

JAPANESE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM AND PEDAGOGICAL TECHNOLOGY USED IN IT.

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Abstract: Japan's higher education system is a very powerful tool for their national politics and culture. Academic achievements of students studying in Japan are high and in line with international criteria and standards. General policy, management and administration are under the Ministry of Education.

Key words: higher education, PISA program, small colleges, technology colleges, evaluation mechanism, ASISMENT method.

The Japanese government has the right to authorize the establishment of all new higher education institutions, both private and public. The finances of universities, junior colleges, specialized colleges, institutes of higher education and colleges of technology fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education or Monbusho. It also sets minimum standards for universities in terms of curriculum, facilities, qualifications and number of teachers. Many institutions enjoy autonomy in many matters, but the Ministry of Education (Monbusho) holds the primary influence over the growth and development of higher education in Japan. In Japan, higher education begins after the completion of 12 years of education, which includes 6 years of elementary education and 6 years of secondary education (junior and junior high school). Students who have completed high school are eligible for higher education in Japan. About 45% of high school students choose higher education.

Japanese Higher Education: A Timeline. The Japanese have transformed their higher education system by adapting and extracting useful and valuable information and technologies from different educational systems. Japan's educational culture is based on the philosophies of Shintoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Japan underwent three major educational reforms, which promoted the individual work of students as well as the uniqueness, individuality, and internationalization of education. Equality in education is one of Japan's modern educational norms.

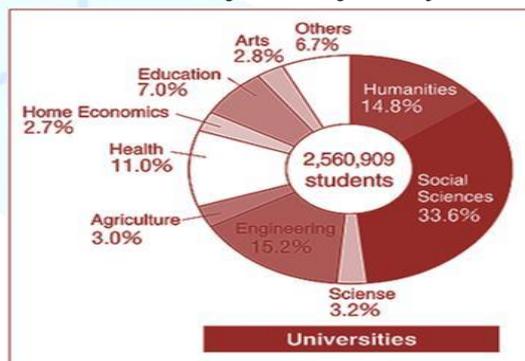
Higher Education Facts and Figures. The Japanese education system ranks first in terms of quality and efficiency. In the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), the average student scored 540 in reading literacy, mathematics and science, higher than the OECD average of 497, making Japan one of the OECD's leading countries in terms of student ability and skills.

Approximately 70% of high school graduates go on to higher education, making Japan one of the most educated countries in the world.

Total number of higher education institutions:

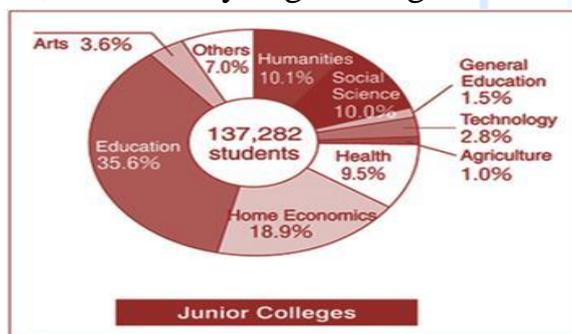
- **Universities** -783 (86 of them national, 92 local and 605 private universities)
- **Junior colleges** -372 (including 22 local and 350 private junior colleges)
- **Colleges of Technology** - 57 (including 51 national, 3 local and 3 private technology colleges). *Source: MEXT, School Basic Survey (2012).*

Percentage distribution of students in higher education institutions according to the main fields of study:



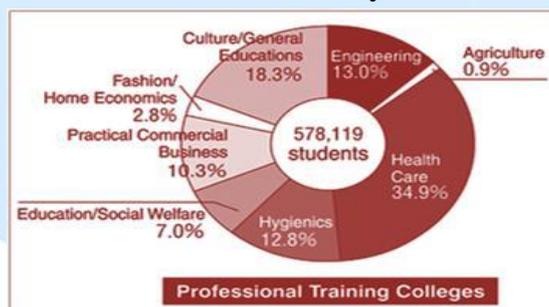
Source: School Core Survey by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, 2012 financial data.

