



高等教育資格承認情報センター
National Information Center
for Academic Recognition Japan

Update on Japan's Educational System and Higher Education Qualifications

2020 TAICEP Conference
10:00-11:15 (JST 23:00-24:15), Wednesday, October 28, 2020

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Quick Poll Questions

- ◆ Q1. Which country/region are you joining today's session from?
- ◆ Q2. How much are you familiar with NIAD-QE or NIC-Japan?
- ◆ Q3. How often do you deal with Japanese education qualifications?

Session Outline

1. What is NIAD-QE?
2. NIC-Japan
3. Overview of Higher Education in Japan
4. Frequently Asked Questions on Japanese Qualifications
5. Impact of COVID-19 on Japanese Higher Education
6. Questions & Discussions



1. What is NIAD-QE?

About NIAD-QE



National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)

is an incorporated administrative agency **created in 2016** by the Japanese Act of General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agency and the NIAD-QE Act.

1991 NIAD was established as a **unique academic degree-awarding** institution

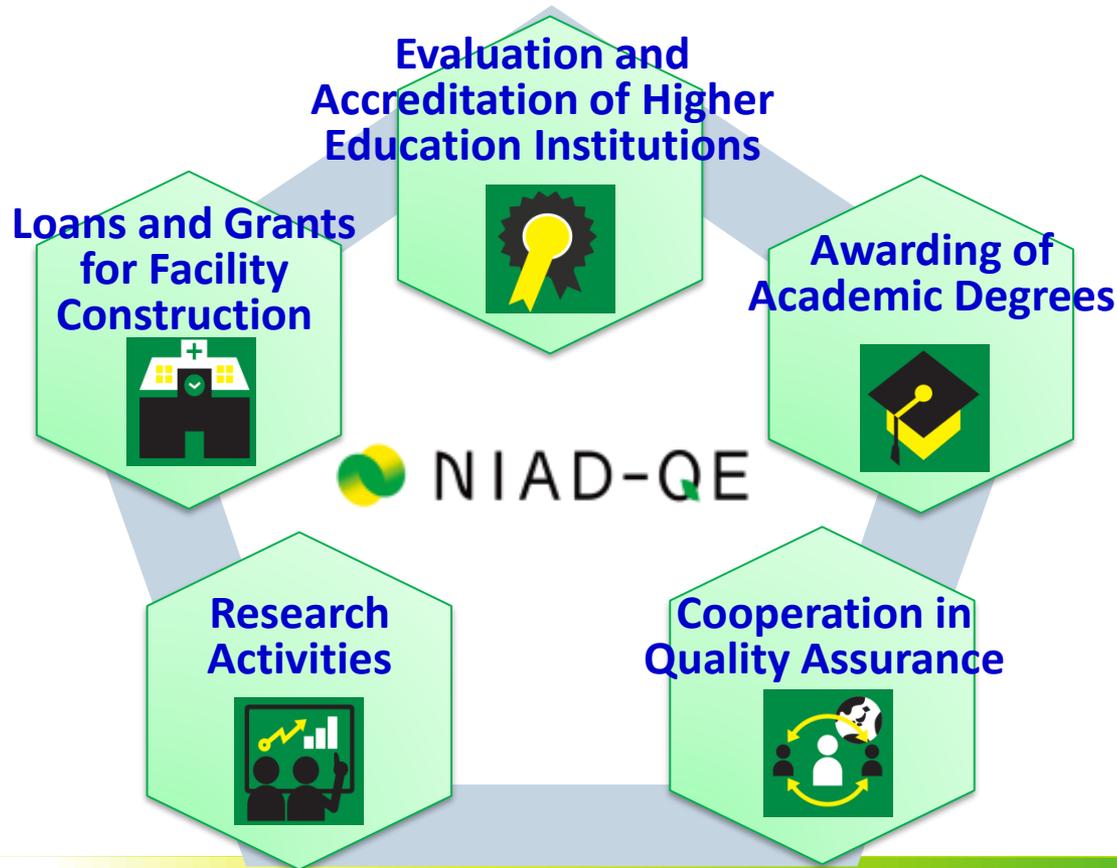
2000 Renamed and reorganized as **NIAD-UE**
Their new function was **evaluating universities**

April 2016 NIAD-UE and the **Center for National University Finance and Management (CUFM)** merged to form **NIAD-QE**



NIAD-QE – What we do

Working with universities and colleges to ensure that higher education merits the expectations to society, NIAD-QE supports efforts of universities and colleges to enhance the quality of their education and research, and strives to achieve recognition and appreciation of academic degrees as the results of learning at the higher education level.





2. NIC-Japan

Tokyo Convention (2018) and APNNIC (2019)

- ◆ Japan has deposited its accession to **the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (the Tokyo Convention)** in 2017, and the Convention entered into force on **February 1, 2018**.
- ◆ Japan Established the **National Information Center for Academic Recognition (NIC-Japan)** under the NIAD-QE on **September 1, 2019** in accordance with **the Article VIII.3 of the Tokyo Convention**.
- ◆ **The Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centers (APNNIC)** was established in **September 2019**
- ◆ State Parties: **Australia, China, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Holy See (8 nations) and newly, Fiji (total 9 nations)**



National Information Center for Academic Recognition Japan (NIC-Japan)

- ◆ Executive Director (Taiji Hotta), 1 academic staff, 6 full-time administrative staff
- ◆ Our mission is to ensure credibility of Japanese higher education qualifications and to facilitate recognition of qualifications among Japan, Asia-Pacific and other countries



- ◆ **Our tasks are:**
 - To provide information on the Japanese higher education system
 - To provide information on education system in other countries for people in Japan
 - To build a global network for recognition of higher education qualifications
 - To conduct relevant survey and research

Information Provision – our website

Please visit our site ! <https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp/en/>



Japanese Education
System



Search Higher Education
Institutions



Foreign Education
Systems



News & Events



Q & A



About Us

We will provide information about;

1. Japanese education system includes:

- ① Types of higher education institutions
- ② Higher education qualifications
- ③ Admission eligibility
- ④ Quality assurance system
- ⑤ Assessment of academic achievement

2. List of recognized HEIs

3. Foreign education systems

- ① Links to the relevant website – currently available for 20 countries and regions
- ② Updates in response to changes occurred due to COVID-19

4. Research and references related to NIC and international qualification recognition

5. The promotion of Tokyo Convention

Information Provision – “Information Package”

- ◆ Visit us and take a look at our information packages about various countries [<https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/cqa/information.html>]
- ◆ Consolidated information on educational systems and quality assurance in higher education
 - Glossary (J&E)
 - Overview (J&E) – Japan, USA, UK, Australia, the Netherlands, France, Germany
 - Overview (J) – Republic of Korea, PR China, Sri Lanka, Nepal
 - Brief guide (J&E) – Malaysia, Indonesia
 - Brief guide (J) – Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam

[If you have any updates about your country’s education, please send us nicjp@niad.ac.jp]



