



## Improve Japanese language skills this year!



A Happy New Year!

2022 is the year of the tiger. The tiger gives the impression of being brave and full of vitality. May the new year be a healthy and vibrant for everyone.

We wish you all the best!

In the new year, many people think about their dreams and goals, and start new studies. Here, for those who think "I will do my best to study Japanese this year", we will introduce Japanese learning support project by the Fukuoka City International Foundation and a free Japanese learning site.

### Japanese language classes by volunteers

There are many Japanese classes by volunteer in the Fukuoka city and surrounding metropolitan area. In the classroom, the students learn Japanese through interactive activities such as speaking, writing, and reading with the volunteers. There are classrooms for beginner to advanced. Anyone who wants to study Japanese can participate.

For classroom times, locations, contact information, please check the "Japanese Class Map" and contact the class directly.

#### <Japanese Class Map>

This is a guidebook about Japanese language classes by volunteers, published by the Fukuoka City International Foundation. It has information on Japanese language classes held by volunteers in the Fukuoka city and surrounding metropolitan area.

It is available at the first floor in the Fukuoka City International Center, the first floor of the Information Plaza in the Fukuoka City Hall, each ward office and civic center, and can also be viewed and downloaded from our website.

<https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-language/japanese-language-class/>



### Japanese Chatting Event

It is a social gathering event to support foreign students' Japanese language learning and exchange, organized by Fukuoka International Student Support Association-Attaka Fukuoka.

At this event, foreign students and Japanese volunteers meet one-on-one or in small groups, and they will talk about their favorite topics in Japanese.

Date and time: Usually the last day of every weekday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Location: Online (Zoom) or face-to-face (at a Fukuoka City International Center meeting room)

Application: Advance application is required. Please see the following website for details and application for participation.



<https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-event/chat/>

### Useful websites for learning Japanese

They are e-learning websites that can be used for free of charge.

Japanese language learning materials

#### Japan Foundation

<https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/index.html>

#### Kids Web Japan

<https://web-japan.org/kidsweb/>

#### Connect and Enhance Your Life in Japanese

[https://tsunagarujp.bunka.go.jp/?lang\\_id=EN](https://tsunagarujp.bunka.go.jp/?lang_id=EN)

#### NHK WORLD JAPAN

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/learnjapanese/>



### Training courses for Japanese language volunteers

At the Fukuoka City International Foundation, we provide training courses for Japanese language volunteers who want to support someone who wants to learn Japanese, so the volunteer can gain the necessary knowledge. Please check the website for the further details:

<http://www.fcif.or.jp/language/japanese-volunteer-training-course/>

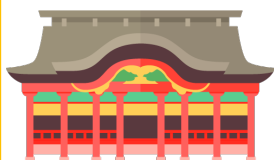
### International Japanese Speech Contest

The objective of this contest is to promote enhancement in Japanese language proficiency. It is a platform for both foreign and Japanese residents to exchange and understand each other by further understanding of multiculturalism and internationalization.

Please check the website for the further details:  
<http://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-language/speech-contest/>



## New Year event Hatsumōde



"Hatsumōde" is a New Year's event that we visit a shrine or temple for the first time in the new year. During the visit we pray for the safety and peace in the coming new year, as well as

giving gratitude for the last year.

Many temples and shrines ask for scattered worship to prevent the spread of the COVID infection. There may be restrictions on attending, so please check the official website before attending.

Here is the list of some shrines or temples in Fukuoka city:

• **Hakozaki Shrine** in East ward - It is famous for warding off evil influences and bringing good fortune.  
<https://www.hakozakigu.or.jp/>

• **Atago Shrine** in West ward - It is the oldest shrine in Fukuoka and atop a hill, where you can overlook the city of Fukuoka. <http://atagoinjya.com/>

• **Sumiyoshi Shrine** in Hakata ward - is a seafarers Shinto shrine and presumably the oldest Shinto shrine in Kyushu.  
<https://www.nihondaiichisumiyoshigu.jp/>

• **Torikai-Hachimangu** in Chuo ward - Last year, they held an online Hatsumode. <https://hachimansama.jp/>

## New Year's Lucky charms

These are lucky charms that you will normally see in Japan from the end of December.



Hamaya - A decorative arrow sold at shrines and temples is said to capture the good luck of the year. It is customary to give to



someone who has had a house newly built or a newborn baby. The year after the Hamaya is displayed, it's returned to the shrine / temple while showing appreciation.



Shimenawa – Placed on the door outside (like a wreath), to welcome Toshigami-sama in to a place that is clean and sacred.



