

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING VISA

Currently, there is a high demand from people trying to make enquiries to the consular section visa application.

The following items are some typical questions we receive very regularly and their answers may also be of your assistance.

We would like to ask your kind cooperation to read this page and related links thoroughly before making a call or writing an email.

If you are writing an email to the consular section, please also give us your telephone number that is accessible during daytime for in case we need to call you.

[Q1 I am a Swedish citizen and I believe we are exempt from a temporary visitor visa when entering Japan, but I have heard that such exemption has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Do I need to apply for a visa before entering Japan, or has the suspension of visa exemption been already lifted?](#)

[Q2 When will the suspension of visa exemption be lifted?](#)

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[Q6 What is the prospect of my application being approved?](#)

[Q7 I am a Swedish citizen planning to visit Japan for a business purpose for a short-term stay \(less than three months\). What do I need to prepare?](#)

[Q8 I am a Swedish citizen married to a Japanese citizen planning to visit Japan for a short-term stay \(less than three months\). What do I need to prepare?](#)

[Q9 I am a Swedish citizen planning to visit Japan for tourism for a short-term stay \(less than three months\). What do I need to prepare?](#)

Q1 I am a Swedish citizen and I believe we are exempt from a temporary visitor visa when entering Japan, but I have heard that such exemption has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Do I need to apply for a visa before entering Japan, or has the suspension of visa exemption been already lifted?

A1 The suspension of exemption from a temporary visitor visa requirement **has NOT been lifted yet**. Therefore, all foreign nationals need to apply for a visa to newly enter Japan for some reasons unless they have a re-entry permit. Please also note that temporary visitor visa for the purpose of tourism/sightseeing are currently not issued.

Q2 When will the suspension of visa exemption be lifted?

A2 Unfortunately, the Embassy has NO such information.

Q3 Who are eligible to enter Japan?

A3 Please refer to “1. New Border Measures (27) to review on restrictions on new entry of foreign nationals” and “5. Entry of foreign nationals with other special exceptional circumstances” from the link below. Please also note the visa requirements.

New Border Measures (27) means, in essence, foreign nationals will be allowed to enter Japan under the supervision of receiving organizations located in Japan, EXCEPT for those intending to enter Japan for tourism purpose.

Notable examples of “**special exceptional circumstances**” are; **spouse or child of a Japanese national/permanent resident**, and spouse or child of a foreign national where the foreign national has the status of “Long-Term Resident”, whose family is staying in Japan and who has been separated from his/her family.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page22e_000925.html#section1

https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html

Q4 What do I need to prepare?

A4 For the Swedish citizens, the applicant must submit an **APPLICATION FORM**, a passport-size **PHOTO**, a valid **PASSPORT** in original (with 2 blank pages in order to attach the visa when approved), a proving document showing that the applicant is entitled to the re-entry to Sweden (e.g. a copy of a valid **SWEDISH RESIDENCE PERMIT**, if you are **NOT** a Swedish or EU/EEA citizen), with other supporting documents to the Embassy, including;

- **the documents showing the purpose of the visit/stay** (e.g. **CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY** (for work/long term visa) (**Note 1**), **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF REGISTRATION TO THE ERFS SYSTEM** (**Note 2**), **INVITATION LETTER**, **LETTER FROM THE EMPLOYER**, **ENROLEMENT CERTIFICATE**, certificate or other documents showing the relationship between the person the applicant is visiting such as *KOSEKITOHON*, *KOSEKISHOHON* or *PERSONBEVIS*),
- **proof of sufficient funds to cover all the expenses while in Japan** (e.g. the applicant's most recent bank statement for the last three months showing all transactions, balance and the name of the owner of the account, or if someone else is covering the expenses, the proof of such effect), and
- **ITINERARY** including the information on the planned flights and accommodation.

Note 1: Certificate of Eligibility (在留資格認定証明書)

Certificate of Eligibility (COE) is an official document issued by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan upon the request of the applicant's sponsor (receiving organization/entities, spouse, school, etc.) in Japan on your behalf. It is **strongly advised** to acquire a COE before applying for a visa OTHER THAN a temporary visitor visa. If the COE is submitted with the application, other supporting documents are not normally required.

<https://www.isa.go.jp/en/applications/procedures/16-1.html>

https://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/visa_coe.html

Note 2: Certificate of Completion of Registration to the ERFS System (受付済証)

If the applicant intends to enter Japan under the supervision of receiving organizations/entities located in Japan, the applicant must present a Certificate of Completion of Registration to the **Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS)**. It is an official document issued by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare certifying that the receiving organizations/entities have completed the registration of all the required documents to the ERFS. If the applicant can present the certificate, other supporting documents are not normally required. Please refer to the receiving organizations/entities if they are capable of registration.