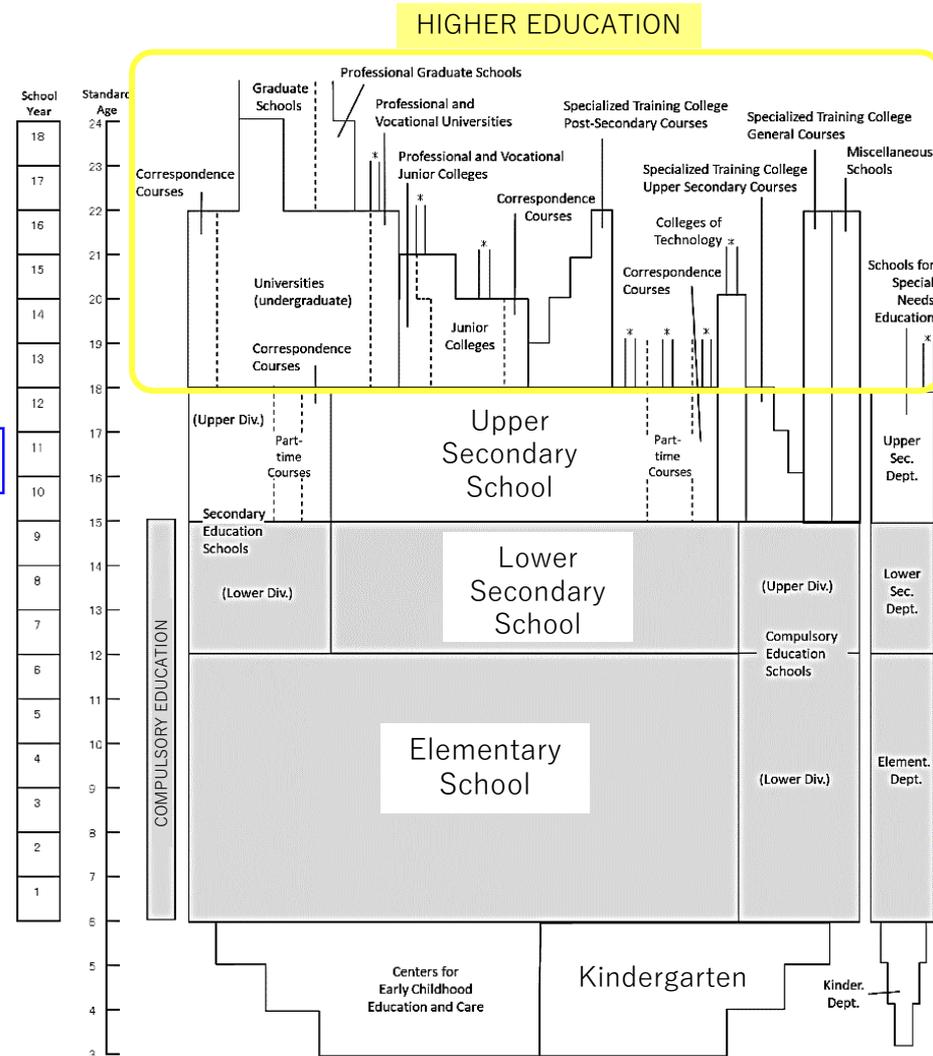


3. Overview of Higher Education in Japan

Japanese Education System

- ◆ All schools (from kindergarten to graduate school) in Japan are established based on the School Education Act (学校教育法)
 - pre-school education
 - 6 years of elementary education
 - 3 years of lower secondary education
 - 3 years of upper secondary education)
 - 6 years of secondary education
 - No legal definition of “higher education institutions”
 - Under the Tokyo convention:
 - Institutions stipulated by the School Education Act
 - 3 Institutions operated by government ministries and agencies: **National College of Nursing, Polytechnic University, and National Fisheries University**

Compulsory education



Establishment of Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

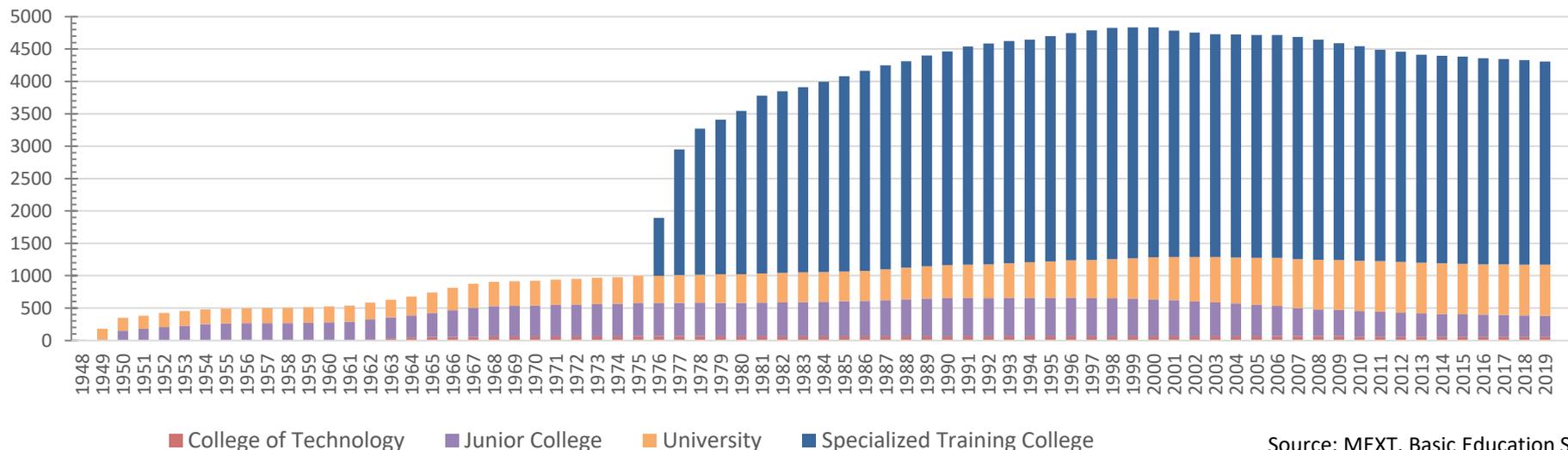
- ◆ There are separate standards for establishment (設置基準) for each type of HEI.
- ◆ Only the national government, local government, and school corporations can establish **universities (大学)** and **Colleges of Technology (高等専門学校)**.
 - Approval of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is required in order to establish a public or private institution.
 - National universities are established by national university corporations (since 2003).
- ◆ Establishment of **Professional Training Colleges (専門学校)** are approved by prefectures or education committees within prefectures.



Number of HEIs in Japan

Institution Type	National 国立	Municipal/Prefectural 公立	Private 私立	Total
Universities 大学 (with Graduate Schools 大学院)	86 (86)	93 (84)	607 (472)	786 (642)
Junior Colleges 短期大学	0	17	309	326
Colleges of Technology 高等専門学校	51	3	3	57
Professional Training Colleges 専門学校 (専修学校専門課程)	9	184	2,612	2,805
Total	146	297	3,531	3,974

