students can work to support their studies financially: **28 hours per week** during academic terms, (permission needed from the [immigration office](#).)
- **During holidays**= maximum of 8 hours per day (approximately 40–48 hours per week)



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# 3 things to know: Essential Info



## Cost & Aid: Comparing Tuition and Support



1. **Public vs Private:** Costs significantly lower, however, English programmes are in specialised fields: e.g. at UTokyo, Kyoto University, Kyushu University

2. **"Global 30" initiative (MEXT - 300,000 Intl Students)** designed to attract international students, the number of universities offering English degrees has grown considerably.



文部科学省

MEXT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE, SPORTS,  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

3. **Excellent graduate employment options**  
(Study in Japan 2023-25)

- Information and Communications (IT): 25.3% of top offers.
- Manufacturing (Machinery/Equipment): ~14.5% of offers.
- Wholesale/Retail: 19.3% of employment.
- Hospitality/Lodging/Services: 6.5%+.
- Other key sectors: Consulting, Finance, Trading, and Engineering



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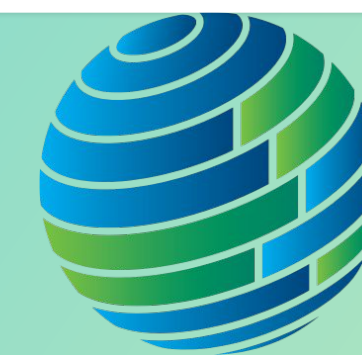
# Thailand as a destination: The Basics



Top Universities	QS World	THE Asia	Number of Int'l (English-taught) undergraduate programs
<a href="#">Chulalongkorn University</a>	221	132	21 Programs
<a href="#">Mahidol University</a>	358	199	33 Programs
<a href="#">Chiang Mai University</a>	526	251-300	12 Programs
<a href="#">Thammasat University</a>	551	501-600	34 Programs
<a href="#">Kasetsart University</a>	701-710	601+	27 Programs
<a href="#">King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi</a>	901-950	201-250	15 Programs
<a href="#">Khon Kaen University</a>	901-950	351-400	8 Programs

## Just the Facts

- Internationally recognized
- AFFORDABLE! - annual tuition often less than US\$6000/year
- Many programs accredited (ABET, AACSB, etc.)
- Academic year starts in August, but some programs are also open for students in January
- Some are on a trimester system and accept students in each term
- Variety of application rounds
  - Portfolios
  - Direct Exams
  - SAT/IELTS/TOEFL
- Quirk: often decentralized recruitment, by faculty and sometimes by program



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# Thailand: A Regional Hub for International Education in Asia

- 34,000+ international students from 100+ countries
- 60% of international students come from China, with strong ASEAN representation
- Growing diversity: South Asia, Africa, Europe, North America
- 300+ English-taught undergraduate programs
- Strategic location in Southeast Asia (regional hub)
- Eastern Economic Corridor
- International internship opportunities outside of Thailand
- Multicultural campuses with global student communities
- Background: ~200 international high schools in Thailand

**63 ICT Mahidol Students**  
Set to Join Internships Abroad  
with Generous Global Support!

**TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP ~6.62 million THB**

- 5.08 million THB from Mahidol University's Global Partnership Division (GPD)
- 1.54 million THB from Partner Universities (University of Bremen and Macquarie University)

**Japan**

**Australia**

**Taiwan**

**Malaysia**

**Germany**

The graphic features a grid of student photos, each with a small flag icon representing their home country. The countries shown include Japan, Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Germany. The background includes a map of Thailand and various international symbols.

**Congratulations to**  
ICT Mahidol instructors for being named in  
Stanford University  
**The World's Top 2% Scientist List 2024**

**Prof. Dr. Peter Haddawy**  
Deputy Dean for Research  
• Career-Long Most-Cited Scientist

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Worapan Kusakunniran**  
Head of the MVIT Lab and Program Chair of the Ph.D. in Computer Science  
• Single Recent Year Most-Cited Scientist 2023  
• Career-Long Most-Cited Scientist

The graphic features two circular portraits of the professors mentioned. The background is a light blue and white geometric design.



