

Fukuyama Association for Global Exchange
Japanese Language Support Program

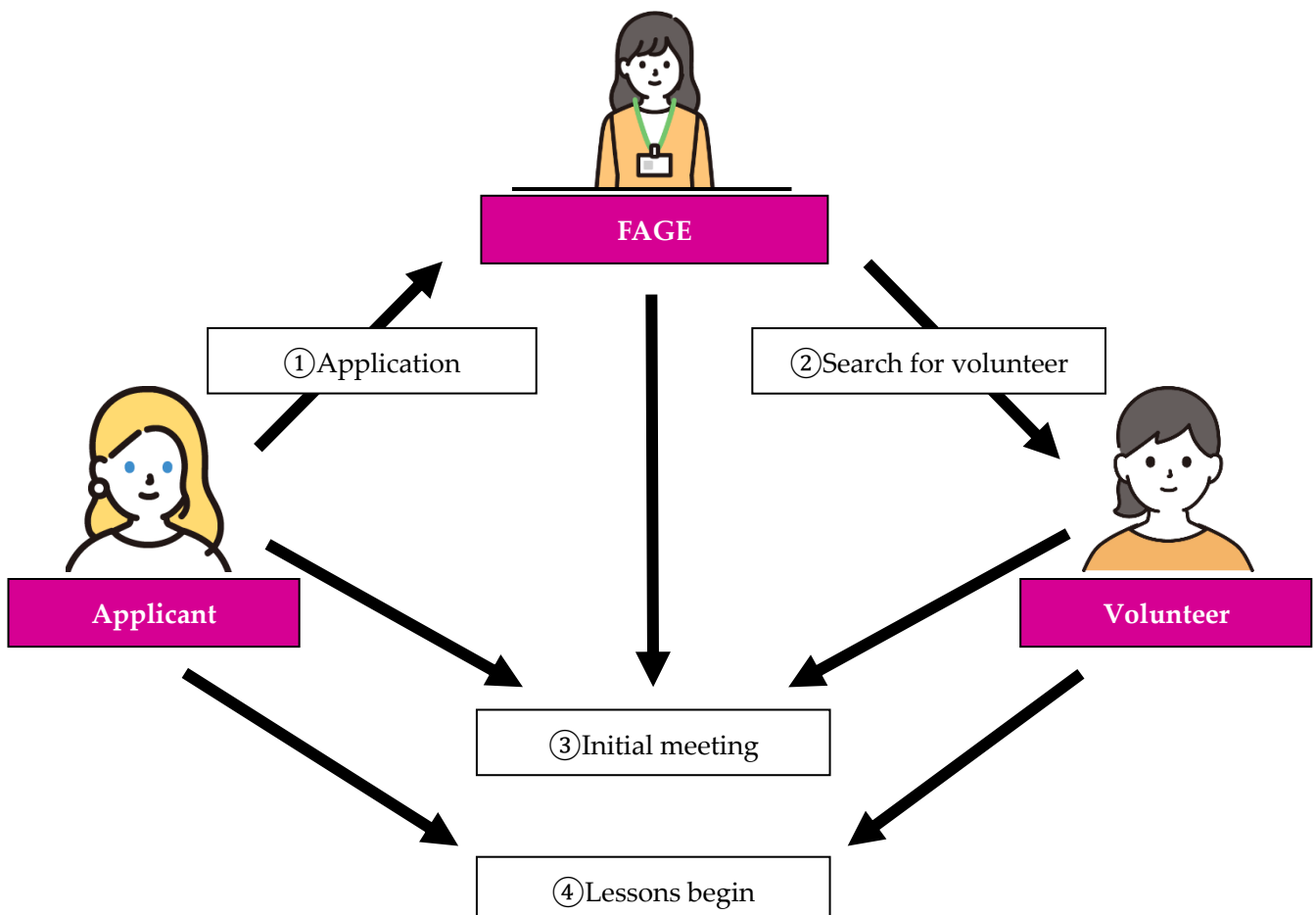
Japanese One-Pair Lesson Program

1. Program Outline

The Fukuyama Association for Global Exchange (FAGE) offers Japanese One-Pair Lessons for foreign residents of Fukuyama City. In these lessons, volunteers registered with FAGE assist with learning basic Japanese for everyday life in Japan. Through these lessons, you will build a foundation of Japanese knowledge for basic communication.