Kadomatsu – Is one of the New Year's decorations and marks, placed on both sides of an entrance to welcome Toshigami-sama in the new year. It is not good to set up Kadomatsu on New Year's Eve as it lacks sincerity, therefore it is better



to set it up around the 28th.

## Setsubun

The word Setsubun was originally a word that referred to the day before the beginning of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. It is believed that evil spirits come at the turn of the season, and rituals are held to dispel them. Setsubun has changed with the times. Since the Edo period, it has become an event that refers to the day before spring (around February 4 every year).

Fukumame (fortune beans) are either thrown out of the front door, or at a member of the family wearing an Oni (demon) mask while saying, "Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!" (Devils out, happiness in!).



## About Individual Number Card



Individual Number, also known as My Number is a 12-digit ID number issued to all citizens and (foreign) residents of Japan. An Individual Number Card is required for various procedures such as social security, tax, and natural disaster countermeasures.

In addition, if you have an Individual Number Card, you can use it for various electronic applications such as electronic tax filing (e-TAX), which means you can complete the procedure from home!

You can apply for Individual Number Card from this site:



<https://www.kojinbango-card.go.jp/en-kofushinse/>

## Those who have paid Furusato Nozei

Furusato Nozei (donations to a Japanese city) is a tax scheme that refunds some of income and residency tax. If the donation exceeds 2,000 yen, tax will be refundable for that.

Please note that even if you have applied for the "One-stop exception", you will still need to file tax returns:

- When donating to 6 or more local governments
- When filing for other reasons such as medical expense or mortgage deduction

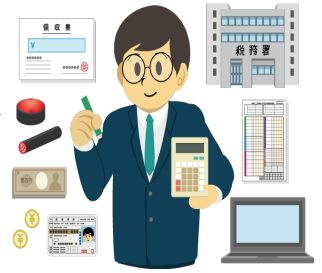


## Tax Return

The tax return is to calculate the tax on income from January 1st to December 31st of the year and report it to the tax office.

Even if you are not obligated to, by filling in a tax return, you may be able to receive the overpaid tax back. You are however obligated to file a tax return, if you have a certain amount of income. If you are obligated to file a tax return but do not file it by the deadline,

you may be penalized. It is possible to file a tax return retroactive for the past 5 years by requesting for rectification.



### Main reasons for filing a tax return



- ★ While employed you forgot to declare any deductions from insurance premiums for the year-end adjustment.
- ★ There was a loss on stocks and/or foreign exchange.
- ★ You paid Furusato Nozei, hometown tax or donated.
- ★ Unemployed and not re-employed before the end of the year.
- ★ Your annual medical expenses exceeded 100,000 yen. (or if it exceeds 5% of the annual income of earnings up to 2 million yen).
- ★ Purchases of certain over-the-counter drugs\* exceed 12,000 yen a year. (\*Over-the-counter drugs are medicines sold directly to a consumer without a requirement for a prescription).
- ★ Damage to homes and/or property due to natural disasters, fires, theft, etc.
- ★ You took out a mortgage for construction work on your property such as extension and/or restoration.

### Main reasons for filing taxes



- ★ Sole proprietorship (self-employed or freelance).
- ★ You become unemployed during the tax year (have not received year-end adjustments)
- ★ You have real estate income, or sold real estate and made a profit.
- ★ Your annual earnings from salary exceeds 20 million yen.
- ★ You are in full time employment and the total amount of income from side business exceeds 200,000 yen.
- ★ For those who receive salaries from two or more places and they do not make year-end adjustments exceeds 200,000 yen.
- ★ Your income from public pensions exceeds 4 million yen, or income from salary, real estate income, etc, exceeds 200,000 yen annually.
- ★ You have not submitted the "Application Concerning Receipt of Retirement Income" after receiving the retirement allowance.

## Tax return flow

### Step 1. Prepare necessary documents

You will need documents such as Individual Number\* card or Notification Card, withholding tax slips from income and public pensions, donation receipt certificates, medical expense receipts, etc.

\* See page 2, about Individual Number for more details.



### Step 2. Fill out tax return

Fill out a tax return form by one of the three following methods

Method 1. Fill out a form on the National Tax Agency website below:

<https://www.keisan.nta.go.jp/kyoutu/ky/sm/top#bsctrl>

Method 2. Fill out a paper form by printing it from the National Tax Agency website, or acquiring one from your local tax office.