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# Post study opportunities for jobs and working

## Faculty of ICT, Mahidol Top International Employers

1. Agoda
2. Accenture
3. IBM
4. SS&C Technologies
5. LSEG
6. ExxonMobil
7. Ascend
8. Allianz Technologies
9. Atos IT Solutions
10. Deloitte
11. KPMG
12. LINE Corporation
13. PwC Thailand
14. Thoughtworks
15. Refinitiv

- One-Year “Job-Seeking” Visa (Non-Ed Plus)
  - allows graduates to stay in Thailand for 1 year to search for work
- Convert to a Work Visa (Non-immigrant B + Work Permit)
  - Employer sponsored
- Best Bets: Highly skilled/Board of Investment (BOI)/International Companies
  - More willing to sponsor visas
  - Often seek English-speaking graduates

**ICT Mahidol Job & Education Fair 2025**  
 Wednesday, November 12, 2025  
 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 Grand Auditorium and Bits & Bytes Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, the Faculty of ICT

Companies attending the event:

100X, ABACUS digital, ABeam Consulting, acommerce, Adecco, AIS, ALPHASEC, atc, NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA GROUP, Bangkok Bank, บมจ. ยูนิลีฟ ประเทศไทย, ธนาคารแห่งประเทศไทย, 3E8, BETAGRO, BRITISH ACADEMIC CENTER, BPS, CDG, CENTRAL RETAIL, CPF, Deloitte, ELYSIANXT, freewillsolutions, GAME hub, Gofive, HANA Semiconductor (Ayutthaya) Co., Ltd., hands on, IEE, Index livingmall, INOX, Inteltion, INTERCHANGE THAILAND, IT one, kao, KGI, KPMG, KING HUAT GROUP, KING TECHNO MIX, looloo, LSEG, M2, MANGO, MDPI, MFEC, NETbay, Newcastle University, ORCSOFT, pwc, RPB, pantavanij, PERCEPTRA, playtorium, PRIMO, PROMPTNOW, SCG, SELT, SECURE, SERTIS, SEVEN PEAKS, simplifynext, SIRISOFT, Skooldio, STELLAR, sunday, TCC TECHNOLOGY, TN Digital Solutions, Think Blue Data, The GANGL Technology, THE MALL GROUP, TOYOTA TSUSHO NEXTLY ELECTRONICS (THAILAND) CO., LTD., roots, UNIXDEV, VIEW PASTOR, Western Digital, WESTMINSTER School of English, WIN Education, WISESIGHT



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# Let's talk about money!

## TUITION

120,000 - 400,000 THB/year (USD 3300 - 11000)

Thailand offers internationally taught undergraduate degrees typically ranging from USD 3,000 to 11,000 per year, making it one of the most affordable English-medium higher education destinations in Asia.

Living Costs can vary from USD 7000 - 12,000/year, depending on lifestyle.

Scholarships can be difficult to come by, especially at public universities, but some are available.



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# Other Considerations for Studying in Thailand

## Cultural Experience & Global Perspective

- Diverse student body (Asia = Global Mix)
- Respectful, collaborative learning environment
- Rich cultural immersion (festivals, food, daily life)
- Multicultural society within Thailand
- Growing international campus communities
- Strong development of cross-cultural skills
- Different communication and learning styles

*Thailand offers a uniquely Asian international experience - combining cultural immersion with regional relevance for future careers.*

## Practical Concerns

- Affordable Tuition & Living Costs
- 1 year post-study stay
- Work visa requires employer sponsorship
- Regional Hub for ASEAN careers
- Wide range of English-taught programs
- Growing international student community
- Excellent travel connectivity in Asia
- Downside: Limited to no part-time work options while studying



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# 3 Essential things to know about studying in Thailand

- **High Value Education**

*Affordable, quality, internationally taught programs*

- **It's a Regional Hub, Not a Migration Pathway**

*Gateway to ASEAN, with realistic career pathways*

- **A Truly Asian International Experience**

*A uniquely Asian, globally relevant student experience*

Thailand offers many opportunities—but students need guidance navigating decentralized information sources.

*Thailand may not be the most obvious destination – but for the right student, it is one of the smartest.*



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# RESOURCES FOR COUNSELLORS



**Hong Kong**



**Japan**



**Thailand**



[Study in Hong Kong](#)

[Student diversity figures](#)

[IANG Visa](#)

[Admissions requirements](#)

[\(HKBU as an example\)](#)

[Studying in Japan](#)

[Study in Japan; Basic Guide](#)

[Study in Japan: scholarships](#)

[Study in Japan; recommended institutions](#)

[How to Study in Japan; a complete guide](#)

[English university programmes](#)

[Tokyo](#)

[Japan University Consortium](#)

[Studying in Japan: a complete guide for International Students](#)

As there are no centralized “Study in Thailand” websites, here is a sample of what Mahidol University offers:

[Faculty of Information and Communication](#)

[Technology](#) (1 Program)

[Faculty of Science](#) (6 Programs)

[Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies](#) (1 Program)

[Mahidol University International College](#) (17 Programs)

[Faculty of Engineering](#) (3 Programs)

[Faculty of Dentistry](#) (1 Program)

[Faculty of Pharmacy](#) (1 Program)

[Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital](#) (1 Program - Bachelor of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics)



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# Over to you

## Q/A time Fun quiz

Join at [www.kahoot.it](http://www.kahoot.it)  
or with the **Kahoot!** app

Game PIN:

# 501 3211



# Kahoot!



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