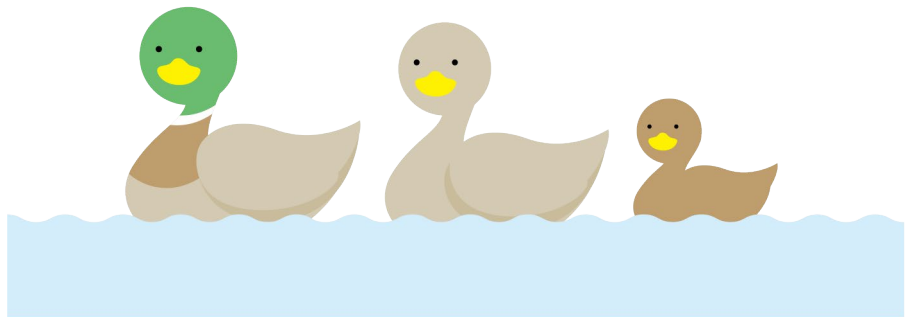


Chapter 4

Other Procedures



4 Other Procedures

4-1 Opening a Bank Account

普通預金(*futsu yokin*)

a general account

Under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, persons including international students, are considered “non-residents” for their first 6 months in Japan.

通帳(*tsucho*)

a bank book

“Non-residents” are not allowed to open a bank account for their first 6 months in Japan, except for JP Bank and Suruga Bank. However, even these banks allow you to only make deposits or withdrawals until you have reached the sixth month of living in Japan.

JP Bank

キャッシュカード

(*kyasshu kado*)

a cash card

To open a bank account at JP Bank, you need to visit one of their branches. There is one next to the North gate of SFC.

The application form will be given at the designated counter.

Bring your residence card, your student ID card with a sticker on the back, and your phone number in Japan. Some branches may ask you to come with a Japanese speaker.



After completing the paperwork, you will receive a bank book (*tsucho*) on the same day, and a cash card (*kyasshu kado*) will be sent to the address of the account holder approximately one week later. (There is a case where they cannot issue your bank book on the same day for some reason. In that case, your bank book will be sent to you by post later.)

*MEXT scholarship recipients are required to open an account at JP Bank to receive their scholarship.

Suruga Bank



<https://www.surugabank.co.jp/surugabank/foreigners/account/>

You can open a bank account from your smartphone. Please follow the instructions on their website.

*After residing in Japan for 6 months, you need to visit the nearest bank branch to change your “non-resident account” to a “resident account”.

Which Bank to Choose after Residing in Japan for 6 months?

Banks in Japan primarily consist of major city banks such as Mizuho Bank, Mitsubishi UFJ Bank, and Mitsui Sumitomo—that have head offices in large cities like Tokyo and branch offices across the nation—and regional banks including Suruga Bank or Bank of Yokohama, that provide financial services in specified prefectures or regions in the country.

Students choose their banks based on convenience, but please note that some scholarship providers designate specific banks for their scholarship payment.

There is one JP post bank near the North gate of SFC and the convenience store “Lawson” on campus also has a bank ATM inside the shop. You cannot open a bank account at ATMs, however, you can withdraw cash from those ATMs once you set up your bank account in one of the branches outside of campus (You can find bank branches near main train stations such as Shonandai/Tsujido/ Fujisawa).

<Note>

Keio University will make a transfer to your bank account when necessary, but please beware that Keio University cannot make transfers to students' Japan Post Bank accounts.

Closing Your Bank Accounts

Please make sure to close all of your bank accounts when you leave Japan.

When your unused bank accounts are used for bank transfer fraud or other scams, you will be held criminally responsible.