as of May 1, 2019

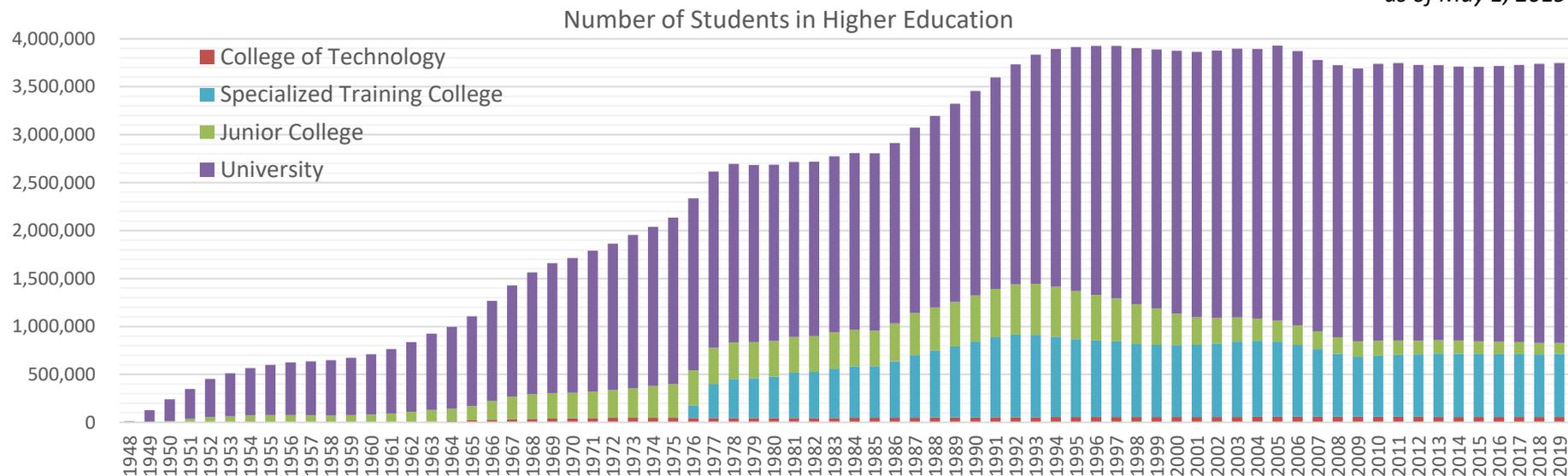


Source: MEXT, Basic Education Survey

Student Enrollment in Higher Education

Institution Type	National 国立	Municipal/Prefectural 公立	Private 私立	Total
Universities 大学 (with Graduate Schools 大学院)	606,449 (152,774)	158,176 (16,428)	2,154,043 (85,419)	2,918,668 (254,621)
Junior Colleges 短期大学	0	5,741	107,272	113,013
Colleges of Technology 高等専門学校	51,298	3,781	2,045	57,124
Professional Training Colleges 専門学校 (専修学校専門課程)	333	23,849	573,688	597,870
Total	658,080	191,547	2,837,048	3,686,675

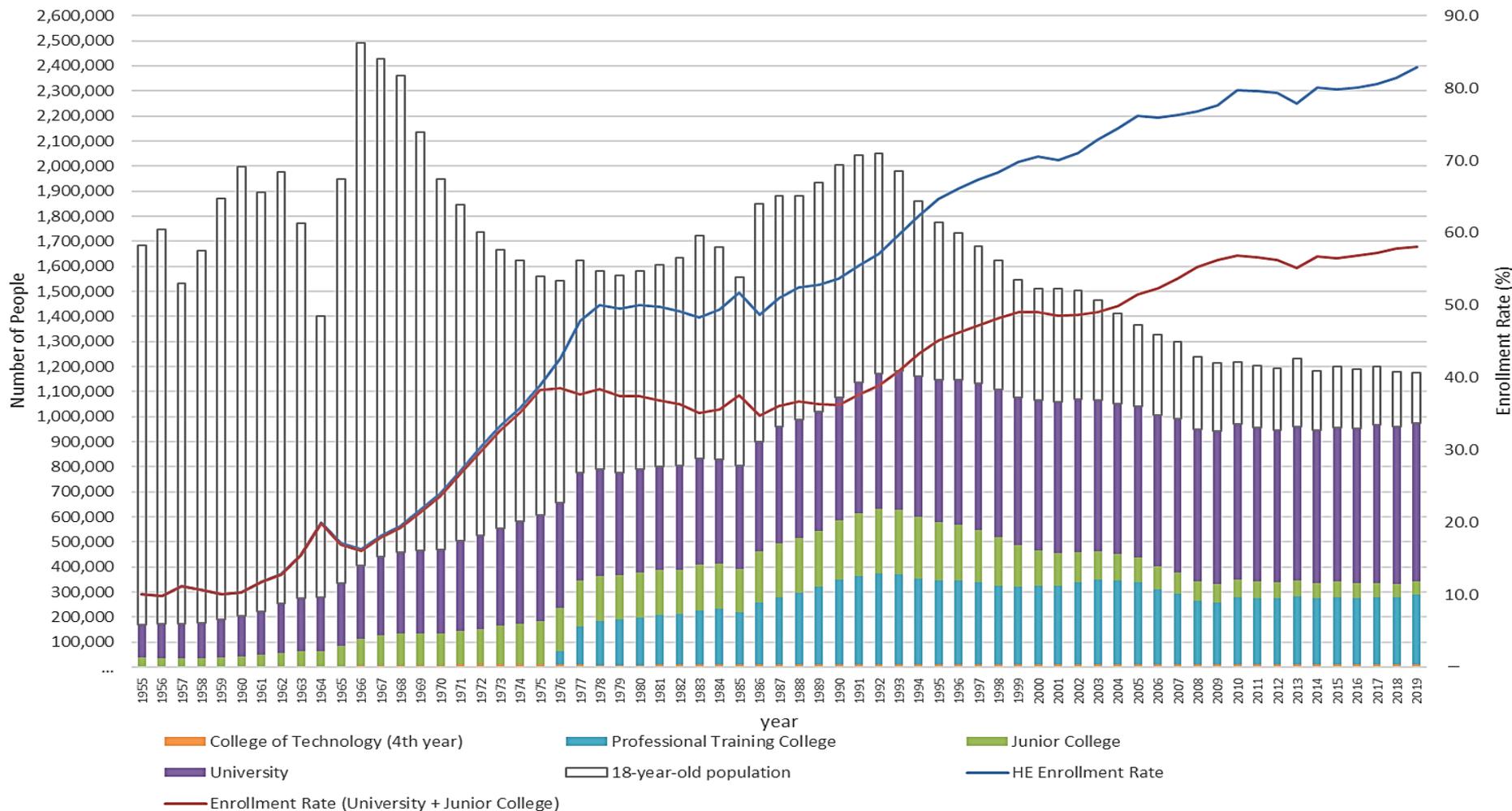
as of May 1, 2019



Source: MEXT, Basic Education Survey

Changes in the 18-Year-Old Population and HE Enrollment Rate in Japan (1955-2019)

