

To all Candidates for EPA Nurses/Care Workers

6 March, 2023

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)

The EPA candidates for nurses and care workers who came to Japan under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), who have failed the national examination during the length of stay based on the EPA (except those who became the subject for the special extension) or who have failed the national examination after being the subject of the special extension in previous year, 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.

(*) The procedures for the special extension will be announced to the accepting facility around the end of March 2023.

1. 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 working until the end of their residence period as long as they train and work to obtain the necessary knowledge and skills 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 institution/facility and start taking the procedures to terminate the employment contract.

When terminating an employment contract, it is necessary to comply with Japanese labor-related laws and regulations. If you have any questions or difficulties about the procedure to terminate the employment contract, please contact the consultation desk of JICWELS.

<Consultation Desk of JICWELS>

• Consultation desk (every Monday to Friday) 0120-115-311

*English, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Japanese are available

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

(2) Determination of the date of return

After deciding the termination of the employment contract, please consult with your accepting institution/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 revoked. Please return to your country as soon as possible after the termination of your contract so as not to be regarded as an illegal stay.

The staff of your accepting institution/facility is responsible for confirmation of your departure from the departure airport. Therefore, please consult with the staff of the accepting institution / facility to determine the date of return, the departure airport and the departure schedule by the staff of the facility.

(3) Questionnaire

Please fill in the questionnaire sheet of JICWELS and submit it through your accepting institution/facility to JICWELS before returning to your country. The person in charge of accepting institution/facility logs into EPA integrated system (<https://jicwels.net/fac/Account/Login>) first, then you type in your questionnaire on EPA integrated system. After you finished it, it must be submitted to JICWELS through the accepting institution/facility.

(4) Registration Card for Contact

Please submit a registration card for contact (such as your full name, home address or e-mail address), through your accepting institution/facility since JICWELS, Japanese government or 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. When the information such as your address or e-mail address of your registration card was changed, please inform JICWELS (gakusyu@jicwels.jp) of your new information. (You must inform JICWELS of the change even if you do not wish to receive support services.)

2. Notes for Return

(1) Returning expenses

The cost of repatriation of the candidates shall be shouldered by the accepting institution/facility, except the case that the termination of the contract is heavily attributable to the candidates.

“The case regarded as heavily attributable to the candidates” is, for example, that the candidate is deserved to the punitive dismissal based on the working regulations stipulated by the accepting institution. The fact that the candidates did not pass the national examination does not apply for “The case regarded as heavily attributable to the candidates” .

(2) 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 of residence due to hospitalization or any other inevitable reason.

Besides, even within the period of stay, if you stay for 3 months or more with the employment contract terminated, your status of residence may be revoked, and you may be considered as an illegal stay. It is desirable to return to homeland as soon as possible after the employment contract ends.

(3) 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.

(4) 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.

(5) Residence Card

Your residence card must be invalidated by being punched during the embarkation procedure at the airport. We recommend that you keep your invalidated residence card, as you may need it after returning to your country.

(6) Procedure for the change the place of residence of the EPA candidates

When moving out of Japan (return home), the EPA candidates must take the procedure for move-out. A move-out notice must be submitted to the municipal office of residence within 14 days before the date of moving out.

(7) Payment of salaries

The accepting institution/facility is responsible for the payment of unpaid salaries by the return of candidates. Also, please calculate the necessary expenses.

(8) Other cancellation, settlement, etc.

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

(9) Payment obligation of Resident tax

Resident tax imposed on incomes generated from January to December are deducted from monthly salaries from June in following year. You must settle all resident tax generated during your stay (from June, 2023 to May, 2024) in Japan in advance, before returning to your country. Payment must be made for the municipality where you lived on January 1, 2023.

(10) Lump Sum Withdrawal Payment from the Pension Fund

You can claim the Lump Sum Withdrawal Payment from the Pension Fund from your country within two years after the date when you no longer have a residence in Japan. Your pension handbook is required for this application. Please receive your pension handbook from the accepting institution/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>

English: <https://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/jukyu/todokesho/sonota-kyufu/20150406.files/A.pdf>

Indonesian: <https://www.nenkin.go.jp/international/japanese-system/withdrawalpayment/payment.files/F.pdf>

Tagalog: <https://www.nenkin.go.jp/international/japanese-system/withdrawalpayment/payment.files/G.pdf>

Vietnamese:

<https://www.nenkin.go.jp/international/japanese-system/withdrawalpayment/payment.files/I.pdf>

【Reference: For 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.lcgjapan.com/pdf/nlb0449.pdf>

(Reference 2) URL of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

(11) Issuance of Certificate of Employment

When you need a certificate of employment, please ask your accepting institution/facility to issue it before you return.