Mega Banks

Mizuho Bank
みずほ銀行

Bank of Mitsubishi UFJ
三菱 UFJ 銀行

Sumitomo Mitsui
Bank
住友三井銀行

JP Bank
ゆうちょ銀行

Local Banks

Yokohama Bank
横浜銀行

Suruga Bank
スルガ銀行

English Friendly Banks

Shinsei Bank

SMBC Trust Bank

English Friendly Online Banks

Sony Bank

Rakuten Bank

Seven Bank

Bank Terminology

口座開設(*koza kaisetsu*)

opening a bank
account

預け入れ(*azukeire*)

Deposit

振替(*furikae*) Transfer

通帳記入(*tsucho kinyu*)

Update Passbook

引き出し(*hikidashi*)

Withdrawal

振込み(*furikomi*)

Remittance

残高照会(*zandaka*

shokai) Checking
Balance

残高照会後お引き出し

(*zandaka shokaigo*
ohikidashi)

Withdrawal After
Checking Balance

外貨両替 (gaika

ryogae) Money

Exchange

海外送金(*kaigai sokin*)

overseas remittance

手数料(*tesuryo*)

handling charge

Bank Services

Banking services including deposits and savings, direct payment for utility bills, automatic debit transfer for credit cards, remittance, etc. are all handled at banks and post offices (ゆうちょ銀行/*yucho ginko*). If you wish to send money home or overseas, you should consult with your bank about the options you have, since each financial institution varies in commission fees and handles services differently. For conducting domestic and overseas remittance that amounts to more than 100,000 JPY, a form of personal ID (residence card, health insurance card, etc.) is required.

When making a cash withdrawal at a bank counter, you will need the personal seal that you registered with when you opened your account or give them your signature if you did not use one. If using a bank card, cash can be withdrawn from ATMs or cash dispensers, but be aware that there may be a limit to the number of withdrawals and the amount that can be withdrawn per day.

Bank counters are normally open 9:00–15:00, and are usually closed on weekends and holidays.

As each financial institution has different service hours and fees at their branches and ATMs, please check their websites for more detailed information.

Foreign Currency Exchange

Bank branches outside of Tokyo tend not to deal with foreign currency exchange.

You can find currency exchange shops such as World Currency shops in big cities and currency exchange machines in major train stations such as Akihabara, Ginza, Shinjuku, Kamakura, and etc.

4-2 Credit Card

There are many choices of credit cards, but ones issued by banks are subject to strict screening; it is considered difficult for those who have been in Japan for less than one or two years to get approved by the credit card company.

The following credit cards are easy for international students living in Japan to apply for and to get approved. Also, they charge no annual membership fee.

Rakuten Card

<https://grp01.id.rakuten.co.jp/rms/nid/registfwdi>

EPOS Card

MUJI Card

Rakuten Card (Japanese language only)

<https://www.rakuten-card.co.jp/>

Keio Card

Keio University also offers different credit card services. Information on these cards can be found in the Keio Co-op store in the Sigma Building at SFC.

Items required when applying for a credit card

- ☐ Bank account
- ☐ Address
- ☐ Mobile phone or fixed-line phone number
- ☐ Residence card
- ☐ Parents' consent for students under 18 years old

Please note that all the application needs to be done in Japanese language only.

Keio Card

(Japanese language only)



<https://www.keiocard.com/>

4-3 Mobile Phone Contracts

What to Bring When Purchasing a Mobile Phone with a Contract

- ☐ Residence card
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Bank card
- ☐ Personal Seal

Having a mobile contract in Japan is one of the first struggles most non-Japanese students face when coming to Japan for the following reasons.

- Unable to purchase phone device in installments as the period of stay is under 24 months
- In most case, credit card is required
- Contract and customers support are available only in Japanese

Mobile Service Companies

The Big 3

Softbank
AU
Docomo

The Budget SIMs

Rakuten Mobile!
Y!Mobile
UQ Mobile etc.

International students friendly

GTN
mobal

Please search and compare some mobile service companies and choose the best one for you.

GTN mobile



https://gtn-mobile.com/en/uni_plans/

mobal



<https://www.mobal.com/japan-sim-card/?source=3289>