

## ADVERTORIAL



# Many opportunities in Japan enrich your lives not just academically but also experience wise

### Introduction

A growing numbers of international students continue to embark on their journey to pursue higher education in Japan. Renowned for high quality of education, Japanese universities currently offer almost 1000 programmes taught fully in English (about 150 at undergraduate and 850 postgraduate level). The opportunity to earn a degree without being a native Japanese speaker has made Japan a popular study destination for students attracted by its exotic culture, safety and surprisingly, affordable living expenses.

These opportunities for studying in Japan, however, have not yet been discovered well by Africa. For assistance on identifying the various study options in Japan, therefore, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)-Japan entrusted Study in Japan Global Network Project Regional Office in Sub-Saharan Africa\* to provide essential information such as what universities there are to apply. This office has established a Data Portal which allows users to search their ideal programs according to major and degree one wish to study.

**University Search Data Portal** <https://study-in-japan-africa-portal.com/>  
\*Shortly called "Study in Japan for Africa," which you can use when searching the internet or checking SNS.

This article here provided by "Study in Japan for Africa" offers the chance to hear real voices from a passionate alumna of a Japanese university and at the same time, a worker in Japan, Ms. Monicah from Kenya, who kindly agrees to share her experience of studying in Japan. The following interview would help you to get to know the situation and environment of studying in Japan from the African point of view.

### Interview with Monicah

○ *Kindly give us self-introduction.*

My name is Monicah, from Kenya. I studied at the University of Nairobi in Kenya and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Communications. And then, I came to Japan and learned Japanese language at Beppu University for 2 years because I wanted to explore working opportunities in Japan without having a language barrier. And now I am working as staff of Admission Office at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in Beppu, Japan.

○ *Could you tell me more about Beppu where you stay and work?*

Beppu is a small beautiful city, located in Oita, Kyushu, a southern island in Japan. It's known for its abundance of hot spring bath which makes it a tourist destination for both local and international tourists. Its quiet therefore provides a good learning environment. Also, its less expensive condition and warmer weather contribute if you compare it to the hustle and bustle of Tokyo, the capital city of Japan. I personally, would recommend Beppu because of its friendly atmosphere and community.

○ *What inspired you to come to study in Japan?*

When I was an undergraduate student in Nairobi, I attended an educational fair with several prestigious universities, colleges from the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Germany, Spain,

Switzerland, India, Malaysia, Cyprus, and Japan. In the fair, APU was the only one university from Japan, which was more engaging, so I took a liking for their master's program.

The plan was to pursue a Master of Science in International Cooperation Policy at APU. However, I diverted to learn Japanese language first because I wanted to have a secure future. Doing a Master course without having any Japanese language proficiency would not have guaranteed me a job in Japan after graduating. I knew if I returned home, I'd have to go into job hunting turmoil with minimum salary.

### Job opportunities in Japan

○ *Have you ever done any part-time jobs in Japan?*

International students may work within the limitations of their work permit. For example, when classes are in session, 28 hours per week, while on holiday seasons without classes, 40 hours per week. As a student, I worked in the service industry in hotels on the weekends. During the holidays, I worked in a camera factory as well as teaching English. There are difficulties of working and studying at the same time. Creating a balance was hard, because I was physically exhausted that I'd have to push myself to study. Sometimes, I would do the assignments on the day of its due.

My favorite experience with part-time work was meeting other international students and workers (those with spousal visa). I made friends with Sri Lankans, Chinese, African and Indian students. I remember, our Japanese bus driver used to tease us after the long day just to lift our spirits. The Japanese elderly workers were very kind to us. One even gave me a bicycle for free, which made going to school easier as I didn't have to spend on transport, and it let me acquire a healthier lifestyle.

○ *How did you find a current job in Japan?*

Through the networks I made during my stay in Japan, I seized information about an opening for a job at APU. So I applied for it. It's interesting to be working in the same university I intended to do my masters. While applying for the job, I had to write two CVs, one in English and the other in Japanese. Both the content and styles of each are different. Then I bought a black suit and plain white blouse, based on the usual dress code for the job hunting within Japan. Further, to prepare for the interview I practiced written and/or aptitude test and rehearsed questions I could get asked both in English and Japanese.

