



# NIC-Japan

National Information Center  
for Academic Recognition Japan

## Introducing NIC-Japan: What it does and what is expected

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# NIC-Japan

National Information Center  
for Academic Recognition Japan

- The UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (the Tokyo Convention 2011) entered into force in 2018.
- Currently 12 state parties have ratified. Japan ratified it in 2017.
- In accordance with the Convention, the NIC-Japan was established in 2019 within NIAD-QE as Japan's national information center (NIC).

## The Tokyo Convention 2011 provides:

Each Party shall provide adequate information including:

- (a) a description of its higher education system;
- (b) an overview of the different types of higher education institutions, and of the typical characteristics of each type of institution;
- (c) a list of recognized and/or accredited higher education institutions, their powers to award different types of qualifications and the requirements for gaining access
- (d) an explanation of quality assurance mechanisms; and
- (e) a list of educational institutions located outside its territory

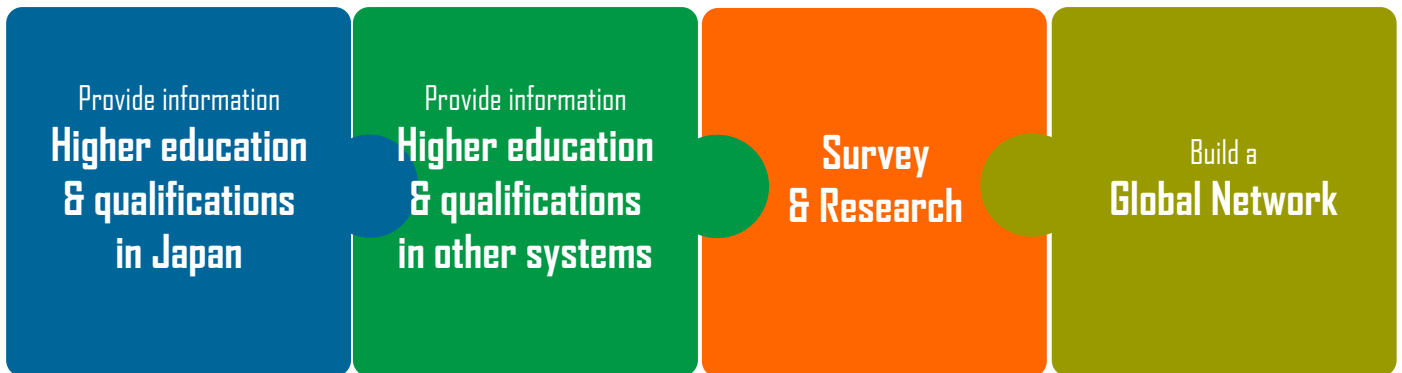
## The Tokyo Convention 2011 provides:

Each Party shall take adequate measures for the development and maintenance of a **national information centre** that will provide higher education information.

The form of the national information centre could vary.

## What we do:

In order to ensure credibility of Japanese qualifications and facilitate their recognition in other countries, NIC-Japan carries out the following tasks:



<https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp/en/>

## Information provision: Japan

NIC-Japan provides information about higher education in Japan:

- Search portal for HEIs (including Professional Training Colleges and education institutions operated by ministries other than MEXT)
- Overview of Japanese education system with statistics and links to laws/regulations

Top English > Search

### Search Higher Education Institutions in Japan

Search for institution names in English or Japanese

Search by name of institution

Type of Institution (You can select more than one)

Types of qualifications (You can select more than one)

All

University Select details +

College of Technology

Professional Training College Select field(s) +

Education institutions operated by government ministries and agencies

All

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's Degree (Professional)

Associate Degree

Associate Degree (Professional)

Master's Degree

Doctoral Degree

Search portal for HEIs in Japan  
<https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp/en/search/index.html>

Top English > The Japanese Education System > Overview of Japanese Education System

### Overview of the Japanese Education System

Statistics of Higher Education  
 (As of May 1, 2021)

Number of Higher Education Institutions

	National	Public	Private	Total
University <sup>1)</sup>	86	98	619	803
Junior College	---	14	301	315
College of Technology	51	3	3	57
Professional Training College (Specialized Training College which offers Post-Secondary Course) <sup>2)</sup>	8	183	2,563	2,754
Education institutions operated by government ministries and agencies <sup>3)</sup>	3	---	---	3

Overview of HEIs in Japan w/stats  
<https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp/en/japanese-system/about.html>

## Information provision: other HE systems

NIC-Japan provides information about other HE systems:

- Links to the relevant websites (on 24 systems available)
- Overview of Quality Assurance System in Higher Education (on 18 systems incl. ASEAN EU available)

The screenshot shows a webpage titled 'オーストラリア' (Australia) under the heading '外国の教育制度について' (About Foreign Education Systems). It lists various links and information related to the Australian education system, including domestic information centers, government departments, and quality assurance agencies.

