

Survey on Foreign Residents in Oita Prefecture Questionnaire (English)

Request for Cooperation: Survey on Foreign Residents in Oita Prefecture

This survey is conducted by the Oita Prefectural Government.

Oita Prefecture strives to build a community where Japanese and foreign residents mutually respect each other's cultures and live together harmoniously.

This survey collects your opinions and identifies any challenges you may encounter.

Your responses will be utilized to improve Oita Prefecture's livability for all residents.

For this survey, 3,000 foreign residents in Oita Prefecture have been randomly selected.

We sincerely appreciate your time and cooperation.

August 2025 – Oita Prefecture



Online responses are accepted.

Smartphone users: Click here.

PC users: Click here.

<https://www14.webcas.net/form/pub/ajis/gb>

Instructions

- ◆ This survey is unrelated to immigration procedures.
- ◆ No personal information is required on this form.
- ◆ Select one language from Japanese, English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, or Burmese.
- ◆ Only the individual named on the envelope should complete the survey.
- ◆ Mark your answers with a circle (○).
- ◆ The number of selections varies per question. Please check carefully.
- ◆ Return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope by August 31, 2025.
- ◆ No postage or personal details are needed on the envelope.

For inquiries, please contact:

AJIS Kyushu Co., Ltd. (Survey Contractor)

Contact Person:

TEL: 0570-013-578 (Japanese/English only) Hours: Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

For inquiries in other languages, please use email or fax.

E-mail: oita.foreigner.survey@gmail.com

FAX: 092-558-2259

1. About You

Q1. Gender (Select one)

1. Male	2. Female
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Q2. Age (Select one)

1. Under 29	3. 40-49	5. 60-69	7. 80 or older
2. 30-39	4. 50-59	6. 70-79	

Q3. Current residence (Select one)

1. Oita City	6. Usuki City	11. Usa City	16. Hiji Town
2. Beppu City	7. Tsukumi City	12. Bungo-Ōno City	17. Kokonoe Town
3. Nakatsu City	8. Taketa City	13. Yufu City	18. Kusu Town
4. Hita City	9. Bungotakada City	14. Kunisaki City	
5. Saiki City	10. Kitsuki City	15. Himeshima Village	

Q4. Country of origin (Select one)

1. Vietnam	6. South Korea	11. United States of America	16. North Korea
2. Indonesia	7. Nepal	12. Bangladesh	17. Other (Please specify: _____)
3. Myanmar	8. Sri Lanka	13. Mongolia	
4. China	9. Cambodia	14. India	
5. Philippines	10. Thailand	15. Taiwan	

Q5. Residency Status (Select one for each and enter the corresponding number)

1. Permanent Resident	9. Highly Skilled Professional
2. Special Permanent Resident	10. Technical Intern Training
3. Spouse/Child of Japanese National	11. Intra-Company Transferee
4. Dependent Status	12. Skilled Labor
5. Long-Term Resident	13. Designated Activities
6. Spouse/Child of Permanent Resident	14. Instructor
7. Student	15. Business Manager
8. Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	16. Other (Please specify: _____)



Enter your answers for Q5:

(1) Current status

(2) Status when first arriving/born in Japan

Q6. When did you first begin living in Japan? (Select one)

1. Before 1946	3. 1956–1965	5. 1976–1985	7. 1996–2005	9. 2011–2015	11. 2021-present
2. 1946–1955	4. 1966–1975	6. 1986–1995	8. 2006–2010	10. 2016–2020	

Q7. When did you begin living in Oita Prefecture? (Select one)

1. Before 1946	3. 1956–1965	5. 1976–1985	7. 1996–2005	9. 2011–2015	11. 2021-present
2. 1946–1955	4. 1966–1975	6. 1986–1995	8. 2006–2010	10. 2016–2020	

Q8. Household Composition (Select all that apply)

1. Japanese spouse/partner (including unmarried couples)	5. Grandparents
2. Non-Japanese spouse/partner	6. Japanese friends
3. Children	7. Non-Japanese friends
4. Parents	8. Others (Please specify: _____)

2. Life Satisfaction and Challenges

Q9. How satisfied are you with life in Oita Prefecture? (Select one)

1. Very satisfied	3. Neutral	5. Very dissatisfied
2. Somewhat satisfied	4. Somewhat dissatisfied	6. Don't know

Q10-1. Please rate your level of difficulty with these aspects of life in Oita:

	Very difficult	Difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not difficult	Don't know
<Language & Administrative Procedures>	1	2	3	4	5
1. Communicating in Japanese	1	2	3	4	5
2. Accessing information/consultation services in foreign languages	1	2	3	4	5
3. Residency status procedures	1	2	3	4	5
4. Marriage/divorce procedures	1	2	3	4	5
5. Other administrative procedures	1	2	3	4	5
6. Using local facilities	1	2	3	4	5
<Housing, Work & Relationships>	1	2	3	4	5
7. Finding housing	1	2	3	4	5
8. Finding employment	1	2	3	4	5
9. Workplace practices and relationships	1	2	3	4	5
10. Socializing with Japanese people	1	2	3	4	5
<Daily Life & Welfare Services>	1	2	3	4	5
11. Local rules (e.g., garbage disposal)	1	2	3	4	5
12. Tax/pension/social insurance systems	1	2	3	4	5
13. Accessing medical services	1	2	3	4	5
14. Caregiving and welfare services	1	2	3	4	5
15. Childbirth/childcare support services	1	2	3	4	5
<Personal Matters>	1	2	3	4	5
16. Domestic issues (e.g., DV)	1	2	3	4	5
17. Emergency preparedness (natural disasters)	1	2	3	4	5
18. Avoiding involvement with criminal groups	1	2	3	4	5

Q10-2. Which two items above are most important to you? (Write numbers)


 Most important items: _____

Q11. Future Residence Plans (Select one)

1. I wish to continue living in Oita Prefecture (→ Q12)

3. I want to return to my home country (→ Q13)

2. I want to live elsewhere in Japan (→ Q13)

4. I want to move to another country (→ Q13)

Q12. Reasons for Staying in Oita (Select all that apply)

1. Enjoy my current job

6. Good learning opportunities

2. Good salary/working conditions

7. Quality education for children

3. Positive work/school environment

8. Many friends/acquaintances

4. Good housing/neighborhood

9. Support from my cultural community

5. Enjoyable local events/activities

10. Other (Please specify: _____)

Q13. [For respondents who chose options 2-4 in Q11]

Reasons for Not Continuing to Live in Oita Prefecture (Select all that apply)

1. No suitable job opportunities

6. Insufficient educational opportunities for myself

2. Unsatisfactory wages/employment conditions

7. Inadequate schooling for my children

3. Poor workplace/school environment or relationships

8. Lack of social connections

4. Inadequate housing or neighborhood

9. Difficulty adjusting to local community life

5. Limited recreational/leisure options

10. Other (Please specify: _____)

3. Support Services for Difficult Situations

Q14. Where do you turn for help with daily life challenges? (Select all that apply)

1. Local government office

7. Volunteer support groups

2. Oita International Support Center for Foreign Residents

8. Japanese language school staff

3. Workplace/School staff

9. Embassy/Consulate services

4. Japanese neighbors

10. Family members

5. Japanese friends/colleagues

11. Other (Please specify: _____)

6. Non-Japanese friends/colleagues

12. No one available to consult

Q15. Are you familiar with Oita International Support Center (Oita International Plaza)? (Select one)

1. Currently using their services

3. Aware of it but haven't used

2. Have used their services before

4. Not familiar with it

Q16. What services would encourage you to use the Support Center? (Select all that apply)

1. Residency permit procedures

8. Community living guidelines

2. Marriage/divorce procedures

9. Neighborhood dispute assistance

3. Tax/pension/insurance matters

10. Public transit information (bus, train, etc.)

4. Local facility information

11. Disaster preparedness

5. Pregnancy/parenting support

12. Crime victim support

6. Children's education guidance

13. Other (Please specify: _____)

7. Japanese language classes

14. No specific needs

Q17. How would you prefer to access these support services? (Select all that apply)

1. Phone consultation

4. Face-to-face meeting

2. Email/Social media consultation

5. No preference

3. Online meeting

4. Community Engagement

Q18. How would you describe your relationship with nearby Japanese residents? (Select one)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. We're not acquainted | 4. Interact frequently |
| 2. Exchange greetings when meeting outside | 5. Mutual support relationship |
| 3. Have brief conversations sometimes | |

Q19. How would you describe your feelings about relationships with neighbors? (Select one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Close connections make life comfortable | 3. Distant but comfortable relationships |
| 2. Close connections feel somewhat burdensome | 4. Distant relationships that feel isolating |