In universities, social sciences such as economics or politics are the main choices of students, followed by engineering and humanities.



Source: Basic School Survey by the Japanese Ministry of Education, 2012 financial data.

At junior colleges, education, home economics, and social studies are the three best fields of study.



Source: Basic School Survey by the Japanese Ministry of Education, 2012 financial

data.

Health care has the largest population in vocational colleges, followed by cultural/general education and engineering.

Higher education institutions: Snapshot. There are five types of universities in Japan. These higher educational institutions are divided into national, local, state and private.

- **Universities (Undergraduate):** There are national, public and private universities in Japan. The duration of studies in undergraduate institutions of higher education is 4 years, in addition, the faculty of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine requires six years of study.

- **Junior Colleges:** The length of study in a junior college is two or three years depending on the department. Junior colleges mainly focus on the following departments – Home Economics, Education, Nursing, Humanities and Sociology.

- **Vocational/Vocational Colleges:** Vocational training colleges provide vocational and technical training and education to develop life skills and knowledge. These colleges mainly provide specialized education in a particular industry or career. The duration of study is 1 year or more, but most courses last for two years.

- **Colleges of Technology:** Colleges of Technology provide courses in engineering, merchant marine and other related fields of study which last for 5 years (five and a half for merchant marine course). Students who complete high school can enroll in courses/programs offered by Colleges of Technology.

- **Graduate schools:** The length of time for graduate school in Japan depends on whether you are enrolled in a master's or doctoral program. The master's program lasts two years, and the doctoral course lasts five years.

Admission requirements for higher education in Japan. Admission requirements for higher education in Japan differ depending on the type of higher education institution you are applying to.

General requirements. To enter Japanese higher education institutions - universities, junior colleges, specialized training colleges and technical colleges - you need to have a high school certificate. 12 years of schooling (primary and secondary education) is mandatory for admission to Japanese institutions.

Students who do not have 12 years of education can apply to higher education institutions in Japan, but under one condition - they must have passed the entrance exam - the national exam of the respective country (Baccalaureate in France, Abitur in Germany etc.), which confirms that the achievement of students is equal to or higher than those who have completed 12 years of schooling.

Below are the higher education qualifications awarded by Japanese higher education institutions.

- **Associate Degree:** Associate degree is awarded after successful completion of junior colleges and colleges of technology.

- **Junior Colleges:** To earn an Associate's degree, students must complete at least two years of study at a Junior College and earn 62 credits (93 credits over 3 years)

- **Colleges of Technology:** A student must complete at least 5 years of study and earn at least 167 credits.

- **Technical docent degree:** "Technical docent" diploma is awarded to students who have completed secondary courses of special educational colleges accredited by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

- **Bachelor's Degree:** Bachelor's degree is awarded to students who have completed their undergraduate studies. A student must complete 4 years of university studies (6 years in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine) and earn at least 124 credits.

- **Master's Degree:** Students who complete postgraduate studies in a Master's programme/course are awarded the degree of 'Master'. A student must study at least two years at a higher education institution and receive 30 credits in his or her major.

- **Doctoral Degree:** Students who complete postgraduate studies in a doctoral program/course are awarded the "Doctoral Degree". A student must spend at least five years in graduate school and earn 30 credits in his or her major.

- **A standardized test in Japan.** The Japanese education system places great importance on standardized testing as a qualifier for all levels of education.

National Center for University Entrance Test - Students must pass the National Center for University Entrance Test to enter universities in Japan.

Japanese language proficiency. Studying in higher education institutions in Japan requires a perfect knowledge of the Japanese language.

Japanese University Entrance Examination (EJU): This is a standardized test that tests the Japanese language proficiency of non-native speakers and is required for admission to undergraduate or graduate programs in Japan.

- **Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT):** This is a standardized test that verifies the level of Japanese language proficiency of non-Japanese students.