<https://www.nta.go.jp/taxes/shiraberu/shinkoku/yoshiki/01/01.htm>

Method 3. Use Mynaportal\* via your PC or smart device

\* Please check the website about Mynaportal: <https://img.myna.go.jp/manual/english/quickguide.html>



### Step 3. Submit

Submit your return to the tax office by either mailing it, taking it to a Tax Office or submission via e-Tax.

There are 2 ways to submit via e-Tax:  
1. Individual Number card Method – for more information or to log in to e-Tax by using your individual number, follow this link:

[https://www.e-tax.nta.go.jp/kojin/mycd\\_login.htm](https://www.e-tax.nta.go.jp/kojin/mycd_login.htm)



2. ID and Password Method  
- You will need to obtain an ID and password from the tax office.

More information here:  
<https://www.e-tax.nta.go.jp/kojin/idpw.htm>

### Submission time

Between February 16th and March 15th every year.

This year's is Wednesday, February 16th until Tuesday, March 15th, 2022. (It may change in the future.)

※To reduce congestion, some tax return venues may issue a "numbered admission ticket" with a specific a submission time.



Bringing animal products into Japan from overseas



Don't bring illegal meat products into Japan.  
It's illegal to import most meat products into Japan.

Please refrain from illegally bringing meat and other livestock products from overseas into Japan. Doing so is punishable by up to three years in prison or a fine of up to 3 million yen (for corporations, up to 50 million yen). This includes meat products sent by international mail or shipping services.

Countries around the world are currently experiencing virulent livestock disease outbreaks such as foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever. Should these diseases reach Japan, they could not only cause great harm to Japan's livestock industry, but also adversely impact socioeconomic activities in the affected region.

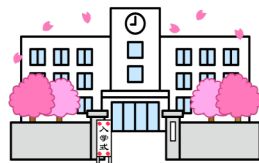
In fact, the African swine fever virus has been found in meat products brought into Japan by travelers, and there is increasing risk that livestock pathogens will reach Japan.

On July 1, 2020, Japan introduced stricter penalties for illegally bringing meat products into the country from overseas. Those measure are being accompanied by stepped-up monitoring of attempts to bring illegal meat products into the country in luggage or via international mail, for example by increasing the number of sniffer dogs used in plant and animal health inspections. Remember: It's illegal to bring meat products into Japan, even as souvenirs or for personal consumption. See here for details.



Fukuoka City Municipal Evening Junior High Schooling

The Fukuoka City Board of Education is taking all necessary preparatory steps towards starting evening junior high school classes in Fukuoka City in April 2022.



The junior high school classes provide the opportunity to study in the evening for all people regardless of nationality. This is open for those who want to relearn what they learned in junior high school, or finish what they could not complete for whatever reasons. Anyone over the compulsory education age of 15 can apply.

- Study 5 days a week in the evenings.
- You do not have to pay tuition fees.
- Study the same subject as junior high schools.
- You will be taught by qualified junior high school teachers.
- You will graduate junior high school once you have completed the course.

The location: Fukuoka City Education Center (3-10-1 Momochi, Sawara-ku)

Eligibility. You must both:  
Be registered as a resident in Fukuoka city, regardless of the nationality, and over 15 years old on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.  
And for any reason, have not completed compulsory education.

Student recruitment as planned  
December, 2021 to February, 2022

For the further information, please check the Fukuoka City Board of Education website:  
[https://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/kyoiku-iinkai/k-seisaku/ed/yakanchugaku\\_EN.html](https://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/kyoiku-iinkai/k-seisaku/ed/yakanchugaku_EN.html)

Contact: Fukuoka City Board of Education  
Address: Fukuoka city, Chuo-ku Tenjin 1-8-1  
Telephone: 092-711-4412  
E-mail: [kyoikuseisaku.BES@city.fukuoka.lg.jp](mailto:kyoikuseisaku.BES@city.fukuoka.lg.jp)



Notice of change in the FCIF issuance time

Currently our newsletter FCIF is published bi-monthly. However, from the next issue, it will be published quarterly in the spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

Specialized Counseling Services at Fukuoka City International Center

Legal Counseling	Immigration, Residency, and Nationality	Personal (Psychological) Counseling
January 19th February 5th and 16th  1st Saturday 10:30 ~ 13:30 3rd Wednesday 13:00 ~16:00  Appointment: Required An interpreter is available upon request	January 9th and February 13th  2nd Sunday 13:00 ~ 16:00 (Reception until 15:30)  Appointment: Not required English & Chinese interpreters are available.	Monday 9:00 ~ 17:45 Tuesday 9:00 ~ 11:45 Thursday 9:00 ~ 12:45  Appointment: Required An English speaking professional is available.