

第4章

日本での運転

Chapter 4: Driving in Japan

自動車やバイクの運転は、自己責任であり、大きなリスクや費用を伴うため、本学は留学生に対して、自分で所有せずに公共交通機関を利用するよう強く勧めます。誤った理解は、大きな不利益を招きます。安易な情報源に頼らず、公的機関で確認してください。

Driving a car or a motorcycle is a major responsibility and accompanies great risks and costs. For this reason, JAIST strongly recommends international students not to own these vehicles and to use public transportation.

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Driving in Japan

1. Cars

(1) Valid Driver's License in Japan

If you would like to drive a car in Japan, you need to have one of the driver's licenses listed below.

- ① Japanese Driver's License
- ② International Driving Permit issued in a country belonging to the Geneva Convention (refer to P. 38)
 - * Note: The permit holders must stay in their countries for a certain amount of time before coming to Japan.
- ③ Foreign Driver's License issued by Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium or Taiwan
(The Japanese translation made by those who are designated by cabinet order should be attached.)
 - * Please ask JAF (Japan Automobile Federation) about the Japanese translation.

JAF Ishikawa Branch Address: 1 - 56 Koku, Kanazawa Tel: 076-249-1252

Website: http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/index_e.htm

(2) The Permitted Period for Driving in Japan

- ① Japanese Driving License: **Within the valid period**
- ② International Driving Permit and ③ Foreign Driver's license:

These two licenses are valid until either one year from your landing in Japan or the expiration date stated on the permit/license. The shorter period will be adopted. In cases where people who have completed Alien Registration procedures return to Japan within 3 months after they left, the date of returning to Japan is not regarded as "landing" (the initial date of the computation for deciding the validity period of ② and ③).

(3) How to Exchange Your Foreign Driver's License for a Japanese Driver's License

If your country is not a member of the Geneva Convention, your driver's license must be switched to a Japanese national driver's license, in which case it must meet the following requirements:

- * Your foreign driver's license must be valid.
- * **You must have at least three months of driving experience in your home country.**

An advance reservation is required. Contact the Ishikawa Driver's License Center about required documents for an application. After preparing the documents, please make an appointment by telephone. After passing the aptitude test, the written test for driving and traffic regulations and the driving skill test, you can switch your license to a Japanese license.

For more information, visit the following website.

Ishikawa Driver's License Center

Address: 2-1 Higashikagatsume, Kanazawa Tel: 076 - 238 - 5901

Website: <http://www.police.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/>

(Click “手続き・申請” → Click “外国運転免許証の切替え” → Click “Click in English”)

*If you do not speak Japanese, please be accompanied by an interpreter.

<<Access>>

Take a Hokurikutetsudo bus “To Driver's License Center” (Line #86) at Kanazawa Station (West Exit).

*The bus runs two times a day (weekday morning and afternoon only).

(4) Driving School

To obtain a driver's license in Japan, in principle, you need to go to a driving school which costs a considerable amount of money. (¥300,000 approx.)

The following driving school has their school bus service. The nearest bus stop is the same as the JAIST shuttle bus stop (High-Tech Center). The driving school information is available at the store on campus.

Hokuriku-chubu Driving School

Address: 239 Kamiyasuda-machi, Hakusan Telephone: 076-277-0033

After finishing the driving school, you have to take and pass a test at the Ishikawa Driver's License Center.

2. Motorcycles, Bicycles with motor and Bicycles

(1) Motorcycles (over 50 cc engine displacement)

If you have an international driving permit for motorcycles (limited to a permit issued in a country belonging to the Geneva Convention), you can drive a motorcycle in Japan. The condition of its extension is the same as the case of a car. If you wish to acquire a Japanese driver's license for motorcycles (three types: small, mid, big size), you must go to a driving school and take and pass the examinations at the Ishikawa Driver's Licensing Center.

(2) Bicycles with motor (*Gentsuki-Bike*)

You just go to the Ishikawa Driver's Licensing Center and take an examination such as written tests to acquire the license for bicycles with motor or *Gentsuki-Bike*.

(3) Bicycles

In order to protect your bicycle from theft, be sure to write your name and address on it, and lock it (double lock it if possible) whenever you leave it. When you buy a bicycle, register the bicycle at the shop.

When you see an abandoned bicycle, do not take it home. You will be charged with theft even if you simply move the bicycle.

3. Traffic Rules in Japan

In Japan, cars drive on the left side of the road, and pedestrians walk on the right side facing on coming traffic. There are strict penalties for driving without a license, drunk driving, and speed violation. Please memorize many different types of traffic signs in Japan and follow all the traffic rules indicated by those signs.

Translated traffic rulebooks are issued by JAF (Japan Automobile Federation). The versions of translation are Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish. You can see these rulebooks in Chinese, English and Korean at the Student Affairs Department.