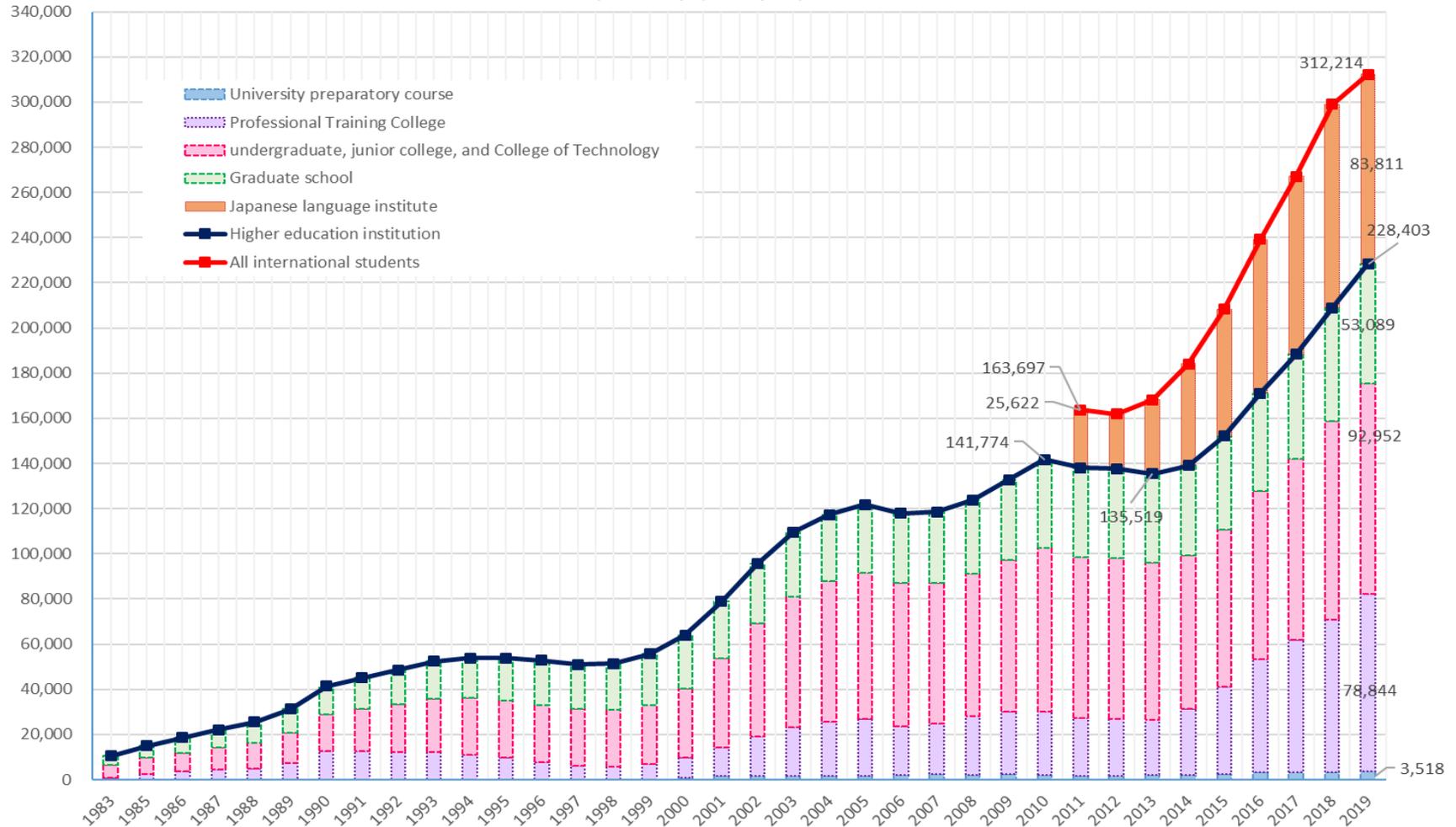
18-year-old Population and Higher Education Enrollment in Japan



Source: MEXT, Basic Education Survey

Trends of the international student mobility - inbound

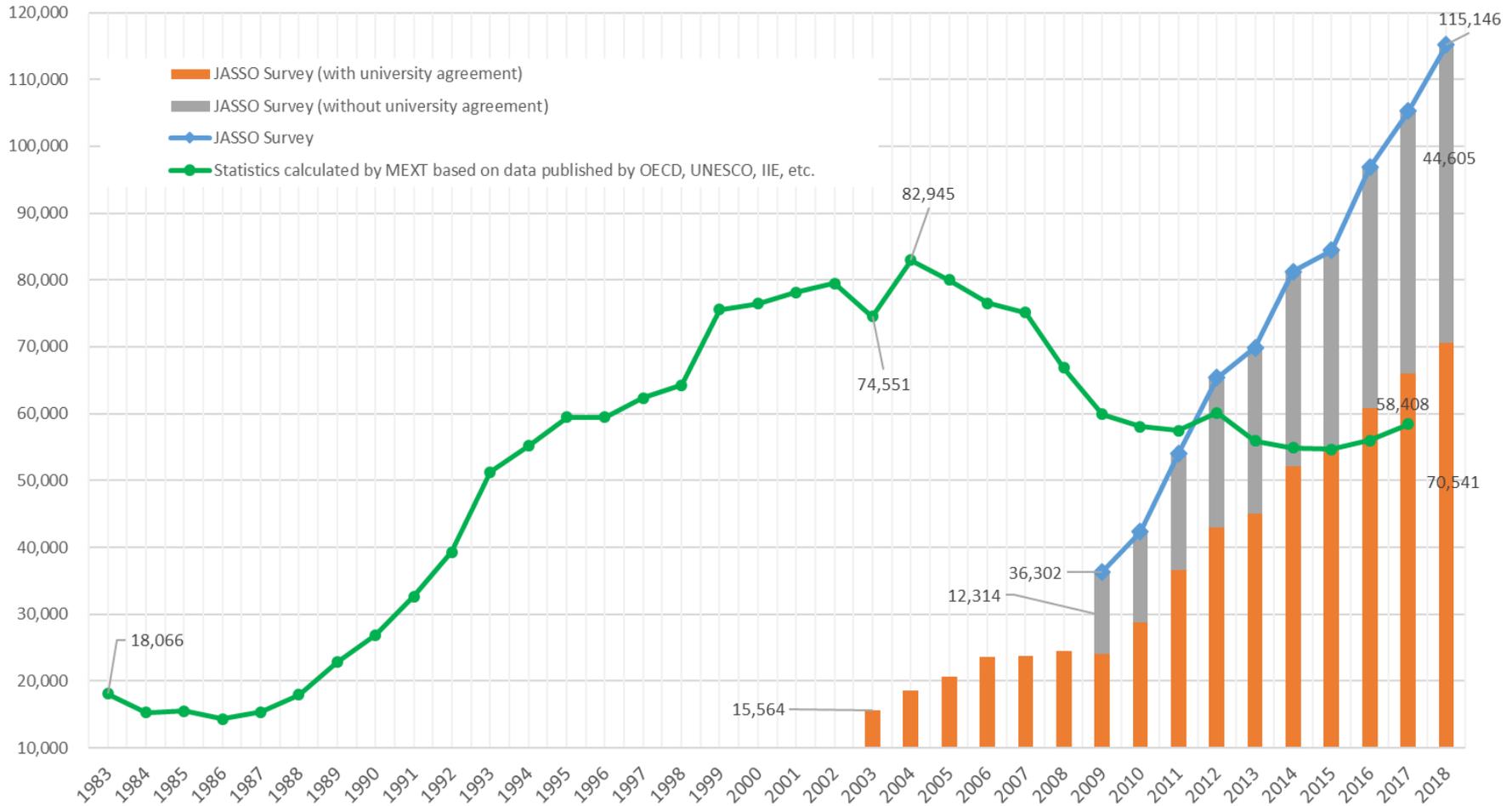
Number of International Students in Japan
- by types of institution -
(as of May 1, each year)



Reference: JASSO (2019) Results of annual survey of international students in Japan
This graph was created by NIAD-QE based on the above JASSO survey results.

Trends of the international student mobility - outbound

Number of Japanese Students Studying Abroad



Reference: JASSO (2018) Results of annual survey of Japanese students studying abroad.
MEXT (2020) 報道発表「外国人留学生在籍状況調査」及び「日本人の海外留学人数」等について
https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/1412692.htm
This graph was created by NIAD-QE based on the data provided in the above references.