Outline:

1. A foreign resident who wishes to learn Japanese submits an application.
2. FAGE searches for a volunteer who meets the applicant's conditions.
3. If the volunteer agrees, the applicant and volunteer will meet at the FAGE office for an initial meeting to introduce themselves and decide the lesson details.
4. The applicant and volunteer begin lessons.



2. Eligibility

Japanese One-Pair Lessons are intended only for beginner learners of Japanese (from those who understand little to no Japanese up to around JLPT N4 level). These lessons are not for test preparation or for intermediate/advanced study. If you wish to study at a higher level, please consider enrolling in community Japanese classes, a Japanese language school, or another specialized learning program. In addition, applications may be declined if an applicant requests support that goes beyond the scope of the Japanese One-Pair Lesson program, or if specific needs of the applicant are difficult to handle through volunteer-based assistance.

Those who are eligible:

- Foreign residents who do not speak Japanese as their first language
- People ages 16 or older (junior high school students cannot apply)
- Applicants who live outside Fukuyama City can apply but must come to Fukuyama City for lessons
- Beginners with little or no Japanese ability
- People who cannot join other beginner Japanese classes (see the section below on “Other Beginner Japanese Classes”)

Those who are not eligible:

- People with a “Student” residence status or are currently enrolled at a university or Japanese language school
- People with a “Technical Intern Training” residence status (in principle, Japanese language instruction should be provided by the host company)
- People with a “Specified Skilled Worker” residence status (in principle, those with this status already have the Japanese level instructed through this program)
- People who already know Japanese at JLPT N3 level or higher
- Tourists and short-term visitors
- People planning to leave Japan within one to three months

Other Beginner Japanese Classes

In Fukuyama City, short-term beginner Japanese classes are held throughout the year. If you are able to participate in one of these classes, staff will recommend that you join that class before applying for Japanese One-Pair Lessons. Staff will provide information about available classes. In addition, if a new beginner Japanese class opens after you apply but before a volunteer has been assigned to you, staff may ask you to join that class instead and temporarily place your Japanese One-Pair Lesson application on hold.

Please note that you may attend community Japanese classes that run throughout the year while also participating in the Japanese One-Pair Lessons. A list of local community Japanese classes is available on the following page.

<https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp/soshiki/tayouseisyakai-suishin/20315.html>



3. How to Apply

To apply, you will fill out an application and take a Japanese level check assessment. Applications can only be submitted in person at the FAGE office. Applications are not accepted by email. When applying, you must show your residence card.

Reservations to make an application are not required, but it is recommended that you contact FAGE in advance to ensure staff can assist you. (Foreign language-speaking staff available.)

After you apply, FAGE will search for a volunteer. It may take over one month to find a volunteer. If a volunteer cannot be found, lessons may not be able to take place.

When a volunteer has been found, the applicant and volunteer will have an initial meeting at the FAGE office. Generally, this meeting will be scheduled during FAGE's hours of operation (weekdays 8:30-17:15, excluding public holidays). During this initial meeting, you will discuss the lesson content and your goals. You will also exchange contact information. Lessons will begin according to the schedule decided at this meeting.

Please note that FAGE does not take responsibility for activities carried out between the applicant and volunteer.

Additional notes:

- In general, lessons will continue for at least one month after the initial meeting. If you feel that the volunteer is not a good match, please contact FAGE.
- If you need to cancel a lesson due to illness or other reasons, you must contact the volunteer directly. If you cannot reach them, please consult FAGE.
- Japanese One-Pair Lessons are generally arranged as one volunteer and one applicant. However, if you would like to study together with coworkers or family members, it may sometimes be possible to arrange one volunteer with two or three applicants. Please inquire when applying.

