



July 2017

Dear AFS Participants,

We, AFS Japan, would like to extend to you our appreciation that you have decided to come to Japan to learn more about our language, culture, and people, and we are now looking forward to seeing you all within a short time. We imagine that by now you are feeling a bit excited and maybe a little nervous also, but please don't worry about what will happen after your arrival, just devote yourself to preparing as much as possible before you leave home.

What kind of preparation? Well, first of all, how about some Japanese language study before you come? Learning some Japanese before you come will help you break the ice with your host family. Study at home and put your text in your carry-on bag, so you can have some extra practice on the flight. Also, very importantly, being able to speak some Japanese will make it easier for you to become close to your host family. Many former participants suggest that you **keep trying** to study Japanese, even if time is short! We would like to recommend a few free language learning links that you may find interesting and helpful:

e-learning

<http://www.erin.ne.jp/en/>

<http://e-nihongo.tsukuba.ac.jp>

In addition to all of the other things that you are packing in your suitcase, remember to put in the **Welcome to Japan [The 7th Edition]**, and **the Tips for Personal Safety in Japan [Revised Edition (Oct 1st, 2016)]** booklets which you have already received. Not only are these filled with useful and important information that you will need to know for your daily life, but they are also a good tool for helping you communicate with your host family about issues that you need to have a common understanding about. You will need to have these booklets with you at your arrival orientation.

For those of you who intend to bring credit cards and/or cash-cards to take money out in Japan, please contact the credit cards and/or cash-cards companies before your departure, and make sure you are able to use the cards in your hosting community, otherwise please bring enough cash.

Finally, don't forget to pack **2 photos** (4cmx3cm) for your school ID and **additional 1 photo** for a Residence Card for those under 16, **Yen in cash** (about JPY3,000) for personal spending during the orientation, and **bath, hand towels and toothbrush** to be used at your arrival orientation. Arrival orientation will be held in a youth hostel where bringing your towels is your responsibility. Since you will be very busy studying, making new friends, and spending time with your host family, with limited access to the Internet.

All of these belongings with only a **20kilogram weight limit!** Good Luck!

The time will be flying by very quickly from now on, so please use your time effectively to get ready for one of the most interesting experiences of your life! Remember once again, your host families, your schools, volunteers, and staff are all eagerly looking forward to your arrival. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact your AFS office/sending organizations, at any time.

With our fondest wishes,



Junko Kawano
Partner Director,
AFS Intercultural Programs, Japan

“Welcome to Japan” Booklet Updated Information

Extend your stay in Japan – NOT accepted

Your visa is issued only to serve the purpose of your stay as an AFS student with AFS Japan being your guarantor in Japan. Since AFS Japan is required to report our program end date to the immigration office and cannot take any responsibility to you after this date, your remaining in Japan after the AFS program is not accepted under any conditions.

Budgeting

AFS Japan suggests students to prepare 10,000-15,000yen per month for personal spending money.

Mobile Phone and E-mail address

AFS Japan will no longer lend mobile phones to students (with some exceptions). Instead, we strongly recommend you to bring a **SIM free phone from your country** and buy prepaid SIM cards (data only) in Japan. Moreover, if you have your own credit card (under your name), we recommend you to bring it to Japan. You may buy SIM cards (data only) in cheaper price for the credit card holders.

Please read "Prepaid SIM Card in Japan" and be prepared.

In addition, AFS Japan will check your Email address during Arrival orientation and we will send necessary information during your stay to those Email addresses. If your Email address which you used for Online Application is no longer available, please contact AFS office in your country to modify your registered Email address before 4th August.

School Related Items

Please be aware that AFS students and their parents are responsible for the cost of purchasing school related items.

<Examples>

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | School shirts (summer clothes and winter clothes) | 6,000-10,000yen |
| 2. | Gym clothes, school indoor shoes, gym shoes | 13,300-28,000yen |
| 3. | School materials | 5,000-10,000yen |

- Your school will provide you with a hand-me-down uniform out of its

uniform pool free of charge, but if it does not fit you, you have to buy your own.

- If students wish to participate in the school trips, it requires additional 80,000-300,000yen, depending on duration and destination.

Immigration and Registration

Any students under 16 years of age upon arrival, they must re-apply their residence card at regional immigration authorities, and students need to pay for traveling expense (approximately 1,000-10,000 yen).

Under the Japanese Government's new social security and taxation system began in October 2015, all students will receive an Individual Number (or "My Number") issued by the local public office in a form of a notification card. Transportation cost when you change the address written in the notification card due to family change or when you return the card to the local public office at the end of the program are responsibility of each student.

<http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/bangoseido/english.html>

Arrival Information

At Airport

At immigration, make sure to receive your "Residence Card" in exchange for Certificate of Eligibility.

To land in Japan, you need to present the visa on your passport and the CoE (Certificate of Eligibility) to the immigration officer at Tokyo/Narita International Airport to get landing permission under "Student" status from the officer.

Please make sure that you must carry your Residence Card with you at all times during your stay in Japan.

<Sample: Residence Card>



When you arrive in Japan, you will be met by AFS Japan staff and/or volunteers at Tokyo/Narita International Airport. You will attend an arrival orientation in Tokyo until August 20, where you can rest up from your long trip and receive useful information to start a new life in Japan. You will meet your host family on August 20.

Make sure that you pack only as much as you can carry by yourself (**max. 20kg**). When you travel between the airport and your host community, via the arrival orientation site, you must walk a long way carrying everything by yourself. The walk at railway stations and at the airport can be very long and may include stairways. A chartered bus we use also has limited luggage storage space. Therefore, we would like to strongly ask that **you bring only 1 suitcase**.

We would also like to advise you to separately pack the belongings necessary for the arrival orientation, so that you don't have to open your big suitcase. You need to pack bath and hand towels which you will use during the orientation from August 18 to 20.

The weight limit on checked-in luggage for domestic flights in Japan is **20kg**. For carry-on bags, the limit is **10kg** (the size of the bag must be within **45cm x 35cm x 20cm, total 100cm**), and only one bag is allowed per person.

At Tokyo/Narita Airport, all students will be asked to briefly hand in their passports to the AFS staff, so that they may check the entry status and visa information. We appreciate your cooperation.

Hosting Chapters
<u>ASAHIKAWA</u> , <u>SAPPORO</u> , IWATE, MIYAGI, TOCHIGI, KEIYO, SAITAMA, TOKYO-JOHOKU, TOKYO-CHUO, TOKYO, East-team, KITA-KANAGAWA, KAMAKURA, SHONAN, JOETSU, NAGANO-HOKUSHIN, NAGANO-NANSHIN, FUJISAN, EAST-MIKAWA, NAGOYA-KITA, NAGOYA-MINAMI, OWARI, MIE, <u>KOMATSU</u> , SHIGA, <u>OSAKA-HIGASHI</u> , <u>OSAKA-CHUO</u> , <u>OSAKA-MINAMI</u> , <u>HYOGO-KEN</u> , <u>TOTTORI-KEN</u> , <u>MATSUE</u> , <u>OKAYAMA</u> , <u>BISAN</u> , <u>YAMAGUCHI</u> , <u>HAKATA</u> , <u>FUKUOKA-MINAMI</u> , <u>SAGA</u> , <u>KUMAMOTO</u> , <u>OITA</u> , <u>OITA-CHUBU</u> , <u>MIYAZAKI-MINAMI</u> , <u>KAGOSHIMA</u> ,

- The students who are placed in the underlined chapters, in the table above will fly to their hosting communities, while others will take trains and/or bus.