

May 20, 2020
Immigration Services Agency

Handling of residency applications from mid-to-long-term residents and former mid-to-long-term residents who have difficulty returning to their home country due to the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Up until now, the Immigration Services Agency took the measure of granting the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor (90 Days)” or “Designated Activities (3 Months)” to mid-to-long-term residents, who were finding it difficult to return to their home country having been impacted by the novel coronavirus, up until the time of them being able to return.

However, since it is still difficult for them to return to their home country, from now on, mid-to-long-term residents who have difficulty returning to their home country will be granted the status of residence of “Designated Activities (6 Months)” (see Attachment 1). Along with this, even former mid-to-long-term residents (excluding foreign nationals residing with the status of residence of “Designated Activities (Preparations for Departure)”, who are currently residing with a status of residence of three months or less, will be permitted the status of residence of “Designated Activities” (6 Months)” at the time of their next application such as the application for extension of the period of stay”.

In addition, students who have difficulty returning to their home country and wish to work will be allowed to work (part-time) within a limit of 28 hours per week.

With regard to some of the applications from residents residing in the area of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, in order to prevent the application counters from becoming crowded, in principle, applications sent by post only to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau will be accepted until June 30 this year (must arrive by this date) (see Attachment 2 for details). In addition, regarding applications from former technical intern trainees, the supervising organization or accepting organization is permitted to compile the application and act as an agent for the former technical intern trainee.

Status of residence for mid-to-long-term residents who have difficulty returning to their home country

(New handling from May 21)

(i) Those who used to reside, or, who are residing with the status of residence of “Student” (and wish to work)

Currently holding a status of residence of “Temporary Visitor (90 Days)”

⇒ “Designated Activities (Permitted to Work Part-Time within a Limit of 28 Hours a Week/ 6 Months)”

(*) Limited to those who graduated from (completed) an educational institution on or after January 1, 2020.

(*) Those who have been granted permission to engage in an activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted within the period of stay permitted for “Student” will be permitted to work part-time within the limit of 28 hours a week even after they have graduated from the educational institution without the need to re-acquire permission.

(ii) Those who used to reside, or, who are residing with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training” or “Designated Activities (*)” (and wish to work)

(*) Internship (No. 9), Foreign Construction Worker (No. 32), Foreign Shipbuilding Worker (No. 35), Foreign Manufacturing Worker (No. 42)

Currently holding the status of residence of “Designated Activities (Work Permitted, 3 Months)”

⇒ “Designated Activities (Work Permitted, 6 Months)”

(iii) Those who are residing with some other status of residence (including cases of foreign nationals coming under the above (i) and (ii) and who do not wish to work)

Currently “Temporary Visitor (90 days)”

⇒ “Designated Activities (Work Not Permitted / 6 Months)”

(The following matters are being handled in the same manner as before.)

- (i) Those who are residing with a status of residence permitting work such as “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services” and who have been dismissed due to deterioration of the employment situation, whose contract is not going to be renewed, or who have been told to wait at home.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001319520.pdf>

- (ii) Those who are continuing to job hunt or who are waiting to hear if they have been hired

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001318289.pdf>

- (iii) Those who are residing on a “working holiday”

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001319466.pdf>

- (iv) Those who residing as an EPA nurse or certified care worker candidate, etc.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001319719.pdf>

(Attachment 2)

About the application procedures
[Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau]

1. Application procedures

(1) Application procedures by post

Those who may send their application by post are those who live in the jurisdiction of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (*) and fall under any of the following a to d.

- a. Those who currently have the status of residence of “Student” and who wish to continue their stay in Japan because it is difficult to return to their home country
- b. Former international students who stayed as a mid-to-long-term resident and are currently residing with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor (90 days)” because returning to their home country is difficult
- c. Spouse and children of the above a or b residing with the status of residence of “Dependent” or “Temporary Visitor”
- d. Former technical intern trainees (including former foreign construction workers and foreign shipbuilding workers; the same applies below) who were residing as a mid-to-long-term resident and who are currently residing with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor (90 days)” or “Designated Activities (3 months)” since it is difficult for them to return to their home country

(*) Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Niigata, Yamanashi, Nagano

(2) Application procedures through appearing in person

Those who are to submit their applications in person are those who do not come under the above 1 (1).

Please note that we will not be accepting applications from applicants who appear in person if you are an applicant who should be sending your application by post.