Q20. How interested are you in participating in local community events? (Select one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I currently participate regularly | 4. I would participate but don't know how |
| 2. I participate but would prefer not to | 5. I'm not interested in participating |
| 3. I would like to participate | |

Q21. Which community activities would you be interested in participating in? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Welcoming new foreign residents | 8. Joining sports teams/events |
| 2. Supporting foreign children | 9. Childcare support |
| 3. Sharing my culture and traditions | 10. Assisting elderly/disabled residents |
| 4. Volunteering at local events | 11. Park maintenance/gardening |
| 5. Teaching languages | 12. Disaster preparedness activities |
| 6. Interpretation/translation services | 13. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 7. Academic tutoring/mentoring | 14. None of the above |

5. Japanese Language Proficiency

Q22. Please rate your current Japanese language ability: (Select one for each category)

A. Listening Comprehension (5-tier assessment)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Cannot understand spoken Japanese | 4. Can understand most TV/movie content |
| 2. Can follow simple instructions | 5. Fully functional for daily life |
| 3. Can understand slow conversations | |

B. Reading Ability (5-tier assessment)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Can recognize only some kana | 4. Can understand newspapers/magazines |
| 2. Can read simple kana/kanji sentences | 5. Fully functional for daily life |
| 3. Can read short texts (emails, notices) | |

C. Speaking Ability (5-tier assessment)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Cannot speak Japanese | 4. Can handle shopping conversations |
| 2. Can do basic self-introductions | 5. Fully functional for daily life |
| 3. Can express simple feelings/reasons | |

Q23. How do you currently study Japanese? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Self-study | 6. Learning from Japanese friends |
| 2. Free community classes (volunteer-run) | 7. Online Japanese programs |
| 3. Workplace training (company-provided) | 8. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 4. School courses (university/language school) | 9. Not currently studying |
| 5. Learning from coworkers | |

Q24. Where would you prefer to learn Japanese? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Professional language schools (even with higher fees) | 5. Workplace-based lessons |
| 2. Affordable public classes (community/volunteer programs) | 6. Childcare-included programs |
| 3. Flexible schedule options (evenings/weekends available) | 7. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 4. Convenient locations (near home or work) | 8. Not currently interested |

Q25. What best describes your experience with Japanese community classes? (Select one)



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Tried but saw limited progress (→ Q26) | 4. Attended with good results (→ Q27) |
| 2. Unaware these classes exist (→ Q27) | 5. Currently enrolled (→ Q27) |
| 3. Know about but never attended (→ Q27) | |

Q26. [For those who chose option 1 in Q25]

Why didn't your Japanese improve in community classes? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Schedule conflicts (couldn't attend regularly) | 4. Instructor compatibility issues |
| 2. Too few class sessions (insufficient practice) | 5. Group dynamics problems |
| 3. Mismatched level (too easy/difficult) | 6. Other (Please specify: _____) |

6. Information & Transportation

Q27. How do you get important daily life information? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Internet/Social media (→ Q28) | 8. Japanese friends |
| 2. Newspapers/Magazines | 9. Non-Japanese friends |
| 3. TV/Radio | 10. Volunteer organizations |
| 4. Government offices (public bulletins) | 11. Japanese language classes |
| 5. Support centers (information desks) | 12. Family members |
| 6. Neighbors/Community groups | 13. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 7. Workplace/School | 14. No known sources |

Q28. [For respondents who chose option 1 in Q27]

Which online tools do you use for information searches? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Search engines (Google/Yahoo!) | 6. Instagram |
| 2. AI assistants (ChatGPT/Copilot) | 7. X (formerly Twitter) |
| 3. Bookmarked websites | 8. LINE |
| 4. YouTube | 9. TikTok |
| 5. Facebook | 10. Other (Please specify: _____) |

Q29. What difficulties have you encountered when accessing information from government offices (municipal, prefectural or national)? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Uncertain where to obtain information | 5. Inconsistencies between sources |
| 2. Unable to locate needed information | 6. Uncertain about information credibility |
| 3. Japanese language barrier | 7. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 4. Unavailable in my native language | 8. No difficulties encountered |

Q30. Would you use a centralized website for reliable government information (municipal/prefectural/national)? (Select one)

- | | | |
|--------|-------|--------------|
| 1. Yes | 2. No | 3. Undecided |
|--------|-------|--------------|

Q31. What are your primary transportation methods for non-work/school purposes? (Select all that apply)

