

【Important】 Points to note concerning residence status

It is very important for international students to have appropriate residence statuses. If you lose your residence status due to an illegal act or failure to follow necessary procedures, you will not be able to stay in Japan and, as a result, will be expelled or removed from the university.

In other words, you may be expelled if you participate in any illegal part-time work due to a lack of understanding of your residence status.

Cases of rejection of applications for residence status and issuance of deportation orders have increased in recent years, and there are indications that the screening by the Immigration Bureau has become stricter.

The examples presented here are cases that require special attention. Act very carefully to avoid such problems.

◆ Case 1 Failure to extend the period of stay

The period of stay of international students (with “College Student” residence status) granted by the Immigration Bureau varies by individuals depending on the years until graduation, residence history, and other conditions.

If you stay in Japan even for one day after the end of your period of stay, you will become an “overstayer” and may be deported. Be very careful not to “forget” or “misunderstand” your period of stay.

◆ Case 2 Illegal part-time work

Since “College Student” residence status is given to international students for the purpose of receiving education at the university, you will need to apply for and obtain “permission to engage in an activity other than that permitted under the residence status” in advance to engage in other activities (e.g., part-time work). It is illegal to engage in part-time work without obtaining this permission.

Once you obtain the above permission, you will be able to engage in part-time work for up to 28 hours per week and, during long holiday periods stipulated by Hosei University, up to 8 hours a day.

Be careful, as you will be subject to deportation, fines, imprisonment, and other penalties if you engage in part-time work for hours longer than the above limits.

Working part time at places offering entertainment and amusement services such as bars, nightclubs, coffee shops, and other eating and drinking establishments that involve entertaining guests is prohibited even if you only engage in dish washing or cleaning. Never work at such places as the violation of this rule may result in deportation.

◆ Case 3 Poor academic performance

At the time of extension of the period of stay or other procedures, it will be checked that the applicant is engaging in activities appropriate for the “College Student” residence status. In other words, international students with extremely poor attendance and academic performance may be deemed as “not engaging in activities appropriate for international students” and may not be able to have a residence status granted.

Be careful, as submission of a statement of reasons may be required at the time of the application for the extension of your period of stay or your application may even be rejected if the number of credits you have earned is insufficient, you are on a leave of absence, or you are repeating a year.

◆ Case 4 Leave of absence

A “leave of absence” means that you do not attend the university or engage in activities as an international student for a certain period. Therefore, you will be deemed to have no reason to stay in Japan and, in principle, will need to return to your home country immediately. Part-time work during a leave of absence is of course prohibited.

If you take a leave of absence, you will usually have to repeat the year due to the shortage of the years of enrollment or the number of credits for the year (check with the academic affairs department, as actual circumstances vary by individuals). Therefore, you may be required to submit a statement of reasons for the leave of absence when you apply for the extension of your period of stay. If the content of the statement, enrollment status, or academic performance is extremely poor, extension of your period of stay may not be granted.

Problems related to residence status can be avoided in many cases as long as you understand the points to note in advance. Be sure to follow necessary procedures as early as possible as the consequences of the rejection of extension of the period of stay are very serious (e.g., discontinuation of your study as an international student). If you have any questions, ask at the Global Education Center without delay.

The Global Education Center provides support for procedures related to your residence status. Therefore, the Center needs to have the latest information on your residence status at all times. Whenever you make an application for extension, change, or other procedures and obtain the results, be sure to report them to the Global Educational Center.