

Gifu University Career Development Program for International Students



Dear fellow international students! Are you considering working in Japan after graduation? If so, please bear it in mind that in Japan, students usually start their job-hunting activities at least one year before graduation. Needless to say, good communication skills in Japanese are indispensable. Please confirm what types of skill sets you are expected to master, and try the hardest to improve yourself to meet the real needs of the workplace. Gifu University wholeheartedly supports you and guides you to make your job-hunting endeavors the most successful ones!

Career Development Promotion Program Schedule

No.	Program Name	Apr.	May.	Jun.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
1	Career-Building Orientation for New Students We provide support for job hunting from the time of student enrolment.						J	E	C				
2	Career-Building Orientation for International Students - Briefing on Career Development Program for International Students Learn the steps for job-hunting.	J	E				J	E					
3	Career Japanese Language Improve Japanese skills used in the workplace		← J →						← J →				
4	Job Hunting Preparation Course Learn everything students need for job-hunting.		← J E →										
5	Japanese Business Practice & Overviews		J	E					J	E			
6	Internships Directly appeal yourself to companies/firms during summer recess					← J →							
7	Practical Business Skills Course Learn business norms/practices accepted by the private sector through actual engagement							← J E →					
8	Individual Consultations for Job-Hunting Students can ask anything if it is related to job-hunting; whether to pursue further education or to find a job, find a job in Japan or return to their home countries, how to appeal strong points, find the best suited company, prepare resumes, gain useful tips for interviewing, and seek advice from experts.						J	E	C				
9	Interactions with Private Enterprises Try to identify yourself through the perspectives of Japanese people by joining company tours, workshops, Japanese speech competitions, etc.				J			J	J				
10	Company Seminar Students can join exchange meetings with local companies, and your seniors who have successfully found an employment in Japan.								← J E →				
11	Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students Main Events one-on-one recruitment screening sessions, symposiums, job fairs, etc.				J				J			J	



Name : **Tharangika Ranatunga**

Affiliation(Company/Division) :

Ibiden Engineering Co.,Ltd.

Applied Analysis Team, Analytical Solutions Group, Environmental Engineering Div.

Nationality : **Sri Lanka**

Faculty/Graduate School :

Department of Science of Biological Environment, The United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Gifu University

Date of Graduation : **March 2018**

1. Why did you decide to work in Japan?

Firstly, I have good impressions about Japan. Japanese people are warm-hearted and very polite.

I would like to work in an environment full of such friendly people. Secondly, I found that the job security is better in Japan than other countries.

2. How did you get prepared for job-hunting ?

When I started my job-hunting, I was a doctoral student at Gifu University. Back then, I had very tight schedule, busy with my research work and writing theses. But I took part in Gifu University's career guidance, training sessions and received individual consultation services to gather necessary information for my job-seeking.

3. How did you contact your employer?

I heard about Ibiden Engineering Co.,Ltd. from one of my friends, and started to conduct extensive investigations on the firm. Later, I obtained a letter of recommendation from Gifu University for my application.

I was working as a part-time English teacher, and forged a very good relationship with many Japanese people there. They always tried to understand me, and some of them even introduced me a couple of Japanese companies whose lines of business may have a lot to do with the field of my research.

4. How many companies did you apply during your job-hunting?

I applied for two companies, and Ibiden Engineering Co.,Ltd. was the second I applied for. I was fortunate enough to obtain letters of recommendation for these two companies from my supervisors at Gifu University.

5. Please describe your job application process.

When I made the first visit to the companies, I was given a company overview and discussed my future assignments. In my second visit, I went for an interviewing.

I wrote my curriculum vitae (CV) in English, and was interviewed in English.

6. Please describe your current assignment at the company.

I entered this company on October 2018. Currently, I am working for the Division of Environmental Engineering and engage in analyzing samples sent from our customers. I also translate analysis results from Japanese into English.

7. Did you have difficulties in your job and if so, how did you overcome those difficulties?

One of my major concerns right now is my Japanese skills. Almost all the manuals are written in Japanese, but I still cannot read many Kanji. Although I am trying my best to communicate with other staffs by using simple Japanese, I end up with speaking English most of the time in the workplace. I appreciate the great help from my supervisors and colleagues. One of my supervisors who has a good command of English, teaches me a lot, and all of my colleagues are willing to correct my Japanese whenever I am confused to use the most appropriate expression which differs depending on whom I am speaking to. Speaking and writing good Japanese in the right context is extremely difficult for anyone coming from abroad.

Just like other employees, I am required to write my daily report ('kokan-nikki' in-house business log) in Japanese every day, and my team members kindly correct my Japanese. Thanks to their great

assistance, I learn something new every day.