○ *What is good for you to work in Japan?*

The insurance, medical covers are good, convenient, and stable lifestyle. You will have a lot of learning opportunities to invest yourself in the culture. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy, Japanese government's services are very well organized. For example, if you're planning to settle in Japan, the price for owning a house/apartment, car and childcare support is quite affordable.

I enjoy working here at APU in Japan, which welcomes many international students.

Visit the website of APU:  
<https://en.apu.ac.jp/home/>



### Scholarships and programs in Japan

○ *Have your parents stopped you to come to Japan for studies?*

Not really. They were quite pleased of the scholarship opportunities in Japan. Scholarship opportunities for international students are high in Japan as compared to other countries. When you look at the tuition reduction scholarships, more than 85% of international students in APU receive tuition reduction scholarship. My parents were pleased about the opportunities as they wouldn't have to pay high tuition fee. Further, my siblings also ended up receiving tuition reduction scholarships at APU.

○ *Which kind of programs does APU have?*

We have two following undergraduate programs at APU, each with four main courses of study.

Bachelor of Business Administration at College of International Management (APM) (4 main courses of study are Strategic Management & Organization / Accounting & Finance / Innovation & Economics / Marketing)

Bachelor of Social Science at College of Asia Pacific Studies (APS) (Environment & Development, Culture, Society, and Media / Hospitality & Tourism / International Relations & Peace Studies).

Both courses are popular among our students. The advantage that students have at APU is the flexibility to choose classes outside their majors. Further, for the year 2023, APU is establishing a new college; College of Sustainability and Tourism (APX) to tackle the need for education and research on sustainable society as well as the need for sustainable tourism.

The pathways after graduation are very various. Students can find jobs in any fields. Generally, in Japan a lot of companies do not focus on your major/area of study, which gives you more options. Some companies participate in On-Campus recruiting with the purpose of hiring specifically APU students.

For our graduate school, we offer MBA, Mas-

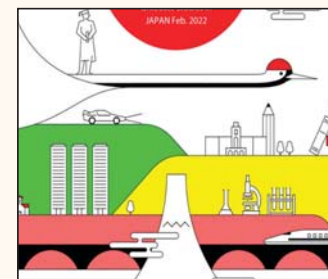
ters of Science on Asia Pacific Studies, Masters of Science in International Cooperation Policy, International Material Flow Management (IMAT) Dual degree program and lastly, Doctor of Philosophy in Asia Pacific Studies.

○ *Do the international students including Africans at your university get any financial assistance?*

We have tuition reduction scholarship programs; all international applicants are eligible to apply. Apart from that, students can also apply for external scholarships, available after enrollment. External scholarships are programmes courtesy of several individuals, domestic and international companies, municipal council and MEXT to encourage self-motivated students. APU has more than 24 external scholarships, of which applications are open to students from the second semester.

○ *What is the tip to enjoy yourself in Japan as a foreigner?*

Be positive, make connections with the people or the community you live at; stay focus and explore the possibilities and enjoy the cultural experience. There are many opportunities to enrich your lives not just academically but also experience wise. To be positive is especially important, since you can push yourself to be better. The people and the community here in Japan can really impact your life. You just never know how important they are and how connections shape you.



### Study in Japan ONLINE fair to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday February 2022

"Study in Japan for Africa" is glad to announce that the study in Japan online fair "JPN Opportunities for Africa: Graduate Studies in JAPAN Feb. 2022" is coming soon. If you consider going abroad for your graduate studies, just register and e-meet with university staff in Japan directly on the day. (APU will be also there!) We try our best to make the next Saturday memorable for your future career.

**Register from here.**  
<https://www.studyin-japan-africa.com/>

For any further inquiries, search "Study in Japan for Africa" on the internet. We are there for you.

Study in Japan Global Network Project Regional Office in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Study in JAPAN for Africa