1. Public transit (buses, trains)	4. Bicycles
2. Taxis	5. Walking
3. Personal vehicles (self-driven cars/motorcycles)	6. Carpooling (rides from coworkers/family/friends)

Q32. Which transportation methods can you use independently? (Select all that apply)

1. Buses	2. Trains	3. Taxis	4. Personal vehicles (self-operated cars/motorcycles)
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Q33. What challenges do you encounter when using public transit? (Select all that apply)

1. Language barriers	6. Limited service frequency
2. Lack of multilingual signage	7. Uncertain which service to take
3. Difficulty reading schedules/maps	8. Other (Please specify: _____)
4. Unclear payment/boarding procedures	9. No significant difficulties
5. Hard to locate stations/stops	10. Don't plan to use transit

7. Disaster Preparedness and Daily Life

Q34. Have you downloaded the "Oita Disaster Prevention App"? (Select one)

1. I have downloaded it	2. Aware of the app but haven't downloaded	3. Unaware of the app
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Q35. What disaster preparations have you made? (Select all that apply)

<Awareness and Actions>	<Supplies and Readiness>
1. Regularly monitor weather forecasts	5. Know how to access reliable disaster information
2. Know nearby evacuation sites	6. Stockpiled food and water
3. Aware of hazardous areas near home	7. Prepared emergency items (flashlight, radio)
4. Participate in community disaster drills	8. Secured furniture against earthquakes

Q36. Were you aware that evacuation shelters are accessible to foreign residents? (Select one)

1. Yes, I was aware	2. No, I was not aware
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Q37. Are you satisfied with your current residence? (Select one)

1. Satisfied	2. Not satisfied
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Q38. What concerns would you have about finding new housing? (Select all that apply)

1. Difficulty completing rental/purchase procedures	4. Understanding legal contracts
2. Potential rejection by real estate agents	5. Other (Please specify: _____)
3. Language barriers in property search	6. No significant concerns

Q39. What is your top priority when seeking employment? (Select one)

1. Compensation & benefits (salary, working conditions)	4. Family support services
2. Job content (type of work)	5. Existing social connections
3. Location livability	6. Other (Please specify: _____)

8. Childcare and Education

Q40. Do you have children? (Select all that apply)

1. Ages 0-5 living with me	5. Ages 15-18 living with me
2. Ages 0-5 living elsewhere (e.g., home country)	6. Ages 15-18 living elsewhere (e.g., home country)
3. Ages 6-14 living with me	7. No children under 18 (→ Q42)
4. Ages 6-14 living elsewhere (e.g., home country)	



Q41. [For parents with children aged 0-18]

What difficulties or concerns do you experience regarding parenting and your children's education?

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Communicating with teachers | 9. Difficulty connecting with other parents |
| 2. Communicating with my child | 10. Child's social integration (making friends) |
| 3. Understanding school notices | 11. Native language/cultural disconnect |
| 4. Unclear where to seek help | 12. School attendance issues |
| 5. School lunch/packed meal issues | 13. Future career concerns |
| 6. Child's Japanese language progress | 14. Bullying/discrimination worries |
| 7. Unfamiliar with school systems | 15. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 8. Lack of school transition information (elementary to high school) | 16. I don't have any particular difficulties or concerns |

Q42. [Please answer even if you do not have children.] What aspects of education for children do you consider most important?

(Select up to two)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Native language development | 7. Community interaction |
| 2. Japanese language mastery | 8. Practical experience (internships/volunteering) |
| 3. Additional language acquisition | 9. Cultural ties to home country |
| 4. Academic achievement (top-tier schools) | 10. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 5. Extracurricular involvement | 11. No specific preference |
| 6. Building strong friendships | |

9. Other

Q43. What systemic challenges do foreign residents face in Japan? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Unwanted attention/avoidance (staring, exclusion) | 6. Unequal access to services (healthcare/education) |
| 2. Cultural disrespect (unvalued traditions/opinions) | 7. Other (Please specify: _____) |
| 3. Bullying/exclusion (due to appearance/language) | 8. No significant issues |
| 4. Hate speech/discrimination | 9. Unsure |
| 5. Workplace inequality (pay/conditions) | |

Q44. Please share your thoughts on Oita Prefecture

(Suggestions for improvement, challenges faced as a foreign resident, or feedback about this survey)

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your valuable participation.

Insert the completed survey into the prepaid return envelope included with this packet.

• No stamps needed

• No personal details required