

Procedures for Candidates for EPA Nurses/Care Workers Who Have Failed the National Examination in the Last Year of Their Residence Period to Return to Their Homelands After Termination of the Employment Contracts, Etc. (For Candidates)

Acceptance Support for Foreign Professional Department
Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS)

1. Introduction

The EPA candidates for nurses and care workers who came to Japan under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) who have failed the third national nursing examination and the national examination for certified care workers in the fourth year of the residence period must return to their homelands before the expiration of their status of residence. We hereby inform you of the procedures and notes for your smooth return.

2. Procedures for Return

(1) Decision of the date of termination of your employment contract

The employment contracts of the EPA candidates will not be terminated immediately after their failure in the national examinations. They are allowed to continue to work until the end of their residence period as long as they train or work to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to acquire the national licenses. If you wish to terminate the employment contract before the expiration of your residence period, please consult with your accepting facility and start the procedure to terminate the employment contract.

The termination of the employment contract will be decided based on Japanese labor related laws. If you have any questions or difficulties about the procedure to terminate the employment contract, please contact the consultation desk of JICWELS.

<Consultation Desks of JICWELS>

- Consultation with Filipinos (Mondays to Fridays) 03-6206-1142
- Consultation with Indonesians (Mondays to Fridays) 03-6206-1149
- Consultation with Vietnamese (Mondays to Fridays) 03-6206-6991

Consultation is also available by e-mail (sodan@jicwels.or.jp).

(2) Determination of the date of return

After deciding the termination of the employment contract, please consult with your accepting facility to determine when to return. If you stay in Japan three months or longer after the termination of the employment contract, your status of residence may be cancelled. Please return to your country soon after the termination of your contract.

The staff of your accepting facility is responsible for confirmation of your departure from the outbound airport. Therefore, please decide the date of return and the outbound airport, throughout a talk, considering the convenience of a person in charge of the facility as well.

(3) Stay after the expiration of your status of residence

You cannot stay in Japan after the expiration of the period of residence. Please consult with your accepting facility if there is any possibility that you may not be able to return home before the expiration of the period due to hospitalization or any other inevitable reason.

(4) Returning expenses

Under the acceptance framework of the EPA candidates, it is the requirement of the accepting facility that they must take the returning security measures to secure the returning expenses of the candidates, etc. are stipulated by the Ministry of Justice Notification.

Moreover, based on the employment contract (Reference), the cost of repatriation of the candidates at the termination of the contract shall be shouldered by the accepting facility, except in the case that the termination of the contract is heavily attributable to the candidates. It is not regarded as heavily attributable to the candidates if they do not acquire the national qualification as a certified care worker.

The case regarded as heavily attributable to the candidates is, for example, the case the candidate is deserved to the punitive dismissal based on the working regulations stipulated by the accepting facility.

Therefore, in principle, the accepting facility takes the responsibility for the burden of the final cost of repatriation of the candidates when they must return home.

(Reference)

• Employment Contract

The cost of repatriation of the Employee at the termination of the contract shall be shouldered by the Employer, except in the case that the termination of the contract is heavily attributable to the Employee. It is not regarded as heavily attributable to the Employee if the Employee does not acquire the national qualification as a certified careworker ('Kaigofukushishi') during the period of stay in Japan as a candidate for a certified careworker ('Kaigofukushishi')

(5) Payment of salaries

The accepting facility is responsible for the payment of unpaid salaries by the return of candidates. However, the facility may remit salaries overseas after their return under unavoidable circumstances.

(6) Payment of residence taxes

Residence taxes imposed on incomes generated from January to December are deducted from monthly salaries from following year. You have to settle all residence taxes generated during your stay in Japan in advance, before returning to your country. Payment must be made for the municipality where you lived until January 1, 2018.

(7) Other cancellation, settlement, etc.

Please be sure to cancel the personal contracts for your cellular phone, internet, credit card and others for settlement before you return home. As their assignment to your friend or colleague may cause problems, please definitely cancel

the contracts. And also, in case that invoice such as utility expenses comes after you return home, please deposit expected amount for the invoice with the accepting facility or housemate (when you share a room with) in advance.

(8) Lump Sum Withdrawal Payment from the Pension Fund

You can claim a “Lump Sum Withdrawal Payment from the Pension Fund” from your country within two years of your return. Your pension handbook is required for this application. Please accept your pension handbook from the accepting facility before your resignation when they keep it.

<Detailed Procedure for Claiming a “Lump Sum Withdrawal Payment”>

URL : <https://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/jukyu/sonota-kyufu/dattai-ichiji/20150406.html>

- Indonesian: <https://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/jukyu/sonota-kyufu/dattai-ichiji/20150406.files/F.pdf>
Filipino: <https://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/jukyu/todoke/kyotsu/20150406.files/G.pdf>
Vietnamese: <https://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/jukyu/sonota-kyufu/dattai-ichiji/20150406.files/I.pdf>

【In case of the Philippines】

The Agreement between Japan and the Republic of the Philippines on Social Security became effective on 1 August 2018. As a result, dual coverage by Japan and the Philippines are eliminated, as well as your Japanese coverage period and Philippine coverage period are totalized. Please enquire Japan Pension Service for the details.

(Reference1) URL of Japan Pension Service

<https://www.nenkin.go.jp/oshirase/taisetu/2018/201805/20180525.html>

<https://www.lcgjapan.com/pdf/nlb0449.pdf>

(Reference 2) URL of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_006048.html

(9) Residence Card

Your residence card will be returned to you after being punched during the embarkation procedure at the airport. The accepting facility may require a copy of your residence card after you return to your country. We recommend you to keep a copy of your card.