Links to Australian relevant websites  
<https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp/foreign-system/by-country/australia.html>



Country Overview: Sri-Lanka (2020)  
<https://www.niad.ac.jp/consolidation/international/info/srilanka.html>

## Information provision: for what?

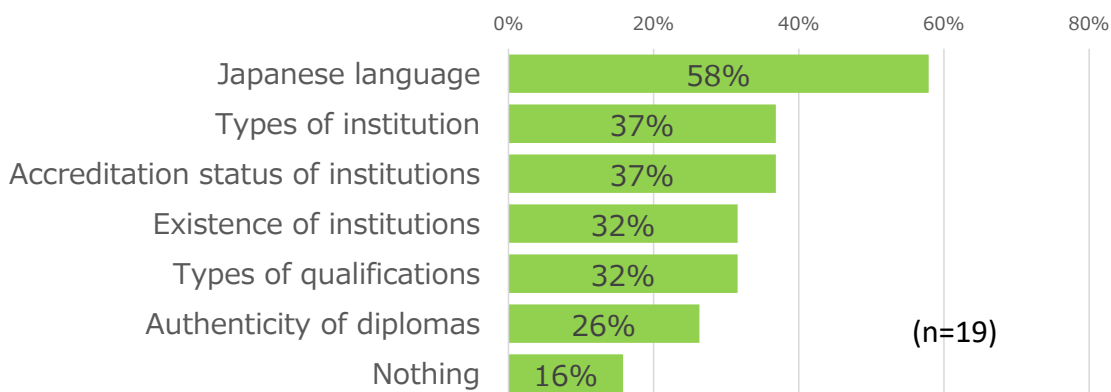
NIC-Japan provides information about Japanese HE system and other HE systems in order to:

- Help national and international *Competent Recognition Authorities* in recognizing foreign qualifications.
- Competent Recognition Authority is a governmental or non-governmental body officially authorized by government with making decisions on the recognition of foreign qualifications.
- In Japan, Competent Recognition Authorities are defined as MEXT, other ministries that operate education institutions in the framework of the Tokyo Convention, and each HEI.
  - In the academic year of 2021, NIC-Japan processed app. 150 inquiries form individuals and organizations including other NICs.

## Survey and Research

NIC-Japan implements surveys and researches for better information provision:

- International survey on information demand on Japanese HE has found it is difficult to understand;
- Difficulties found by foreign NICs in evaluating Japanese qualifications



NIAD-UE (2016) *Survey on Information Demanded to Support Student Mobility*

## Survey and Research (cont.)

NIC-Japan accumulates FAQs :

- What the difference between Associate Degree (準学士) that had been awarded through 2005 and current Tanki-Daigakushi (短期大学士) awarded by junior colleges?
- Is the Common Test for University Admissions required to all prospective students systemwide?
- Is it true that Japanese high schools keep student transcripts only for 5 years?



## Survey and Research (cont.)

NIC-Japan implements surveys and researches for better information provision:

- Hosting “NIC-Japan Seminar Series” a talk series inviting international speakers talking about education systems and quality assurance activities
- Development of “Academic Qualification Table” that shows articulations among different levels of education

**高等教育資格**

- 修業年限：大学法と施行細則によれば、学部ごとにも128単位、修業年限は4年で、大学が定める。修士課程は1～4年、博士課程は2～7年。
- 実習などの必要性に応じるため、さらに半年～2年を延長できる。各大学が修業年限を調整する権限があるが、教育部に申告しなければならない。
- 特別支援教育、妊娠、出産、子育ての関係などでその修業年限を延長できる。
- 退学処分：犯罪など重大事件をめぐる退学処分は学内の審議会での議論・決定する。成績不良については、昔は一学年または一学期に1/2また2/3の科目が不合格になった場合は、退学処分になったことがあるが、現在はほとんど廃止された。
- 二重学籍による退学処分の規定は1985年に廃止された。

## Global network building - APNNIC

- Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centres (APNNIC) was established in 2019 as the official network of NICs in the Asia-Pacific region concerning higher education. Its members are the NICs of the all 12 state parties to the Tokyo Convention.
- Aims to serve as the Asia-Pacific region’s portal for authoritative information on qualifications recognition.
- Annual plenary meeting, information provision via [APNNIC website](#), studies on qualifications recognition, etc., are going.

**unesco** **APNNIC** Search **RESTRICTED AREA**

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**Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centres (APNNIC)**

APNNIC is a regional network of National Information Centres (NICs) of the parties to the Tokyo Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the Asia-Pacific region. The APNNIC portal provides free and authoritative information on the recognition of qualifications to help facilitate physical or virtual mobility of students and academics. To date, the twelve Parties to the Tokyo Convention are Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, China, Fiji, Holy See, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and Turkey. Additional countries are nearing completion of their procedures to become a Party.

Afghanistan Armenia Australia China Fiji Holy See Japan Mongolia New Zealand Republic of Korea Russia Turkey

## Issues and Challenges

- Foreign credential recognition: What NIC-Japan currently provide is not recognition or recommendation but information
  - Demands on HEI side
  - Supply capacity on NIC side
  - Laws and regulations
- Global convention: Rie's personal view
  - Demands on HEI side
  - Supply capacity on NIC side
  - Laws and regulations
- Development and maintenance of proficiency within NIC staff members

Thank you very much for your attention!