You can also purchase a translated rulebook by mail order or at the following JAF branch.

JAF Ishikawa Branch

Address: 1 - 56 Kobu, Kanazawa Telephone: 076 - 249 - 1252

Website: http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/index_e.htm

Violating the Road Traffic Law is a serious crime, and you will be disqualified from driving and sometimes your Alien Registration card will be revoked. In addition, if you are a perpetrator of the accident, you will receive a severe penalty and pay a huge sum of indemnity.

4. Insurances

If you cause an accident when you drive a car, you have to pay expensive compensation for the injury or repair depending on the situation in Japan. (National Health Insurance does not apply, regardless of whether you are a victim or a perpetrator.) The amount of compensation may become several hundred million yen if you are involved in a fatal accident. **When you buy a car or a motorcycle, take out a voluntary-insurance policy to prepare for an accident.** Please note that voluntary-insurance is different from compulsory automobile liability insurance (compulsory insurance). Compulsory insurance only applies to the accidents involving people and has a limit. A voluntary-insurance covers the shortages of the compulsory insurance or covers the damaged objects.

5. Compulsory Automobile Inspection & Automobile Tax

Any car or motorcycle of 250cc or more displacement is required by law to have a compulsory inspection (to be called “*shaken*”) every two years (only the first inspection of new cars is three years after). At the same time, the compulsory insurance is also checked and automatically extended by paying the premium. However, motorcycles under 250cc are not covered under the same system, so users of motorcycles under 250cc should check and extend the period of the validity of the insurance. Users must extend the validity periods of both the compulsory insurance and voluntary-insurance before expiration, so please do not forget to complete the extension procedures.

In addition, if you own a car, a motorcycle, or a bicycle with a motor, you must pay the tax when you receive a statement of tax payment.

6. Garage Certificate & Parking on Campus

When you purchase a car, you also need to hold a certification of parking space. If you wish to obtain a parking permit and a garage certificate from JAIST, please contact the Environment Conservation Section, Facility Management Department, and complete the other necessary procedures at a car dealer.

In the case you buy/receive a friend's car, there are certain procedures, so please contact a car dealer.

7. Signboards etc.

<p>Stop</p> 	<p>Maximum Speed Limit</p> 	<p>Railway Crossing</p> 	<p>Pedestrians Only</p> <p>(1) Road designated for the exclusive use by pedestrians (2) Roads for use by pedestrians</p> 
<p>One Way</p> 	<p>No Parking</p> 	<p>No Entry for Vehicles</p> 	<p>Proceed Only to Designated Directions</p> <p>(Vehicles must not proceed in any direction other than that shown on the sign)</p> 
<p>Slow Down</p> 	<p>Road Closed</p> 	<p>Bicycles and Pedestrians Only</p> <p>(1) Roads designated for the exclusive use by bicycles and pedestrians. (2) Closed to vehicles other than bicycles. (3) Designated pedestrian roads where roads where bicycles are permitted to travel. (4) Indicates that bicycles may travel on the sidewalk.</p> 	
<p>No Overtaking</p> 	<p>Stop Line</p> 		

Member Countries of Geneva Convention

The International Driving Permit whose countries are not listed below is not valid in Japan.

As of February, 2012

Asia	Philippines	Africa	Niger	Europe	Malta	
	India		Rwanda		Albania	
	Thailand		Senegal		Luxembourg	
	Bangladesh		Sierra Leone		Monaco	
	Malaysia		Togo		San Marino	
	Singapore		Tunisia		Vatican	
	Sri Lanka		Uganda		Kyrgyz Republic	
	Cambodia		Zimbabwe		Georgia	
	Laos		Namibia		Czech Republic	
	Republic of Korea		Burkina Faso		Slovak Republic	
Middle East	Turkey	Europe	Nigeria	America	U.S.A	
	Israel		U.K		Canada	
	Syria		Greece		Peru	
	Cyprus		Norway		Cuba	
	Jordan		Denmark		Ecuador	
	Lebanon		Sweden		Argentina	
	United Arab Emirates		Netherland		Chile	
Africa	South Africa		France		America	Paraguay
	Central African Republic		Italy			Barbados
	Egypt		Russia			Commonwealth of Dominica
	Ghana	Serbia	Guatemala			
	Algeria	Montenegro	Haiti			
	Morocco	Spain	Trinidad and Tobago			
	Botswana	Finland	Venezuela			
	Republic of the Congo	Portugal	Jamaica			
	The Democratic Republic of the Congo	Austria	Pacific	New Zealand		
	Benin	Belgium		Fiji		
	Cote d'Ivoire	Poland		Australia		
	Lesotho	Ireland		Papua New Guinea		
	Madagascar	Hungary		Special Administrative Region	Hong Kong	
	Malawi	Romania	Macao			
	Mali	Iceland				
	Bulgaria					