(*) Those who fall under any of (1) a to c above will have to appear in person at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo) in order to receive their residence card. If you would like to receive yours at the Yokohama district immigration office or branch office, please apply at the Yokohama district

immigration office or branch office that has jurisdiction over your place of residence. (Please note that if you apply by post, you will not be able to receive your residence card at the Yokohama district immigration office or branch office).

2. Postal address

(1) Those who come under one of the above 1 (1) a to c

Student Inspection Department, Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (in charge of the applications for designated activities)

Address: 5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8255

* You can print the postal address from the following link and attach it to the envelope.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001320108.xlsx>

(2) Those who come under 1 (1) d above

Odaiba Office, Residence Management Information Department, Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (in charge of applications for designated activities)

Address: 9F Tokyo Port Joint Government Bldg., 2-7-11 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0064

3. Submitted materials

Please post the following common materials and individual materials.

(1) Common materials

a. Application for permission to change the status of residence (**Form U (Other)**) or application for permission to extend the period of stay (**Form U (Other)**)

* 1 **Be sure to attach a photo of your face.**

* 2 Please refer to the following link if you come under 1 (1) a, b and c above, or 1 (1) d above and do not wish to work.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001290191.xlsx>

* 3 If you are a person who comes under 1 (1) d above and wish to work, please refer to the following link.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001290195.xlsx>

b. Proof to confirm that there is a rational reason for why you are unable to return to your home country (any format)

c. Copy of both sides of your residence card (if you have been issued with one)

* Please DO NOT send the actual residence card itself.

d. Copy of your passport (page with the bio data)

* 1 If you are residing with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, please also submit a copy of the page which has the most recent permission sticker attached to it

* 2 Please DO NOT send the actual passport itself.

e. If an agent is posting the application, a copy of the certificate for the application agent

(2) Individual materials

- Those who come under any of 1 (1) a, b and c above.

a. A certificate of graduation (or completion) from an educational institution issued on or after January 1, 2020 (for those coming under 1 (1) c above, the above certificate of the spouse or parent of the applicant is required).

b. Document checklist

* Please refer to the following link for the forms.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001320106.pdf>

* If there is the possibility that you might want to work during the period of stay, please add a check mark ✓ to the Yes” box for whether or not you wish to work.

- Those coming under 1 (1) d above

a. A statement of reasons prepared by the supervising organization or the accepting organization (the latter is limited to the case of individual-enterprise-type technical intern training)

b. Document relating to the employment contract for the work entered into with the accepting organization (copy of the employment contract, employment terms and conditions, etc.)

* If the workplace is the same as before, the document relating to the employment contract (copy of the employment contract, employment terms and conditions, etc.) does not have to be submitted.

c. Fee payment slip with a revenue stamp

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000099903.pdf>

* Make sure that the revenue stamp (4,000 yen) is attached to the fee payment slip and that the applicant’s signature is in the signature box of the fee payment slip.

d. Document checklist

* Please refer to the following link for the forms.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001320107.pdf>

Return self-addressed envelope (make sure you have written the recipient and address, and have stuck enough postage stamps for simplified registered mail. You can also use a “Letter Pack” envelope sold by the post office if you wish)

- Those who do not come under any of 1 (1) a to d above

Documents relating to payment of accommodation costs, etc.

4. Receiving the results

(1) Those who come under 1 (1) a to c above

For those who are applying by post, in order to prevent congestion at the immigration counters, we will specify the date and time of your appearance when notifying you of the results of the application.

In addition, if you applied at the Yokohama district immigration office or branch office in person, you will receive an explanation on the day of the application (issued in principle on the day of the application).

(2) Those who come under 1 (1) d above

Your residence card will be delivered by post so you do not have to appear in person.

5. Post acceptance period

The application must arrive by Tuesday, June 30 of this year

(If the acceptance period is to be extended, the information will be posted on our website.)

6. Points to bear in mind

(1) Please send the application in by simplified registered mail. Please note that if you simply post it through ordinary post, it will be sent back to you.

(2) On the front of the envelope, please write “Documents relating to designated activities”.

(3) If it is difficult for you to appear in person on the date and time given for appearance, please call the contact number written in the notification. Please do not come to the Immigration Services agency offices if you are not feeling well such as you have a fever.

(4) If you are sending multiple applications in an envelope, please enclose a list (any format is okay) that gives the nationalities / regions, full names, passport numbers, etc. of the applicants, and write “Includes multiple applications” on the front of the envelope.