★About volunteers★

Those who teach Japanese in this program are volunteers registered with FAGE. Volunteers do not receive payment, and they may not necessarily have prior experience teaching Japanese. Volunteers are assigned mainly based on schedule availability, rather than age or personal compatibility.

In principle, male applicants are paired with male volunteers and female applicants with female volunteers. However, because the number of volunteers is limited, mixed-gender pairs may sometimes be arranged.

Please note that the number of volunteers is limited. Even if you apply for the Japanese One-Pair Lessons, it may not always be possible to find a volunteer.

4. Lesson Content (Lesson Materials)

In principle, the lessons use the textbook *Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan*. This textbook can be viewed online. Printed copies will be provided to both the learner and the volunteer during the initial meeting.

<https://www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/starter/pdf.html>



Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan is available in the following language versions:

English, Korean, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Mongolian, Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia), Khmer, Thai, Filipino / Tagalog, Vietnamese, Burmese (Myanmar), Nepali, Portuguese, Spanish, Ukrainian, Russian, Uzbek, French, Lao, Bengali, and Hindi.

- Learners cannot use their own textbooks or test-preparation materials during the lessons.
- If *Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan* is not available in the applicant's native language, FAGE may suggest a different textbook or ask the applicant to use automatic translation tools.
- Depending on the applicant's level, lessons may start from the middle of the textbook rather than from Lesson 1.

Please note that it is difficult to significantly improve your Japanese ability through Japanese One-Pair Lessons alone. Applicants are encouraged to study on their own outside of lesson time. Volunteers may also assign homework.

There is also an online learning app available for *Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan*.

<https://www.irodori-online.jp/go.jp/>



5. Program Fees

Applying for the program is free of charge. However, when a volunteer is assigned and the initial meeting takes place, a program maintenance fee of 1,000 yen will be required from the applicant. Please pay this fee in cash to FAGE at the time of the initial meeting. This fee cannot be refunded, even if the lessons are discontinued early.

The maintenance fee is used for printing study materials and providing skill-development training for volunteers.

Notes:

- If the applicant is a member of FAGE at the time of the initial meeting, the program maintenance fee will be waived.
- The program maintenance fee is charged only at the first initial meeting. If the volunteer assigned to you changes later, no additional fee is required.

*****As a trial period, applicants who apply between April and September 2026 will not be charged the program maintenance fee.*****

6. Lesson Location

Lessons are generally held at one of the following locations.

(1) International Salon (Kokusai Salon)

Location: Manabi no Yakata Rose Com 4th Floor

Address: Fukuyama-shi Kasumi-chō 1-10-1

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/acc3KvXXGxN7odct9>

Open: 9:00AM to 10:00PM

Parking: Please use the Kasumi Municipal Parking Lot located within the facility.

Applicants must pay their own parking fees.



(2) Fukuyama City Machizukuri Support Center (Machi-Sapo)

Location: Fukuyama City Shimin Sankaku Center 2nd Floor

Address: Fukuyama-shi Honmachi 1-35

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/gGrJYMc87S6gdw4C9>

Open: 9:00AM to 10:00PM

Parking: Free parking is available.



If the above are not possible, you can also use other city facilities such as community centers or exchange halls (kōryūkan). If you want to study at such a location, please consult with FAGE.

To prevent problems, lessons at the volunteer's or learner's home are strictly prohibited.

7. Lesson Schedule and Duration

Lessons are generally 1 hour once a week. Depending on schedule availability, lessons may occur twice a month in some cases. To avoid overburdening volunteers, lessons cannot exceed once per week. If you wish to change the lesson time after starting, please consult with your volunteer.