3. Notes for after the return

(1) Procedure for taking the National Examination from the next fiscal year onwards

1) Candidates for nurses

It is possible for candidates for EPA nurses to take the Japanese national nursing examination even after the return. For the 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 when you return home and keep it safe as not be reissued.

The details for application procedure 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.)

Necessary documents for an application such as an application form or a photographic mount for examination can be obtained at the Japanese Embassy in your country.

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 [Inquiries regarding visa].)

<Inquiries for the certificate of eligibility for admission to the national examination >

Department of Nursing, Health Policy Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

TEL: 03-5253-1111 (Extension: 4199)

<Inquiries for the exam procedure>

Examination & License Department, Medical Professions Division, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

TEL: 03-5253-1111 (Extension: 4143)

2) Candidates for care workers

It is possible for EPA candidates, who returned to their homeland after qualifying for the National Examination for certified care workers, to take the National Examination for certified care workers by entering Japan again.

For application, the admission ticket for examination already issued (or the notice of failure) is required.

Please be sure to take it with you and keep it safe. It is not necessary to submit “Certificate of practical experience” if you take necessary procedures.

For those who returned to their homeland after qualifying for the National Examination for certified care workers, “Guideline for the application” will be sent to your e-mail address mentioned in the “Registration card for contact” from JICWELS or government affiliated agency. It will also be posted on the JICWELS website (usually around July).

There are two ways to apply, which are ①on the web or ②by in writing. However, it is only limited to those mentioned below to apply on the web.

- Those who are qualified to take the exam by receiving the admission ticket for the national examination for certified care workers from the past examination.
- Those who are able to pay the exam fee by credit card or by remitting through an agent from convenience store in Japan (it is not acceptable by remitting from the bank, or convenience store outside of Japan).

For the details, please refer to “Information of the procedures for the application (受験手続についてのご案内)” which will be posted on JICWELS website.

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. Please complete the procedures in advance. You can find the contact information in the category of [Inquiries regarding visa].

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

The candidates who have completed the “technical caregiving training (介護技術講習)”, or who have completed or have taken either the “long-term care process (介護過程)” or the “long-term care process Ⅲ (介護過程Ⅲ)” are exempt from the practical skills test up to third examination conducted after completed or taken those training. (This exemption does not relate to whether you take the written test of the national examination for certified care workers or not. Up to three consecutive examinations held after you completed or taken training etc. are the subject for the exemption from the practical skills test.) Please note that for the 4th and subsequent examinations, you must take the practical skills test, or you must complete or took the training etc. again, and you must apply for the exemption of the practical skills test.

<Inquiries>

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

TEL: 03-3486-7521

E-mail: epa@sssc.or.jp

<Inquiries regarding visa>

- Japan Visa Application Centre : JVAC (Indonesia)

<http://www.vfsglobal.com/japan/indonesia/Japanese/index.html>

Address: Kuningan City Mall, 2nd floor No. L2-09A, Jl. Prof. Dr. Satrio Kav. 18, Setiabudi, Kuningan, Jakarta

TEL: +62-21-3041-8715

- Embassy of Japan in the Philippines

Address: 2627 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, Metro Manila

TEL: +63-2-8551-5710

- Embassy of Japan in Vietnam

Address: 27 Lieu Giai, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam

TEL: +84-24-3846-3000

(2) Notes for when staying in Japan after changing to other status of residence

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

(3) 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 2022)

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 your accepting facility before returning home. Also, when the information such as your address or e-mail address in your registration card was changed, please inform JICWELS (Nursing: kango-challenge@jicwels.jp / Caregiving: kaigo-challenge@jicwels.jp) of your new information. (Any information of the following programs etc. will not be provided you if you do not inform JICWELS of the change.)

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