Types of HEIs and their names in Japanese

	Institution Type	Written	Spoken
University 大学 <i>Daigaku</i>	University (Undergraduate Program)	大学 (学士課程)	<i>Daigaku (Gakushi-katei)</i>
	Professional and Vocational University	専門職大学	<i>Senmonshoku-daigaku</i>
	Junior College	短期大学	<i>Tanki-daigaku</i>
	Professional and Vocational Junior College	専門職短期大学	<i>Senmonshoku-tanki-daigaku</i>
	Graduate School	大学院	<i>Daigakuin</i>
	Professional Graduate School	専門職大学院	<i>Senmonshoku-daigakuin</i>
	College of Technology (KOSEN)	高等専門学校 (高専)	<i>Koto-senmon-gakko (KOSEN)</i>
	Professional Training College	専門学校	<i>Senmon-gakko</i>
	Educational Institutions Operated by Government Ministries and Agencies	省庁大学校	<i>Shocho-daigakko</i>

HE qualifications and their names in Japanese

Type	Qualification	Written	Spoken
Degrees	Bachelor's Degree	学士	<i>Gakushi</i>
	Bachelor's Degree (Professional)	学士(専門職)	<i>Gakushi (senmonshoku)</i>
	Associate Degree	短期大学士	<i>Tankidaigakushi</i>
	Associate Degree (Professional)	短期大学士(専門職)	<i>Tankidaigakushi (senmonshoku)</i>
	Master's Degree	修士	<i>Shushi</i>
	Doctoral Degree	博士	<i>Hakushi (hakase)</i>
	Professional Degree <small>*actual degree name varies depending on majors and programs</small>	専門職学位	<i>Senmonshoku-gakui</i>
Titles	Associate	準学士	<i>Jungakushi</i>
	Diploma	専門士	<i>Senmonshi</i>
	Advanced Diploma	高度専門士	<i>Kodo-senmonshi</i>

Graduation requirements: Undergraduate Programs and Junior Colleges

Institution	Graduation Requirements	Standard Duration	Qualifications Conferred
University (Undergraduate) 大学 (学士課程)	124+ credits (standard)	4 years*	Bachelor's Degree 学士
	188+ for Medicine and Dentistry, 186+ for Pharmacy (Clinical), and 182+ for Veterinary Medicine majors	6 years	
Professional and Vocational University (PVU) 専門職大学	124+ credits (must include 40+ credits in subjects of practical/skills training or experiment)	4 years	Bachelor's Degree (Professional) 学士(専門職)
Junior College 短期大学	62+ credits for 2-year program 93+ credits for 3-year program	2 or 3 years	Associate Degree 短期大学士
Professional and Vocational Junior College (PVJC) 専門職短期大学	62+ credits for 2-year program (must include 20+ credits in subjects of practical/skills training or experiment) 93+ credits for 3-year program (must include 30+ credits in subjects of practical/skills training or experiment)	2 or 3 years	Associate Degree (Professional) 短期大学士(専門職)

*Early graduation (3+years) is possible for students who have acquired required credits with excellent grades.

Completion requirements: Graduate Schools

Institution	Completion Requirements	Standard Duration	Qualifications Conferred
Graduate School 大学院	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30+ credits for Master's programs Receive research supervision, satisfy Master's thesis defense or assigned project and pass examinations 	2 years*	Master's Degree 修士
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30+ credits for Doctoral programs (incl. credits acquired in the Master's program) Receive research supervision, satisfy Doctoral thesis defense and pass examinations 	5 years*	Doctoral Degree 博士
	30+ credits Doctoral programs in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine	4 years	
Professional Graduate School 専門職大学院	30+ credits (standard)	2 years	Professional Degree 専門職学位
	93+ credits for Law School	3 years	
	45+ credits for Graduate School of Teacher Education	3 years	

*Early graduation (1+ years for a Master, 3+years for a Doctor) is possible for students who have accomplished excellent research results.

Completion requirements: KOSEN, Professional Training College, and educational institutions operated by government Ministries and agencies

Institution	Number of Credits required	Standard Duration	Qualifications Conferred
College of Technology (KOSEN) 高等専門学校 (高専)	167+ credits (standard)	5 years*	Associate 準学士
	147+ credits for programs in mercantile shipping	5 years * 6 months	
Professional Training College	800+ credit hours for Daytime Courses	1 year or longer	Diploma or Advanced Diploma**
	450+ credit hours per year for Evening Courses		
Educational Institutions Operated by Government Ministries and Agencies	Depends on each institution and program	Depends on each institution and program	No degrees or academic titles NIAD-QE degrees are conferred to those who complete its requirements and pass its assessment.

*1st-3rd years are upper secondary education; 4th year and above are higher education.

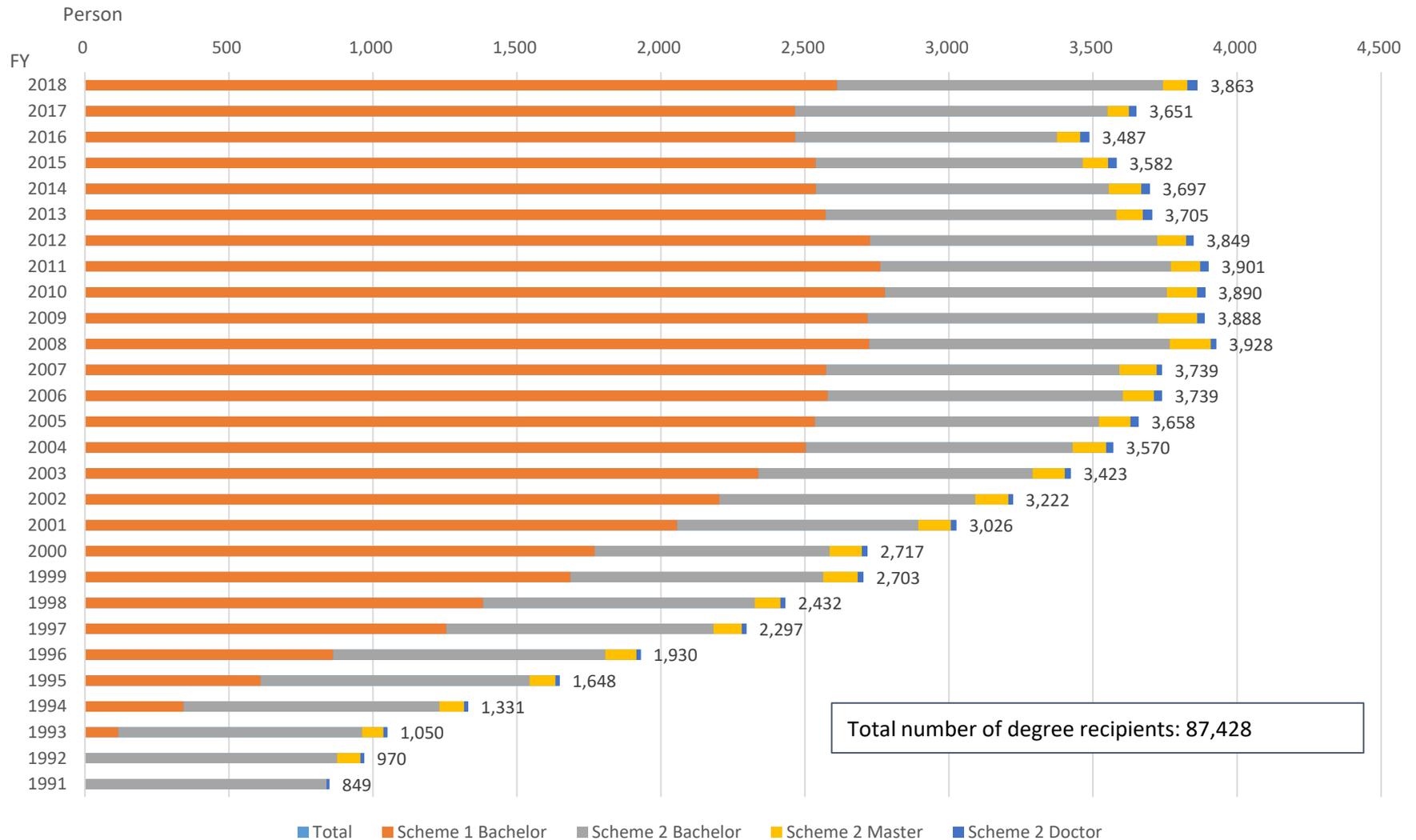
**Conditions apply to programs which may award Diploma and Advanced Diploma.

