

To all Candidates for EPA Nurses/EPA Care Workers

March 3, 2025

Procedures for Candidates for EPA Nurses/EPA 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 through the e-mail around the end of March.

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 qualification. 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 early 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. So please cooperate with filling in it if you receive a questionnaire from your accepting institution/facility.

(4) Registration Card for Contact

JICWELS, the relevant ministries and agencies in Japan provide a variety of support services to former EPA candidates after their return. Moreover, JICWELS holds an alumni reunion hosted by us. For the details, please refer to “3. (3) Support for the Returned Candidates”. If you wish to receive these various types of support, etc., please submit your contact address (name, home address after return as well as e-mail address and Facebook address, etc.) to JICWELS by either way of the following [1] or [2].

In addition, JICWELS will provide the registered contact address to the relevant ministries and agencies in Japan. Please note that.

[1] **【Recommended】** Register your contact address (name, home address, e-mail address and Facebook address, etc.) after you returned from JEIS for EPA candidates(*).

[2] Submit your contact address through your accepting institution/facility.

The information of your contact address submitted from you are provided to the relevant ministries and agencies of the Japanese government as well as the implementer of the leaning support programs. Also, when the information of your home address and e-mail address was changed, please inform JICWELS (Nursing: kango-challenge@jicwels.jp / Caregiving: kaigo-challenge@jicwels.jp) of your new information so that JICWELS updates your information. (You must inform JICWELS of the change even if you do not wish to receive support services.)

(*) Way of access to JICWELS EPA integrated system (JEIS)

QR cord and URL (accessible from either)



https://jicwels.net/fac/Account/C_Login

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” .

That doesn't mean that EPA candidates should arrange flights on their own. Please be sure to consult with the person in charge of the accepting institution/facility before purchasing a ticket.

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

You cannot stay in Japan after the expiration date of your period of stay. If there is a possibility that you will not be able to leave Japan by the end of your period of stay due to unavoidable circumstances such as hospitalization, please report to the accepting institution/facility as soon as possible and consult with the nearest local immigration office.

In addition, 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 early 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, 2025 to May, 2026) in Japan in advance, before returning to your country. Payment must be made for the municipality where you lived on January 1, 2025.

(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.

(Reference 1) URL of Japan Pension Service

<https://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/shaho-kyotei/kunibetsu/notice/Philippines.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

(11) Issuance of Certificate of Resignation

When you need a certificate of resignation, 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 EPA nurses

It is possible for candidates for EPA nurses to take the Japanese national nursing examination by visiting Japan again even after the return. For the application, “the certificate of accreditation for admission to the national nursing examination (看護師国家試験受験資格認定証),” 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 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 for visa>.)

◆ Regarding the certificate of accreditation for admission to the national nursing examination

Regarding the "certificate" required for the examination procedure for EPA candidates, a "certificate of accreditation" will be issued to those who have lost it. If you have lost your certificate, please refer to the following URL and apply as soon as possible.

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_37603.html

<Inquiries for the certificate of accreditation for admission to the national nursing examination >

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

TEL: 03-5253-1111

2) Candidates for EPA 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 visiting 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(実務経験証明書)” again 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 [1] on the web or [2] by in writing. However, it is only limited to those mentioned below to apply [1] on the web.

- Those who are qualified to take the exam by already 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 for visa>.

◆Be sure to check◆

From the 37th examination (FY2024) onwards, the practical examination was abolished and only a written examination was required.

The EPA candidates who entered Japan before May 2024 must take "Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ)" before applying for registration as a certified care worker (介護福祉士) and submit a "Certificate of Completion of Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ修了証明書)" when applying for registration.

Those who have completed Practical Training(実務者研修) do not need to submit a “Certificate of Completion of Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ修了証明書)” if they submit a “Certificate of Completion of Practical Training(実務者研修修了証明書)” when applying for registration.

In addition, for those who completed the Care Skills Course(介護技術講習) or the Care Process (介護過程) by FY2023 and it has not passed 3 years since those completion, they do not need to submit a “Certificate of Completion of Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ修了証明書)” if they submit a “Certificate of Completion of Care Skills Course(介護技術講習修了証明書)” or a “Certificate of Completion of Care Process(介護過程修了証明書)” when applying for registration.

<Inquiries for the national examination for certified care workers>

EPA section, Examination Division of the Center of Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination

TEL: 03-3486-7521

E-mail: epa@sssc.or.jp

<Inquiries for visa>

- Japan Visa Application Centre : JVAC (Indonesia)

<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/idn/id/jpn/>

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 Boulevard., 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, the supports from 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 qualification.

(3) Support for the Returned Candidates

The Japanese government provides the following programs as supports against EPA candidates returned home (Achievements in FY 2024). Moreover, JICWELS holds an alumni reunion hosted by us.

If you wish to get the following learning supports or to join an alumni reunion after returning home, please be sure to submit your registration card for contact to your accepting institution/facility or to register your contact address from JEIS for EPA candidates before returning home. Regarding the way of registration, please refer to “1. (4) Registration Card for Contact”.

Also, when the information of 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.)

【Learning support, etc. from Japanese government】

- [1] Trial examination in your country (Nursing/Caregiving)
- [2] Learning support by e-Learning (Nursing/Caregiving)
- [3] Communication correction guidance and Set up of the Learning consultation desk (Nursing/Caregiving)
- [4] Individual learning guidance (Nursing)
- [5] Communication correction test preparation commentary live lecture, National exam preparation commentary live lecture and Distribution of self-challenge questions by e-mail (Caregiving)
- [6] Career Fair for Japanese Companies at Japanese Diplomatic Offices Overseas (Nursing/Caregiving)

【An alumni reunion hosted by JICWELS】

Would you like to join the network of EPA fellows who have learned the skills of nursing and caregiving etc. in Japan and have been playing actively their role in home country after returning?

Returned EPA candidates and passers are interacting each other by sharing their experience in the alumni reunion.

Also, the alumni reunion provides you a chance to participate EPA projects of JICWELS held in your country.

We hear voice from the participants like “It was so nice to meet my friends after a long time” or “I was moved by remembering my nostalgic memories”. Please register your contact address after returning home.

<Inquiries>

Acceptance Support for Foreign Professional Department of JICWELS

TEL: 03-6206-1138 / Email: shien-assen@jicwels.jp