8. What advice would you like to give to international students who are currently doing job-hunting?

Needless to say, job-hunting is not easy, so we all need to make enough preparations, and make every effort to improve our Japanese. Even if we are busy with part-time work or research activities, we must prioritize our job-seeking before anything else. Finding a place to work is a lifetime decision and we all should give a serious thought to our choices, and look for the best possible working environment for ourselves. In time of selecting our future company, being well-informed about the company is necessary, but more importantly, we need to build a good relationship with people you are going to work for or with. In my experience, whether we can get along with our team members and supervisors is of utmost importance.

Question to the employer



1. Please tell us about the foreign personnel employment of your company.

Currently, two foreign nationals are working for our company. One has a Japanese citizenship and speaks good Japanese. Ms. Tharangi is the second accepted by the company.

2. Please tell us what made you hire Ms. Tharangi.

In times of large number of foreign nationals coming to Japan every year, the major challenge for us is to spot and recruit the most talented personnel for our company.

Ms. Tharangi had been conducting research on the fields of agriculture and environment at Gifu University, and we expect her to apply the knowledge and expertise she has gained at the university to the development of new business. We also hope that she makes the best use of her networks with scholars, researchers at universities, academic societies both at home and abroad for the future prosperity of our company.

Generally speaking, technical experts who come to Japan for work are highly motivated. We believe that their approaches to work will give a lot of positive impacts on other employees, and expect them to become a driver for revitalization of workplace. Different values/ideas, etc. that Ms. Tharangi may bring to our corporate culture could result in generating more novel business ideas for our company.

3. How do you communicate with Ms. Tharangi in the workplace?

Our department head communicates with her in English, so no serious language barrier exists between them. We speak to her in Japanese as much as possible so that she can learn more. She gives a morning speech in Japanese before the employees. She also shares the company's daily business log with Japanese co-workers. Japanese staff correct her

Japanese, practice reading and pronouncing Japanese together. Ms. Tharangi's great diligence and sincerity are inspiring Japanese employees to follow her steps for days to come.

4. Please tell us what you expect from Ms. Tharangi.

There are two things: first, we want her to be a real professional capable of providing new analytical services to our customers by applying the knowledge and experiences she has gained through her academic career.

Second, we want her to utilize her English skills in any business settings. Currently, in our analytical skill promotion workshops, presentations and Q&A are all conducted in English.

We had been declining business offers which require English before

Ms. Tharangi joined us, but with her excellent English skills, she responds to inquiries made by experts from abroad. We anticipate that with her great help, we can expand our business operations beyond national borders in the future.

We wish that Ms. Tharangi plays a major role in introducing our innovative analytical methods to our customers both in English and Japanese, and meet the needs of various requests from our foreign customers.

5. Please tell us about your company's foreign national recruitment policies.

Our policies are to hire talented personnel regardless of their nationalities.

Senior Students' Job-Hunting Stories



Name : **Hadi Defri Bin Syafri**

Prospective Employer : **Machine Manufacturer**

Nationality : **Indonesia**

Affiliation (Faculty/ Graduate School) :

Department of Material Science and Processing, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Gifu University

Date of Graduation : **March 2020**

1. Why do you want to work in Japan?

In my home country, especially in my hometown, there are fewer career opportunities for engineers, but in Japan, I believe opportunities are plenty.

I don't think there is much of a difference between working in Japan and working in Jakarta because my assignment will require me to live away from my family, anyway.

2. When did you decide working in Japan?

At first, I thought it would be difficult for me to find a job in Japan due to my insufficient Japanese skills. It was the spring in 2019 when I started my job-hunting after attending Gifu University's career guidance sessions. Talks with a career consultant, Ms. Zhang and advice from her, eventually convinced me that everything can be possible.

3. Please describe your job hunting process.

First, I gathered corporate information by assessing Rikunavi, a job placement website and I registered myself at approximately hundred companies by filling pre-entry application formats online. Of them, I received emails from around 50 companies.

I sent emails to them telling that my Japanese skills are not good enough but still looking for an employment opportunity. As it turned out, some companies responded to my emails.

After extensive investigations on these companies, I narrowed down ten major firms and small-medium-size companies, and sent them my entry-sheets (ES). I went ahead with taking written exams and interviewing. Not all companies require us to submit ES, but I consulted with Ms. Zhang about how to complete my ES on multiple occasions. Foreign nationals like me are also required to take the Synthetic Personality Inventory (SPI) and general knowledge tests (mathematics or science) in Japanese. I managed to proceed to the final interviews of five companies, and I was accepted by three of them.

4. Why did you choose this company and what were your criteria for choosing the company?

I want to keep on working in Japan for many years to come. But being a Muslim, I first have to think about my time for prayers and availability of halal food in my workplace. Two out of three companies I was accepted, agreed to give me an extra time for prayers every Friday. Salaries and benefits were not the biggest

issue for me as Japanese firms in general offer more or less the same salaries and benefits to fresh graduates.