(10) Issue of Certificate of Employment

When you need a certificate of employment, please ask your accepting facility to issue it before you return. Please accept it from the facility before you return to your country.

(11) Transport of Packages

There are three ways to send your packages to your country: air mail, Surface Air Lifted (SAL), and surface mail. Air mail is fast but relatively expensive. Surface mail is relatively inexpensive, but it may take a couple of months to receive it. When economical air mail, SAL, is used, it takes about ten days to arrive in the Southeast Asia region.

When the accepting facility provides you with a PC, electric dictionary and/or any other articles, please be sure to

return them before you deliver the packages. Further, there is no rule who will bear the cost of transport.

(12) Carry-on Baggage and Check-in Baggage

You must pay the excess baggage charge when your baggage exceeds the weight limit. Please directly confirm each airline about the size limit, the weight limit or number limit for carry-on baggage and check-in baggage, and also about the items etc. which can be brought in, in advance. Further, there is no rule who will bear the excess baggage charge.

(13) Questionnaire

Please fill in the questionnaire sheet and submit it to your accepting facility before returning to your country.

(14) Registration Card for Contact

Please submit a registration card for contact through your accepting facility since JICWELS and government affiliated agencies will provide a variety of support services to former EPA candidates after their return. The information of your card will be provided for to the relevant ministries and agencies of the Japanese government, as well as the implementers of the learning support programs of JICWELS.

(15) Procedure to Take the National Examination in the Coming Years

1) Candidates for nurses

It is possible for candidates for EPA nurses to take the Japanese national nursing examination even after the return. To submit an application, the certificate of eligibility for admission to the national examination, which has been already issued, is required. Please be sure to take it with you and keep it safe.

The details of how to submit an application will be delivered to your e-mail address mentioned in the “Registration Card for Contact” from JICWELS or government affiliated agencies. JICWELS also publishes the details on our website. (Usually around October.)

In addition, when you visit Japan again for the purpose of taking the national nursing examination, it is necessary to obtain a visa for “Temporary Visitor” at the Japanese Embassy or the Japanese Consulate General in your country. (You can find the contact information in the category of [3] Inquiries regarding visa.)

2) Candidates for care workers

It is possible for EPA candidates to take the national examination for certified care workers even after the return. To submit an application, the admission ticket for examination issued already (or the notice of failure) is required. It is not necessary to submit “Certificate of practical experience” if you submit “Certificate of eligibility for admission to the national exam” instead.

For EPA candidates who came to Japan in FY 2015 and returned to their homeland due to their failure in the national examinations, “Guideline for the Examination” will be delivered to your address mentioned in the “Registration card for contact” by postal mail (this guideline will be delivered to your address after taking the

national examination only once for the next examination). Please implement the procedure following “Guideline for the Examination”.

As you need to paste the admission ticket for examination issued already (or the notice of failure) to the place provided when you file the application, please carefully keep them without losing.

For EPA candidates who came to Japan in the FY of the other and returned to their homeland, the details of how to submit an application will be delivered to your mail address mentioned in the “Registration card for contact” from JICWELS or government affiliated agencies. JICWELS also publishes the details on our website. (Usually around July.)

NOTE!! THIS IS ABOUT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL EXAMINATION!!

The practical skill tests for the candidates who have completed the technical caregiving training are exempt from the three tests conducted in series after the completion of the training. (This exemption does not relate to whether you have actually taken the written test of the national examination for certified care workers or not.) Please make an inquiry at the following for details of the examination.

<Inquiries>

Examination Division of the Center of Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination

TEL: 03-3486-7521

E-mail : epa@sssc.or.jp

In addition, when you visit Japan again for the purpose of taking the national examination for certified care workers, it is necessary to obtain a visa for “Temporary Visitor” at the Japanese Embassy or the Japanese Consulate General in your country.

***Note**

When a EPA candidate changes his/her status of residence to those for other than “Designated Activities” (e.g. Spouse of a Japanese man/woman, etc.) and takes the national examination while continuously staying in Japan, considerations such as the learning support programs offered by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will no longer be provided because of the new status of residence is not aiming for acquisition of the national license.

3) Inquiries regarding visa

- Japanese Embassy in Indonesia
Address: Jl.M.H.Thamrin No.24, Jakarta
TEL: (021) 3192-4308
- Japanese Embassy in the Philippines
Address: 2627 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
TEL: (02) 551-5710
- Japanese Embassy in Vietnam
Address: 27 Lieu Giai, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam
TEL: +84-4-3846-3000

(16) Support for the Returned Candidates

The Japanese government provides the following programs as support for returned candidates for EPA nurses/care workers. (Achievements in FY 2018)

If you wish to take the following learning supports after your return to your country, please be sure to submit your registration card for contact to JICWELS before returning home.

- [1] Trial Examination in Your Country (Nursing/Caregiving)
- [2] Learning Support by e-Learning (Nursing)
- [3] Correspondence Correction Course (including Video Lecture for measures of the National Examination), and Installation of the Learning Consultation Desk (Caregiving)
- [4] Distribution of self-challenge questions by e-mail and providing with updated data as well as a booklet of revision point of text book (Caregiving)
- [5] Career Fair for Japanese Companies at Japanese Diplomatic Offices Overseas (Nursing/Caregiving)