

Settlement Support Program

For

Convention Refugees and Their Family Members



Starting from April 2025

Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People

Refugee Assistance Head Quarters (RHQ)

Summary

The Japanese government offers a free settlement support program that includes Japanese language education, life guidance and employment support for individuals recognized as refugees by the Minister of Justice, as well as for their family members.

Attendants of the program can:

- learn basic Japanese language and useful knowledge of systems and customs for living in Japan.
- receive employment support if they wish to work in Japan.
- receive living support benefits during the course period (subject to conditions and evaluation).
- borrow a tablet to use in online classes if necessary.

Contents of the Program

1. Japanese language education (Total 572 units, 1 unit = 45 minutes)

- The course helps to build up Japanese language communication skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking).
- You can learn Japanese which is needed to run a self-dependent life
- The goal of the Japanese language education of the settlement support program is to achieve skills equivalent to A2~B1 level of "Common Framework of References for Japanese Language Education"(*).

"Common Framework of References for Japanese language Education": Overall scales (excerpt)

Proficient language users	
C2	Learners who achieve C2 proficiency level can easily understand almost everything they hear or read. They can express themselves fluently and spontaneously with precision, and also express different subtle meanings and differentiate in a most complex situation.
C1	Learners who achieve C1 Advanced level can understand a wide range of long, complex texts and grasp their meanings. They can interact and express themselves fluently and spontaneously without an impression of looking for right words, and can use language flexibly and effectively in social, academic and professional situation.
Self-dependent language users	
B2	Learners who achieve B2 level can understand the main ideas of complex texts, be it concrete topics or abstract including technical discussions of their professional fields. They can interact with some fluency and communicate easily with proficient Japanese speakers, without nervousness on either side.
B1	Learners who achieve B1 level can understand main idea in familiar topics regarding jobs, schools or leisure matters when spoken in common language. They can write simply connected and logical texts on familiar topics or anything they are personally interested.
Elementary level language users	
A2	Learners who achieve A2 level can understand sentences and expressions frequently used in most fundamental personal information, families, shopping, neighborhood or jobs that are directly related to them. They can exchange familiar and simple information in a scope of daily matters.
A1	Learners who achieve A1 level can understand and use most frequently used daily expressions and basic phrases for the purpose of satisfying their concrete needs. If their counterpart speaks slowly and clearly to help them, they can even interact with simple conversation.

※1 "Common Framework of References for Japanese Language Education "is a framework for Japanese language learning, teaching and appraisal for anybody involved in Japanese language education can refer to. Based on Common European Framework of References for Language (CEFR), this framework was prepared to clarify contents and measures of Japanese language education required for each proficiency stage, as well as for foreign people to continue to have proper Japanese language education.

※2 We can't guarantee that you will definitely reach these levels after finishing this program.

2. Life guidance (Total 120 units (1 unit = 45 minutes))

- Attendants can learn systems (medical, insurance, pension, tax, etc.) as well as customs which are useful for living in Japan.

※Classes are a combination of Japanese language education and life guidance.

3. Employment support service

- For those who wish to find jobs, assistance on job search will be available. (Please note that a job matching your preferences may not always be available.)
- Transportation expenses for a job search will be covered.
- Vocational guidance service is also available at the office of a prospective employer. Details of assistance will be explained during life guidance classes.

Course schedule and time

Course	Style	Time (※2)	Period
Day-time course (Half year)	Face-to-face group lessons (at Settlement Support Center*1) , or Group lessons online (at home)	Monday thru Friday 9:30-15:50	Half year, either April- September or October-March
Evening course (One year)	Group lessons online (at home)	Monday thru Friday 18:30-20:55	One year, April-March

※1 Settlement Support Center will be located in a metropolitan area etc.

※2 Class hours might be changed.

Eligible attendants of the course

Individuals recognized as convention refugees by the Minister of Justice, and their family members (*)

However, elementary and junior high school students who are going through compulsory education are not eligible to participate in the program.