NIAD-QE Degrees

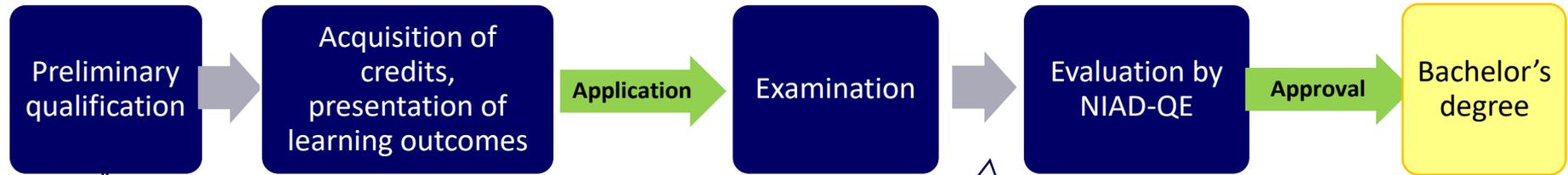


- ◆ An academic degree is awarded to students who successfully complete or graduate from a university undergraduate program, a graduate program and a junior college. **NIAD-QE academic degrees are alternative way which started in March 1991.**
- ◆ As provided in the School Education Act, **NIAD-QE is the only entity besides universities that is authorized to confer degrees in Japan.**
- ◆ NIAD-QE awards **bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees** to those who demonstrate acquisition of academic ability equivalent to that achieved in undergraduate or graduate education.
- ◆ Since it was introduced in 1991, **a total of 83,745 individuals** had received NIAD-QE's academic degrees through April 2019.
- ◆ NIAD-QE has **two schemes** for learners to earn academic degrees.

Number of NIAD-QE Degrees Awarded



Scheme I: Bachelor's degree based on credit accumulation



Completion of study at a Junior College, College of Technology, or Professional Training College

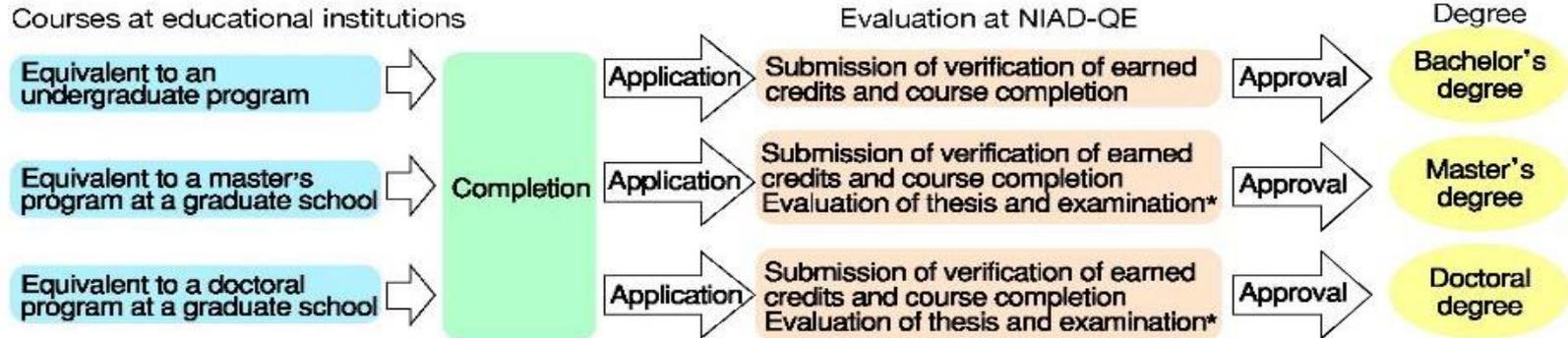
Applicants acquire credits to fulfill NIAD-QE requirements as audits at universities or at Advanced courses of Junior Colleges and Colleges of Technology approved by NIAD-QE.
Applicants submit thesis, artwork, etc. to demonstrate their academic ability

Examinations and evaluation are conducted at NIAD-QE from aspects of:

- Inspection of applied credits
- Assessment of the learning outcomes based on submitted work and written examination/interview

Scheme II: Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees based on completion of study at approved programs

Flow of the Scheme



★The expert committee overseeing the submitted thesis designates three or more members to conduct the examination. These members conduct the evaluation through verbal examination, etc.

Educational Institution	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Doctoral degree
National defense Academy	Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Engineering	Science, Engineering, Security Studies	Science, Engineering, Security Studies
National Defense Medical College	Medicine, Nursing	---	Medical Science
National Fisheries University	Fisheries	Fisheries	---
Japan Coast Guard Academy	BS in Coast Guard Operations and Law Enforcement	---	---
Meteorological College	Science	---	---
Polytechnic University	Engineering, Science in Manufacturing Technology	Science in Manufacturing Engineering	---
National College of Nursing, Japan	Nursing	Nursing	Nursing

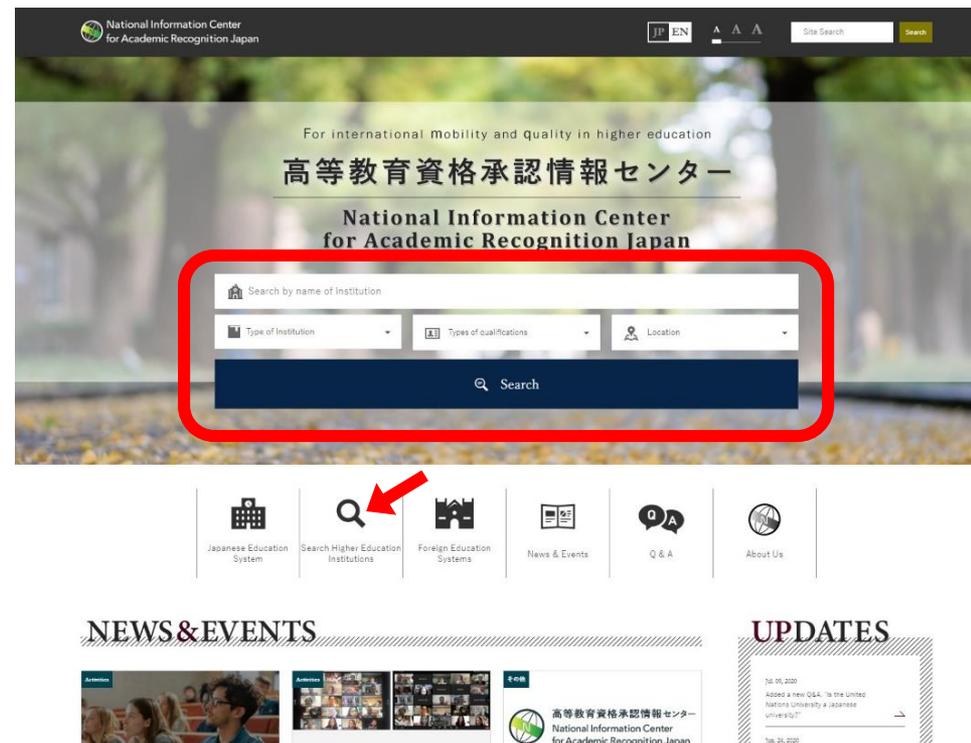


4. Frequently Asked Questions

- inquiries we often receive at NIC-Japan -

How do you find out whether an institution is recognized in the Japanese education system?

