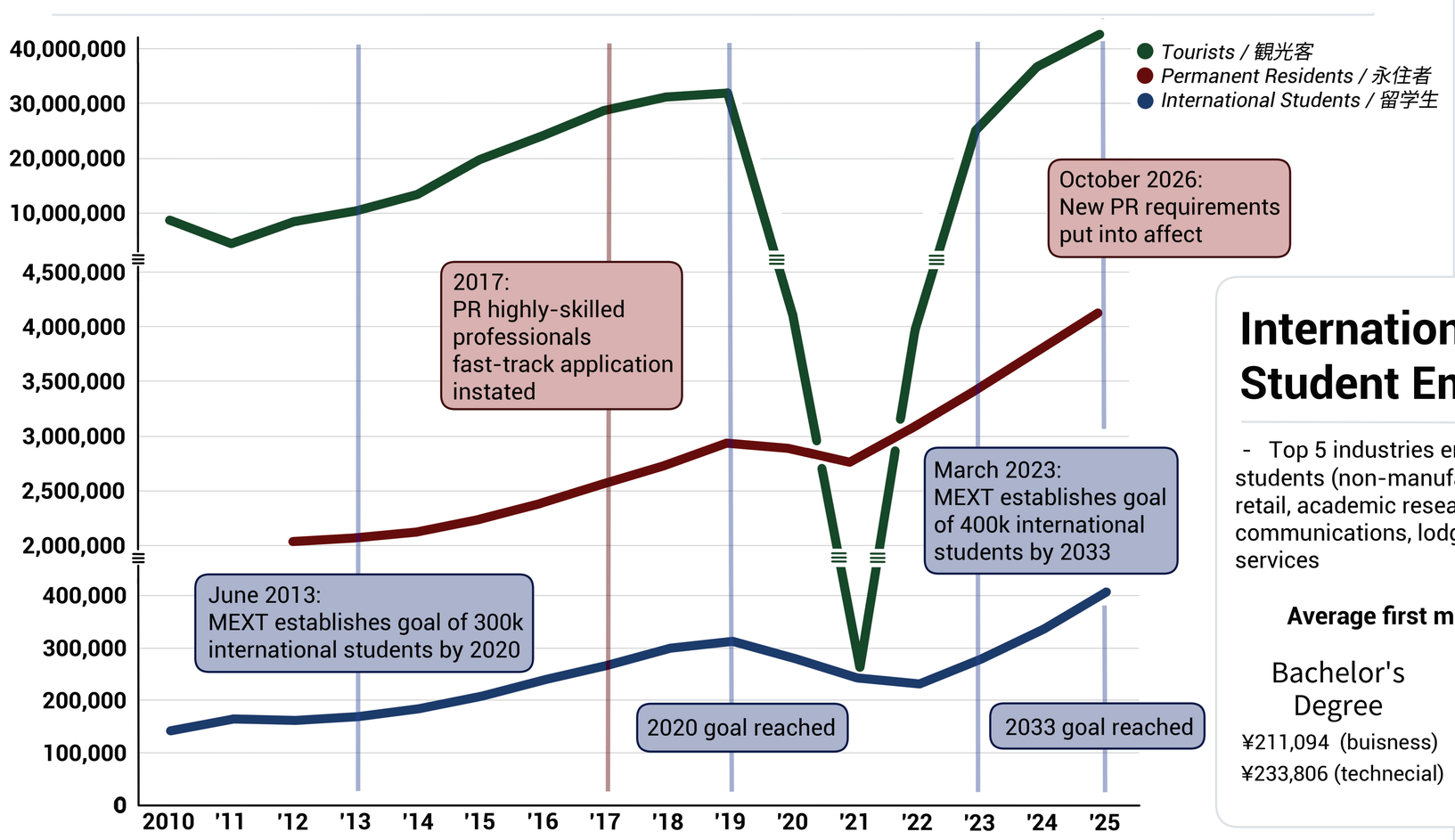
Research Question
International Student & PR Pol...
2020 International Student Goal
2033 International Student Goal
International Student Employm...
PR Requirements
Government Quotes
International Student Demogra...
PR Demographics

Study Here, Work Here, Stay Here?: International Students and Japan's Selective Road to Permanent Residency
学び、働き、定住? :留学生と日本における選別的な永住への道

Admidst recent Permanent Residency (PR) restrictions, what role do international students play in the internationalization of Japan?

International Student & Permanent Residency Policies (2010 to 2025)



MEXT International Student Goals: 2020 & 2033

Progress: 2 / 2

International Student Employment

- Top 5 industries employing international students (non-manufacturing): wholesale/ retail, academic research, information and communications, lodging, placement services

Average first month salary for...