In addition, those who have previously taken part in the settlement support program at the International Refugee Assistance Center (closed in March 2006) or at the RHQ Support Center are not eligible to participate in the program.

※ “Their family members” in this context means foreign nationals residing in Japan who have been granted the status of residence as family members, such as spouses, parents or unmarried children of convention refugees.

Financial support for attendants (※In principle, only program participants are eligible for financial support, and there are conditions and an evaluation process for approval. Additionally, the details of the financial support may be subject to change depending on the circumstances.)

1. Living allowance (Money for daily life)

● Day-time course

Adults (from 12 years old): 2,400 yen/day (6 months); Children (up to 11 years old): 1,200 yen/day (6 months)

※Subsequent adults from the same household: 1,600 yen/day.

※If a resident of the accommodation facility does not bear the cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water), the daily living allowance for the first person aged 12 or older will be reduced by 800 yen per day. As a result, the daily living allowance for the first person aged 12 or older residing in the accommodation facility will be 1,600 yen per day.

● Evening course

Adults (from 12 years old): 1,200 yen/day (for 1 year); Children (up to 11 years old): 600 yen/day (for 1 year)

※Subsequent adults from the same household: 800 yen/day.

2. Medical allowance (Money for treatment of diseases or injuries)

Actual expenses of medical treatment, health care including prescription medicine will be covered by RHQ for the duration of the program. However, expenses not covered by health insurance or for preventive purposes will not be reimbursed. (If expensive costs are anticipated, please consult with RHQ in advance.)

※Attendants must pay health insurance fees by themselves.

3. Housing allowance (Money for housing cost)

Housing allowance provided during the course has a ceiling.

Number of Family members	Day-time Course	Evening course
One	Up to Yen 40,000/month	Up to Yen 20,000/month
Two	Up to Yen 50,000/month	Up to Yen 25,000/month
Three	Up to Yen 55,000/month	Up to Yen 27,500/month
Four or more	Up to Yen 60,000/month	Up to Yen 30,000/month

※When the actual rent is lower than the maximum allowance, the amount equal to the actual rent is provided.
(For the evening course, the housing allowance will be determined by comparing 50% of the rent with the maximum allowance, and the lower amount will be provided.)

※No miscellaneous expenses, other than rent, will be paid.

※It is required to submit a copy of the rental agreement (which indicates the amount of the rent and all the names of the residents) as well as a receipt to prove that payments were actually made.

4. Settlement allowance (Money to prepare for settlement)

The allowance will be paid only once when an attendant completes the settlement support program.

Adults (16 years and older): Yen 156,900

Children (up to 15 years old): Yen 78,450

※ The settlement allowance is provided only to those who have received completion certification. Completion certification is granted only to those who actively participate in classes with sincerity and complete the entire course, except in cases of special circumstances (such as medical treatment). Additionally, Ukrainian evacuees who have already received the temporary departure allowance are not eligible for the settlement allowance.

5. Transportation fees

Transportation fees for round-trip from home to class (limited to those who take face-to face classes).

How to apply

The application procedure for the Settlement Support Program starting in April 2025 is as follows:

1. Application should be submitted to:

Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People

Refugee Assistance Head Quarters (RHQ)

Tel: 0120-068-655

E-mail: rhqcenter@rhq.gr.jp

Web: <http://www.rhq.gr.jp>

2. Deadline for Application

February 14th, Friday, 2025

3. Flow of Application Procedure

- ① Contact the above-mentioned contact point (paragraph 1).
- ② Fill out the designated web form, submit the required documents (by the application deadline mentioned in paragraph 2), take the Japanese language proficiency test, and undergo a medical examination (for those opting for in-person participation).
- ③ Receive the screening results notification. (If you have opted for online learning, a device for online classes will be sent by mail along with usage instructions).
- ④ Start the course in April 2025.