The lesson period is 6 months from the first lesson. If both the volunteer and applicant agree, the lesson period can be extended up to a maximum of 1 year. If the volunteer does not agree to an extension but the applicant wishes to continue, FAGE will search for a different volunteer. In that case, the extension period is limited to 6 months, and further extensions are not possible.

Those who have already participated in the Japanese One-Pair Lessons for the maximum period of 1 year cannot reapply.

★Temporarily Pausing Lessons

For cases such as when the applicant needs to temporarily return to their home country for several months, the volunteer is hospitalized, etc. and lessons need to be paused for an extended period of time, please contact FAGE. The pairing period can be adjusted accordingly.

8. Activity Report Submission

Learners are required to submit a Japanese One-Pair Lesson Activity Report at the following times:

- 1 month after the first lesson
- 5 months after the first lesson
- 12 months after the first lesson (if the lessons are extended)
- After the lessons end (Final Report Form)

Note: Dates may change. The exact submission schedule will be provided at the initial meeting.

If reports are not submitted, lessons may be suspended or extensions may be denied.

How to submit: Email, fax, in person at the FAGE office

*You may also take a photo of the report and send it by email.

Reports can also be downloaded from the following page.

<https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp/site/fage/312398.html>



9. Ending Lessons / Pairing

If you can no longer continue lessons, please contact FAGE. The pairing will end if necessary. While FAGE will inform the volunteer if the pairing ends, please inform the volunteer directly yourself when possible.

If the volunteer misses lessons without notice or frequently cancels, please consult FAGE.

After the pairing ends, you may continue contacting the volunteer only if the volunteer agrees. In that case, it will not be part of the Japanese One-Pair Lessons program but a personal relationship. Please note that FAGE cannot take responsibility for any issues or problems that may arise between the applicant and volunteer during personal interactions.

10. Prohibited Activities

Applicants and volunteers are forbidden from the following during lessons:

- Political activities
- Religious activities
- Selling items/services
- Borrowing or lending money, money exchange activities
- Sharing personal information with others
- Saying or doing things that make the other person uncomfortable

- Do not ask volunteers for personal information. Examples include questions like, "What are your family members' names?" or "Where do you work?" If a volunteer asks you a question you do not want to answer, it is okay to say, "I prefer not to answer." Respect each other's privacy.
- The purpose of lessons is to improve the applicant's Japanese skills. While volunteers may use your native language to help with instruction, if you feel that the volunteer is focusing primarily on you teaching your native language to the volunteer instead, please contact FAGE.

11. If You Need Assistance

The volunteer's role is to support Japanese language learning, not to act as a consultant on living in Japan.

If you need assistance with daily living matters, please use consultation services like the ones listed below.

In addition, to avoid trouble, do not ask volunteers to do the following sorts of activities:

- Accompany you to the bank, post office, or other places
- Fill out forms or make phone calls on your behalf
- Drive you to your home, train station, etc.
- Hold lessons at your home/their home or ask for their address

Fukuyama City Multilingual Consultations for Foreign Residents

In-person and online consultations available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Portuguese. Other languages can be supported using automatic translation tools. Times and locations vary by language. See the page below for more details.

<https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp/soshiki/shiminseikatsu/264112.html>



Contact: Fukuyama City Citizens' Consultation Division (084-928-1050)

Hiroshima International Center Consultation Service for Foreigners

Provides specialized consultations in addition to daily life consultations. Languages supported: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese, Indonesian, Thai, Spanish, Nepali, Russian, and Ukrainian. Consultation times vary depending on language and topic. See the page below for more details.

<https://hiroshima-ic.or.jp/guide/consultation/>



Contact: Hiroshima International Center (0120-783-806)

12. Other Information

- Please note that if you do not respond to communications from FAGE (primarily by email), your application may become invalid.
- Applications are valid for two months from the date of submission. If a volunteer has not been found within this period, FAGE will contact you.

13. Contact Information

Please contact FAGE if you have any questions or concerns. English and Chinese-speaking staff are available.

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