Bachelor's Degree	Graduate's Degree
¥211,094 (buisness)	¥215,365 (buisness)
¥233,806 (technecial)	¥239,965 (technecial)

PR Requirements

2017 Major Requirements

Income: **None**

Japanese Language Ability: **None**

Application fee: **¥10,000**

2026 Major Requirements

Income: **Higher than Japanese average (¥4,870,000; 2025)**

Japanese Language Ability: **At least JLPT N2**

Application fee: **¥200,000**

Government Quotes

"Make Japan a country more open to the world, expanding the flow of people, goods, money and information."「日本を世界により開かれた国とし…」
~Prime Minister Fukuda, 2008

"A system to accept foreigners who can work right away, to deal with severe labour shortages."「深刻な人手不足の状況に対応するため…」
~ Immigration Services Agency, 2019

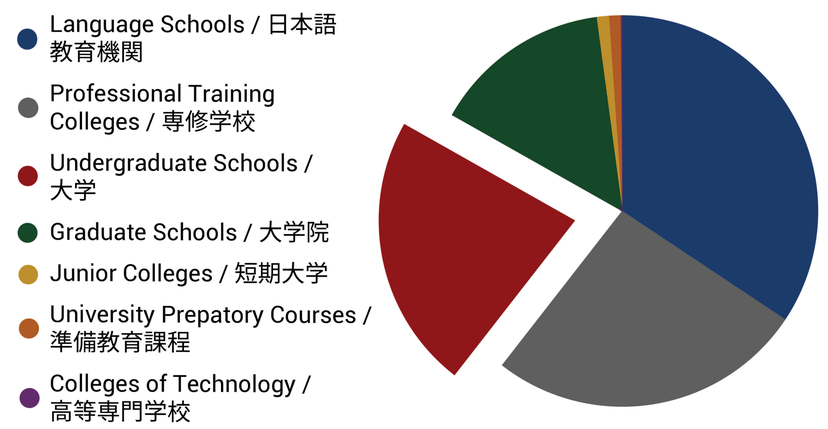
400,000 international students by 2033; **48% → 60% of graduates employed in Japan.**「40万人」「国内就職率６割」 *~ J-MIRAI, 2023*

"It is also essential to continue securing foreign talent."「外国人材を引き続き確保することも不可欠である」 *~ Ministry of Justice, 2026*

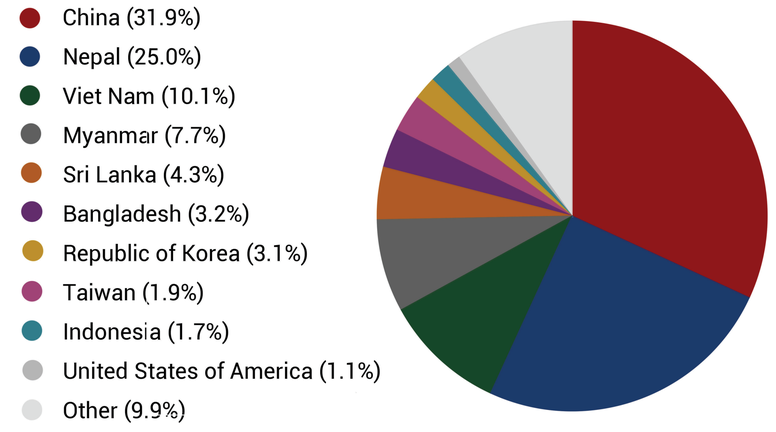
International Student Demographics

Where do international students go to study, and where do they come from?

Institution Type (JASSO, 2025)

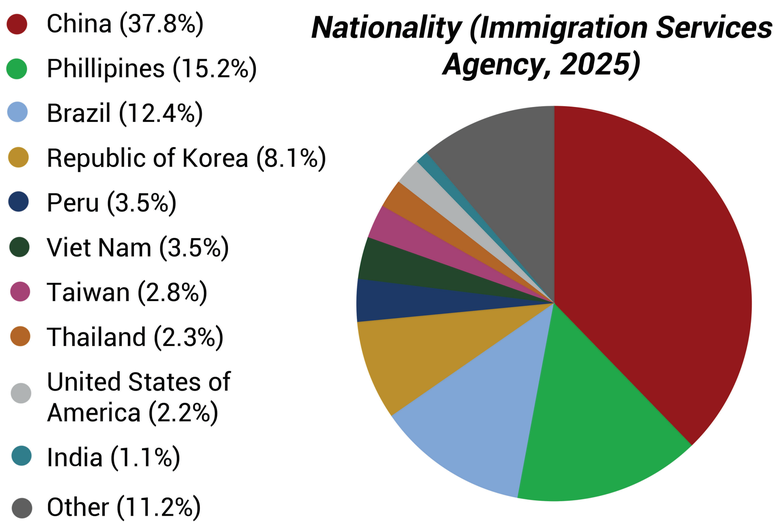


Nationality (JASSO, 2025)



PR Demographics

Who are Japan's permanent residents?



Nationality (Immigration Services Agency, 2025)

Analysis & Conclusion

The Japanese government wants its international students to play a temporary role in internationalization. But is this viable for Japan long-term?

- Japan wants foreign students for their labor, tutition, and to internationalize institutions.
- But with the rapid influx in foreigners to Japan through tourists and foreign residents, public anxiety about foreigners increased, while foreigner approval rating decreased. This led to Japan restricting PR pathways.
- The Japanese government wants to filter the "most ideal" PR: someone who is rich, highly skilled, and well versed in Japanese language and culture.
- Degree-seeking international students have the best chance at meeting new PR requirements, but the hurdles are still too high. In particular, meeting the income requirement is a struggle.
- In the past, Japan has been very attractive and welcoming of international students, but this reputation could change. If the road to long-term settlment continues to tighten, will international students still come to Japan? Can Japan still internationalize via temporary foreign presence?

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