- ◆ On [NIC-Japan website](#), we have a list of all higher education institutions recognized in the Japanese education system.
- ◆ Establishment of universities and KOSEN are approved by the [Minister of MEXT](#).
- ◆ Establishment of Professional Training Colleges (専門学校) are approved by [prefectural governors](#).
- ◆ When inquiring establishing authorities, indicate [Japanese name of the institution/program](#) to receive accurate information.



How can you find out when an institution is established or accredited?

- ◆ For establishment date of universities, we refer to the list compiled by MEXT. Please send us inquiries via contact form on our website.
- ◆ For establishment date of Professional Training Colleges, please inquire the prefecture where the college is located in.
- ◆ Japanese universities must receive certified evaluation and accreditation (CEA) periodically. Evaluation results are published in websites of CEA organizations.
 - Japan Network of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Agencies (JNCEAA)
認証評価機関連絡協議会 <https://jnceaa.jp/>



Certificate of Graduation and Degrees

- ❑ A 'certificate of graduation (卒業証明書)' of an undergraduate program issued by a Japanese university indicates only the name of the program and the year of graduation. Is this person awarded a Bachelor's degree (学士)?
- ❑ If the name of awarded degree/title is not indicated in the 'certificate of completion/graduation' of a Professional Training College, does it mean this person was not awarded any titles of Diploma (専門士) or Advanced Diploma (高度専門士)?



Eligibility of admission to universities

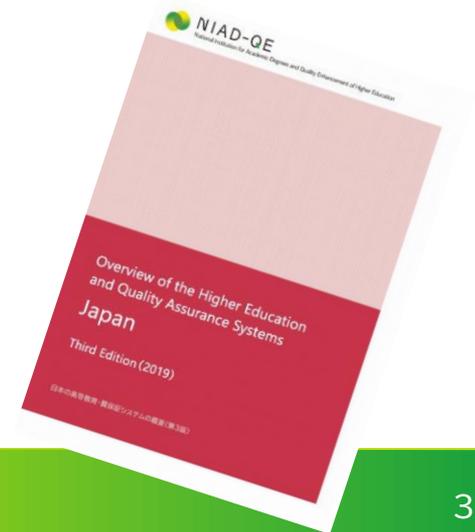
- ❑ Are Associate degrees (短期大学士) transferrable to a bachelor's degree in Japan? Do graduates of Junior College before 2005 have the same eligibility?
- ❑ When a person transfers to an undergraduate program with Associate degree or Diploma (専門士), how many credits or number of years are exempted?

<https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp/en/japanese-system/admission.html>

- ◆ Legal admission requirements are mostly based on the number of years of education received, graduation/completion of a program, and number of credits and study hours required for graduation/completion rather than which qualification (i.e. degrees and titles) an applicant has.
- ◆ Legal admission requirements are the minimum criteria common for all institutions of the same type. Universities/programs may set additional requirements and entrance examinations at the institution's own discretion

When you have a question about Japanese higher education and qualifications in the future...

- ◆ Please visit NIC-Japan website <https://www.nicjp.niad.ac.jp>
- ◆ Please send us your inquiry via web form on NIC-Japan website
- ◆ Please refer to our publications <https://www.niad.ac.jp/english/cqa/information.html#package>





5. Impact of COVID-19 on Japanese Higher Education

COVID-19 in Japan and Its Impact on Education

- Infected person: 90,694 (1,646 deceased) as of Oct. 15th in 2020.
- Did not “lockdown,” but issued **the State of Emergency** (April 7-May 25) and closed its border to over 200 nations.
- During the State of Emergency, almost **all of the K-12 schools and higher education institutions** closed completely.
- Acceleration of **GIGA School Program** to ensure **that all children can learn via ICT** even in emergency situations and school closures due to natural disasters or infectious diseases.



Initial Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education

- ◆ 87% (930 of 1,070) universities and colleges could not start their new semester at the beginning of April.
- ◆ Almost none of new international students could come to Japan in Spring and now still limited.
- ◆ Many cancellations and postpones occurred in various kinds of student exchange and mobility programs in Spring and also Fall semesters.
- ◆ Many students lost their part-time jobs and went to a serious financial crisis.

The First Reaction of Higher Education Institutions

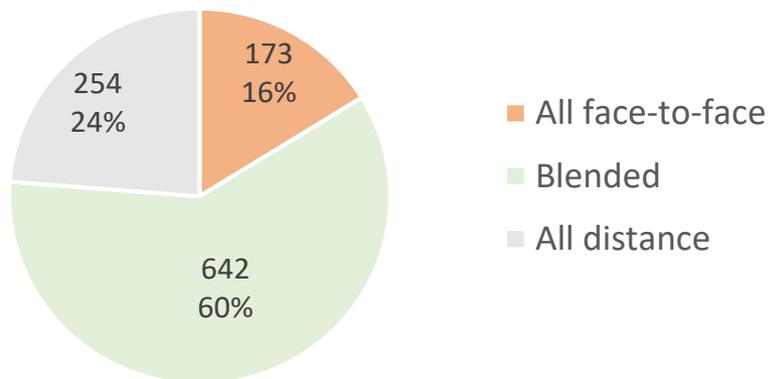
- **Only about 11% (115 out of 1,070) of universities, junior colleges, and KOSEN** could offer some forms of **distance education** (mainly online) from the beginning of the spring semester. Others delayed their academic calendars.
- Many institutions allowed new students to start their studies in a different calendar and be **flexible on deadlines of tuition and fee payments**.
- **Government and many higher education institutions** have established extensive and **various types of emergency financial assistance**, such as scholarship, tuition & fee exemption, and the extension of various deadlines for both domestic and international *students.

Provision of Online Education

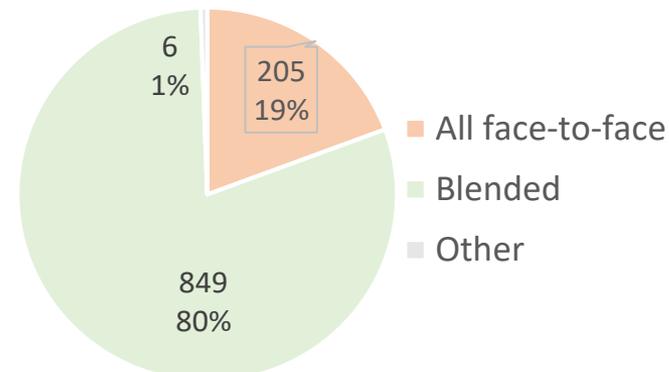
◆ MEXT's Survey to all* higher education institutions: 8/25-9/11

- In reality, **majority of schools** which offer face-to-face classes are **private institutions**, while national and public institutions have been offering online education from early stage of their spring semester till now.
- 80% (849/1,060) of higher education institutions offer blended (hybrid) education in fall semester, while **20% (205) offer regular class instructions.**