Academic year. Most universities in Japan stop their academic year to start between April and March of the following year. Each academic year is divided into two semesters:

1. The first semester lasts from April to September.
2. The second semester starts in October and ends in March.

However, there are some universities in Japan that start the academic session in September or October, called the fall semester.

Evaluation mechanism. Most of the higher education institutions in Japan use a 4-scale grading system, i.e. A, B, C and F- points (Table 1).

Table 1.

Grade	4 Scale	Grade Description (in Japanese)	Grade Description (in English)
A	80.00-100.00	siz (yū)	Very good
B	70.00-79.99	ryō (y)	Good
C	60.00-69.99	ka (kí)	Average, pass
F	0,00-59,99	fuka (kín)	Unacceptable, unsuccessful

Source: All statistics and figures are from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's 2012 Financial Information School Core Survey.

"ASSESSMENT" METHOD

"Assessment" is derived from the English word "assessment" and means "evaluation". The assessment method is a set of tasks that provide an opportunity to comprehensively and objectively assess the level of students' knowledge, skills, and abilities, consists of interview, creative work, test, individual case, presentation, expert observation, role playing and business games. This method mainly serves the following three purposes:

- *comprehensive, objective assessment of students' knowledge, skills and qualifications;*
- *opportunities to develop students' knowledge, skills and abilities determination;*
- *formation of a perspective plan (targeted program) that serves to develop students' knowledge, skills and abilities.*

The history of the creation of this technology goes back to the 30-40s of the last century. Initially, the technology was used to select knowledgeable, entrepreneurial, skilled soldiers and officers from among the British and German military, who could correctly assess the current military situations, effectively manage the process of military operations, and organize rational actions in the necessary places.

Later, this method was effectively applied to the field of entrepreneurship. The method was used for the first time in 1954 by the company "AT&T" as part of the implementation of research programs.

Based on this method, which was used for the selection of qualified managers after four years, in cooperation with entrepreneurs and psychologists, the service of selecting qualified specialists for production, trade, household service enterprises and organizations with the help of this technology - "Assessment-center" ("The Assessment Centre") was launched.

In 1960, such large American companies as "IBM", "Standard Oil of Ohio", "Sears Robax" effectively implemented this technology in their activities. If in 1980, 2,000 companies agreed to select qualified specialists based on the "Assessment-

center", now this technology is effectively used in tens of thousands of enterprises, organizations, firms and companies. The assessment method is important because it is also used in training sessions of higher education in Japan

At the same time, manufacturing and trading companies successfully use this technology in order to select qualified managers. In recent years, this technology has been effectively introduced into the education system. With its help, the level of knowledge, skills and qualifications of students is assessed comprehensively and objectively.

Application of the method. "Assessment" method in all types of educational activities (at the beginning of the lesson or at the end of the lesson or at the end of any section of the subject) assessment of mastery of the subject, repetition, reinforcement or intermediate and final control for, as well as to check the knowledge of learners before starting a new topic, to determine the initial knowledge, skills, and qualifications of trainees.

This method can be used in the training process or in a part of the training and individually. This method can also be used for homework assignments. In this case, the form of tasks can be as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

An example of an assignment by the "Assessment" method.

<p>Test. 1-2 tests will be given on the subject (department, course).</p>	<p>A problematic situation. On the basis of the topic covered, a problem based on a specific life situation and incident is given.</p>
<p>Symptom. Scientific-theoretical thoughts, ideas, definitions on the topic are given in the form of unfinished thoughts, for example:describe,scientific justify....., illuminate... and b.</p>	<p>Practical skill. The content of the learned topic is given a question about the skills of applying it in life in work activities, for example:draw, count, fill in, find, compare... and so on.</p>

CONCLUSION

The Japanese higher education system is a very powerful tool for their national politics and culture. Academic achievements of students studying in Japan are high and meet international criteria and standards.

The Japanese government has the right to authorize the establishment of all new higher education institutions, both private and public. The finances of universities, junior colleges, specialized colleges, institutes of higher education and colleges of technology fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education or Monbusho. It also sets minimum standards for universities in terms of curriculum, facilities, qualifications

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