<https://entry.hco.mhlw.go.jp/>

Other than the above-mentioned documents, the Embassy may require the applicant to submit supplementary documents in the course of the procedures.

Please also refer to the link below that includes the information on the type of visas, required documents in detail, and other relevant information.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/i_info/visit/visa/index.html

Q5 How do I apply for a visa?

A5 If you have prepared the application documents, you can submit them either by post or delivering personally to the Embassy of Japan. Since the embassy cannot be held responsible if your application fails to reach us, we strongly advise you to send them by registered mail. Please note that you must physically send us your passport, not a photocopy, otherwise your application will not be processed. If you are delivering them directly to the Embassy, please note make an appointment by phone in advance. The Embassy does not accept appointment requests by email.

When your application is approved, the Embassy will contact you to arrange for the date and time to have your processed passport back. It normally takes 5 working days for visa applications with the Certificate of Eligibility (COE), and a little more for the visa applications without the COE, provided that all necessary documents are submitted with the application.

Embassy of Japan, Visa and Consular Section, Gärdesgatan 10, 115 27 Stockholm

Tel: +46-(0)8-5793-5300

Monday - Friday: 9:30-12:00, 14:00-16:00

Q6 What is the prospect of my application being approved?

A6 Unfortunately, the Embassy is **unable to answer** such question as the Embassy makes a decision on a case-by-case basis based on the documents submitted.

What we can say is that the basic criteria to issue a Japanese visa is that an applicant meets all of the following requirements and that the issuance is considered to be appropriate.

- The applicant possesses a valid passport and is entitled to the re-entry to a country of his/her nationality or a country of his/her residence.
- All submitted documents are authentic, completed and satisfactory.
- The activities to be engaged in Japan/ the civil status or the position of the applicant/ the period of stay meet the requirements for the status of residence and the period of stay stipulated in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. (Cabinet Order No.319 of 1951. Hereinafter referred to as the "Immigration Control Act")
- The applicant do not fall under any of the items of Article 5, Paragraph 1 of the Immigration Control Act.

Q7 I am a **Swedish citizen** planning to visit Japan for a business purpose for a short-term stay (less than three months). What do I need to prepare?

A7 The following documents:

- 1) Visa application form to enter Japan
(download from: https://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/visa_how_to_apply.html)
- 2) Valid passport in original
- 3) 1 photo (35 x 45 mm)
- 4) Certificate for Completion of Registration to the ERFS system
ERFS: <http://entry.hco.mhlw.go.jp>

Other than the above-mentioned documents, the Embassy may require the applicant to submit supplementary documents in the course of the procedures.

Q8 I am a **Swedish citizen** married to a Japanese citizen planning to visit Japan for a short-term stay (less than three months). What do I need to prepare?

A8 The following documents:

- 1) Visa application form to enter Japan
(download from: https://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/visa_how_to_apply.html)
- 2) Valid passport in original
- 3) 1 photo (35 x 45 mm)
- 4) Official copy of the Japanese spouse's family register (Koseki Tohon or Koseki Shohon, issued within the last 3 months)
- 5) Personbevis (familjebevis, extract of the population register) from the applicant showing marriage status and name of spouse (issued within the last 3 months).

Other than the above-mentioned documents, the Embassy may require the applicant to submit supplementary documents in the course of the procedures.

Q9 I am a **Swedish citizen** planning to visit Japan for tourism for a short-term stay (less than three months). What do I need to prepare?

A9 Short-term stays for tourism is **only allowed** when a travel agency among others organizing the trip serves as the receiving organization of the entrants. This arrangement will start on June 10 (note). The following documents are needed:

- 1) Visa application form to enter Japan
(download from: https://www.se.emb-japan.go.jp/visa_how_to_apply.html)
- 2) Valid passport in original
- 3) 1 photo (35 x 45 mm)
- 4) Certificate for Completion of Registration to the ERFS system
ERFS: <http://entry.hco.mhlw.go.jp>
- 5) A statement that the applicant has/will have no record of staying in “Red” or “Yellow” countries within 14 days prior to the day the applicant intends to enter Japan.

(Note) ERFS will start accepting applications for tourism by travel agents from 10 June 2022. It is basically intended for guided tours attended by tour conductors.

Other than the above-mentioned documents, the Embassy may require the applicant to submit supplementary documents in the course of the procedures.