Class delivery situation as of July 1, 2020



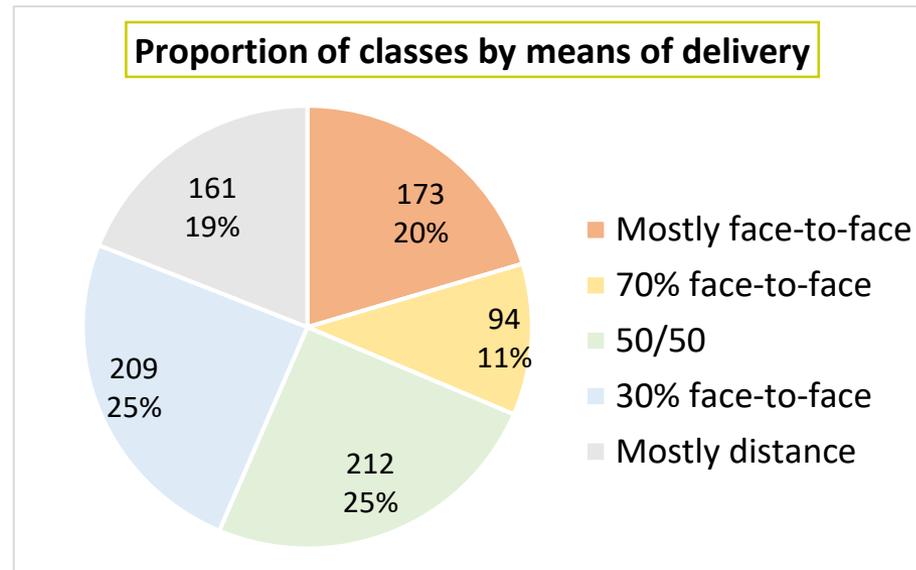
Class delivery in the fall semester



Provision of Online Education

◆ MEXT's Survey to all* higher education institutions: 8/25-9/11

- However, 60% of institutions which offer blended education are teaching more than half of their classes face-to-face.



◆ (MEXT's Survey to 50 leading universities to internationalize their campuses : 6/3-6/15)

- (Future vision) Over 80% (43/50) will create a blended international program by offering both online study as well as study abroad.
- 80%(40/50) of universities indicated that they would remake their strategic plan to meet requirements.

* (As of 2019) 'All institutions' includes 786 universities, 326 junior colleges and 57 KOSEN schools (1,169 in total). There are another 2,805 Professional Training Colleges in Japanese higher education.

Financial Crisis of Private Universities?? (1)

- ◆ The study of the Research Institute for Independent Higher Education (RIIHE) at the Association of Private Universities of Japan (APUJ) (7/22-8/19, 2020):

Nishii, Y., Sakashita, K., & Miyasato, S. (2020). *the Study of University Management and its Reaction to the COVID-19*, [Final Report, September 2020]. Tokyo, Japan: RIIHE. [in Japanese] Retrieved from https://www.shidaikyo.or.jp/riihe/book/pdf/20209_covid-19.pdf

- ◆ **Their Reactions:** the improvement of (1) anti-COVID-19 school environment [**98%**=303/309], (2) online teaching system [**85%**=265/309], (3) online meeting environment [**80%**=247/309], (4)) IT facilities and WIFI environment [**74%**=230/309],
- ◆ **Financial Burden:** (1) renovation of facilities (**33%**=103/309 private univ.) [**but, only 13 univ. =improvements of online education enviroment**], (2) the revenue loss of tuitions from new students. (**32%**=99/309)

Financial Crisis of Private Universities??(2)

From the study of Nishii, Sakashita, & Miyasato (2020).

- ◆ **Needs of Support:** Support for (1) the improvement of **anti-COVID-19 school environment** [**85%**=263/309], (2) the establishment of **online education environment** [**84%**=261/309], (3) the **compensation of students' tuitions**. (maybe in the form of financial assistance to students, so that they can keep studying)[**79%**=245/309]
- ◆ **Future Concerns:** (1) may lose more revenue seriously due to the income loss of their students' parents. (2) more **financial burden for the “maintenance” of campus facilities, especially to keep hiring staff members** of cafeteria, medical facilities, and other affiliated facilities.

Future Concerns

- ◆ **Financial crisis of private institutions:**
expecting more serious issue even from next year [Any bankruptcy?]
- ◆ **Economically disadvantaged students:**
Various ways of difficulties to continue their studies due to income loss of parents, themselves and also the necessity of economic recovery from their loss during COVID-19 season

Future Challenges

Online Education as Two Sides of the Same Coin

- ◆ Online education as an alternative remedy for the provision of “new” higher education in the post-COVID-19 era,
- ◆ Meanwhile, online education may become a major cause of academic disparity not only among students, but also institutions, due to the level of infrastructure development (WIFI environment, computer literacy, teachers’ competencies, and technical support, etc.) . Some technical institutions, such as KOSEN (Technical colleges) will need face-to face classes since they need onsite training to acquire new skills.

Global Distrust

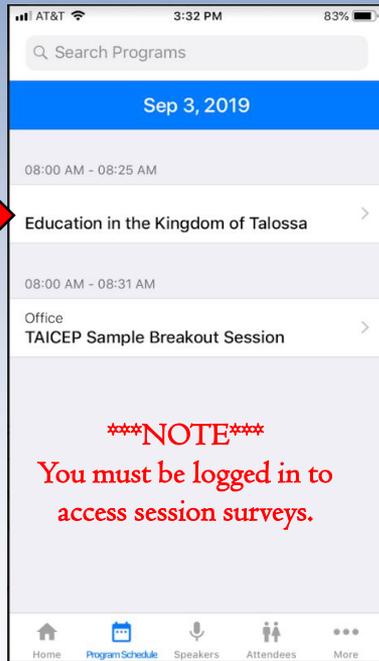
- ◆ **[Academic Prejudice]** Reluctance to recognize academic credentials if education is offered online. (need to change even Japanese regulations to recognize “flexible education”)
- ◆ **[Safety Information]** Reluctance to go overseas unless there is no fear of COVID-19 on site.

Thank you for your kind attention!

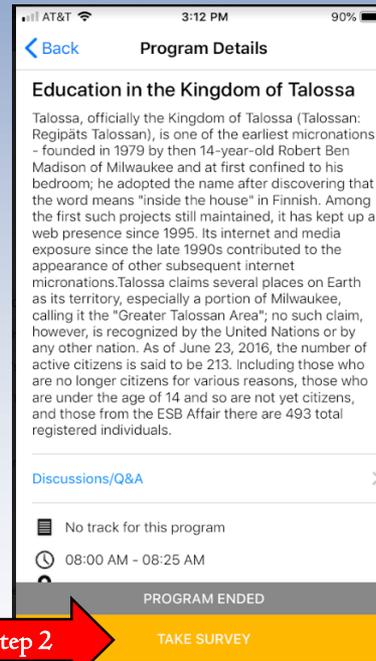
Comments or questions?

Please Complete Session Surveys

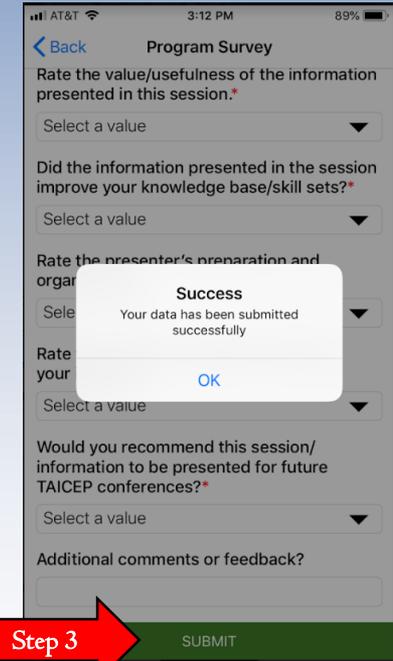
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“Submit” (*Then... go find coffee!*)





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