5. What language did you use in writing your CV and undergo interviews?

I came to notice that Rikunavi website is not always foreign nationals friendly, and I had no choice but to ready my curriculum vitae (CV) and undergo interviews in Japanese. In these interviews, I tried my best to answer questions in simple Japanese. Contrary to my expectations, I was asked more personal questions than technical expertise like "Why do you want to work in Japan?" or "How long do you wish to work in Japan?" my family and friends, my research activities and part-time work, etc.

6. Did you have difficulties during your job-hunting and if so, how did you overcome those difficulties?

My job-hunting activities often ate up my sleeping hours, and cost me a lot because I had to visit one company after another, and travelling expenses ran up (transportation fees are rather expensive in Japan.) Among other things, I felt extremely difficult to find a company that allows me to spend time for praying during working hours.

I found myself very fortunate to be able to seek advice from Ms. Zhang. Thanks to her help and everyone concerned, I successfully finished my job-hunting by December (started in September). I learned a lot from my experiences of job-seeking including business culture, workstyle, and various forms of business entities in Japan. My perception about Japanese people being very strict to everything and "workaholics" has significantly changed.

7. What do you think the company expects from you ?

I will be assigned to the department of design, and first thing I have to do is to understand more about manufacturing, the very basics of designing. The company's major customer has branches in Indonesia, Malaysia and the United States, therefore, they need engineers who are good at Indonesian or English.

8. What advice would you like to give to international students who are currently doing job hunting?

I think it is possible for international students to find a job in Japan, but to make a big success in Japan, you have to be proactive and do not hesitate to take actions. I would say, "Just do it!"



Name : **Muhammad Hamad Gul**

Prospective Employer : **Mobile Telecommunications company**

Nationality : **Pakistan**

Affiliation (Faculty/ Graduate School) :

Department of Intelligence Science and Engineering, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Gifu University

Date of Graduation : **March 2020**

1. Why do you want to work in Japan?

Japanese firms in general offer higher wages to their employees than those in my home country. Moreover, I like the politeness of Japanese people and the living environment.

2. Please describe your job-hunting process.

First, I applied for a job at the leading mobile phone operator, company A opened for newly graduate students, but soon I realized I was not eligible because I had already a 4-year working experience as a communications engineer in the private sector. Then, I accessed an online professional networking website "LinkedIn" in English to seek another job opportunity.

I found some job openings on a website of a mobile network operator, company B and applied for a position, assignment, business field I am most interested in.

I received an email from company B after two days of my application, which asked me to submit my Japanese curriculum vitae (CV). They didn't ask for my English CV because they took an interview for me in English right away. I knew that the official language of company B is English, but I was asked several questions in Japanese during my three online interview sessions. In the first session, I was asked some technical questions by company B engineers. To my surprise, they looked more interested in my past working experiences than what I am doing for my research. In the second session, a department head asked me some personal questions. And the last interview session was the discussions with the Human Resources Department staff over company's compensation package and visa application, etc. It took around two months before the whole process was over: three weeks for interviews, one month before receiving a final result.

3. Why did you choose this company and what were your criteria for choosing the company?

I chose the company because I believe my assignment at the company will have a lot to do with the field of my research. Generous compensation package, promotion possibilities and future visions of the company were also important rationale for my decision to join the company.

4. Is Japanese proficiency one of the requirements for the job?

English is a day-to-day communication tool in my workplace, and other staff members do not care much about my Japanese proficiency.

5. Did you have difficulties during your job-hunting and if so, how did you overcome those difficulties?

I didn't find it difficult to find a job at company B, but at first, I mistakenly applied for the opening for newly graduates despite that I have already a multiple-year business experience. Only after my attendance at Gifu University's career guidance and consultation sessions, I realized I was not eligible, and reapplied for the mid-career employment category of the company.

I also sought advice from a career adviser, Ms. Zhang about job application, CV writing, interviewing and compensation package, etc.

6. What advice would you like to give to international students who are currently doing job-hunting?

First and foremost, students need to improve their Japanese proficiency. To seek and find good job opportunities in Japan, Japanese skills are a must, and to secure better life in this country, students should study Japanese harder. As a matter of fact, I am still struggling with Japanese every day.

If a student can demonstrate his/her excellent research skills, they are more likely to find a job in Japan. But if their skills ended up otherwise, they should be more focusing on improving their Japanese in order to build a successful business career. Outstanding research and academic capabilities may assure a bright future for students given that Japan is praised as a technology and innovation "powerhouse" from the world.

Your expertise on new technologies or becoming a leading innovator will in no doubt help you find a challenging yet rewarding job in Japan in the near future.

Please trust yourself and move on just like I did. You can do it!

● About Gifu University Career Development Program for International Students

<https://www.glocal.gifu-u.ac.jp/isepp/>



For more details about the programs of Gifu University.

● About Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students

<https://ag-int.org/>



For your registration at the consortium program.
For more details about the programs of other universities.

▼ Registration・Contact

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