

Kocoforre News

Issue 8, Summer 2025

"Kocoforre" is the nickname for the Kochi Consultation Center for Foreign Residents

As the days are slowly getting warmer, we hope you are staying cool during this summer season. In Kocoforre News, we introduce our center's activities and useful information for foreign residents of Kochi, those who are connected with foreigners, and people interested in multiculturalism.

Topics Job Hunting

Every year, Kocoforre receives many consultations related to employment, with job hunting being the most common topic. Many foreign residents love living in Kochi and want to work here, but they often face challenges in finding employment. As a result, some are forced to relocate to more urban areas in Japan or return to their home countries. That's why, in this issue of Kocoforre News, we'll be talking about job hunting and sharing some handy tips and tricks along the way.

■ Career Guidance for Foreign Workers & Working in Kochi

I want to work in tourism in Kochi!
(Chinese Student)



I want to be a banker in Kochi! (American Office Worker)



I want to start a business in Kochi!
(American Office Worker)



I want to grow dragon fruit in Kochi!
(Indonesian Student)



I want to work at a company in Kochi!
(Chinese Student)



Tip
1

Know your job hunting tools!

When job hunting in Japan, there are several useful tools and services at your disposal. First, find out which of them suits your needs.

Job Hunting Tools:

- Hello Work
- Job Fairs and Information Sessions
(We host annual information sessions to help foreign residents learn about companies in Kochi.)
- Job Hunting Websites
- Recruitment Agencies
- Company Websites / Online Applications
- Referrals from a friend or acquaintance

★Hello Work★

Hello Work is a job-hunting support agency that foreign residents of Japan can use free of charge. To register, you need your residence card, passport, or another form of photo ID. Hello Work doesn't just recruit — they also offer resume advice, interview practice, and other useful services for job seekers. They can also provide third-party telephone interpreting.

※Kocoforre can help provide in-person interpreting if necessary.

A list of job hunting websites in Kochi can be found here →



Tip
2

Read the job requirements!

Job requirements outline what employers are seeking in a potential candidate. In addition to reviewing the job description, be sure to carefully check specific requirements, such as Japanese language proficiency (e.g., conversational level, JLPT N2 or higher) or whether a driver's license is necessary.

It's also a good idea to confirm whether the employer offers visa support.

Tip
3

Level up your Japanese!

To work in Japan, knowing Japanese is essential. Strong communication skills are a valuable asset, so make an effort to study regularly and aim to obtain a JLPT or BJT certification!



Examples of Japanese Language Qualifications:

1. Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
2. Business Japanese Test (BJT)
3. Test of Practical Japanese (J.TEST)
4. Practical Japanese Proficiency Test (TopJ)

JLPT Levels:

- N1 - Advanced business
- N2 - Working proficiency
- N3 - Basic workplace
- N4-N5 - Daily conversation

Study Japanese in Kochi!

Free Japanese classes are held in places throughout Kochi Prefecture to support foreign residents.

*Kochi International Association-KIA Nihongo Class

Address: Kochi Prefecture, Kochi City, Honmachi 4-1-37
Marunouchi Building 2nd Floor

Scan here for details →



*Kochi Prefecture Japanese Class-Japanese Salon

Held in 15 locations around Kochi!

Kochi Japanese Salon Map →



Tip
4

Create a Japanese resume and career summary!

Every country has its own style of resume writing, and Japan is no exception. A "Japanese resume" simply refers to one that follows the standard format used in Japan. One key difference is that, unlike in many other countries where including a photo is optional or discouraged, Japanese resumes typically require a photo. Additionally, while some companies in Japan only ask for a resume, others may also require a career summary. Make sure to carefully check each company's application requirements before you apply!

Resume
(*rirekisho*):

Career summary
(*shokumukeirekisho*):

Differences between a resume and a career summary:

- includes your name, address, education, work history, certifications, and other basic information.
- is a detailed account of your past jobs, including industry type, scope of work, and employment duration
- highlights your skills, strengths, and accomplishments. Be sure to tailor this to the specific job you are applying for.

Tip
5

It takes time to find employment or change your residence status - get started ahead of time!

Job searching in Japan has a lot of steps, such as finding vacancies, creating a resume, attending interviews. It might take a long time before you've secured employment. Changing or updating your residence status can often take up to 1 or 2 months, which may leave you pressed for time. That's why we recommend sorting out job searching and visa paperwork as soon as possible.



So you want to work in Kochi? – Hear from Employers and Foreign Residents

We spoke with two employers who hire foreign residents and two foreign residents working in Kochi to hear their perspectives. Their insights offer a valuable look into what it's like to work in Kochi as a foreign resident. We hope they'll be useful in your job search!

Employer Interview Number 1:

Company A • Hospitality and Dining (Chubu Area)

1. What jobs are foreign workers doing at your company?

We currently have the following foreign staff working at our establishment:

Front desk: 1 person, Restaurant: 4 people (including 1 regular employee), cleaning: 1 person, and kitchen: 1 person

2. Why did you begin to hire foreign workers?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced a serious staffing shortage and happened to receive an application from a foreign resident. That marked the beginning. Even after the pandemic, we were so impressed by their work ethic that we've continued to hire foreign workers.

3. What skills are you looking for?

- Tech and language skills for customer service (English and other foreign languages)
- We value spoken Japanese skills over reading and writing, and don't require Japanese language qualifications

4. How do you overcome the language barrier?

- If Japanese is difficult, we communicate in other languages
- Use translation apps and collaborate as a team to get the job done

5. Do you plan on hiring more foreign workers moving forward?

We would like to hire more foreign workers in the future.

Employer Interview Number 2:

Company B • Manufacturing (Tobu Area)

1. What jobs are foreign workers doing at your company?

As of now, we have 2 foreign workers: 1 in sales and 1 in development.

2. Why did you begin to hire foreign workers?

Our company has been participating in the Global Career Fair in Kochi for the past 5 years, and as a result of our participation we hired our first foreign employee. As we begin making headway into foreign markets, we need employees with language skills, local networks abroad, and different cultural perspectives in order to grow our company.

3. What skills are you looking for?

- Advanced Japanese ability to communicate with clients and coworkers (approx. JLPT N1)
- Foreign language skills
- Ability to read company documents and resources written in Japanese

4. How do you overcome the language barrier?

- Using simple Japanese while explaining things
- Using translation apps if needed and providing support

5. Do you plan on hiring more foreign workers moving forward?

We plan on hiring more foreign employees in the future as we continue to engage with foreign markets, but we are not hiring as of now.

Foreign Resident Interview 1:

Singapore, Manufacturing Industry

I work at a company in Kochi, where I am in charge of international sales. I found this position thanks to the Global Career Fair in Kochi, which was held by the prefecture. During my work, I get to make use of my language skills and cultural background, which is really fulfilling. The company president values each and every employee, which is another reason why I love working here. During my job search, I had trouble finding employment as there aren't many companies that hire foreigners in Kochi. However, I'm really glad that I was able to find a workplace that needed foreign talent.

I find the people of Kochi to be really welcoming. It has a friendly vibe that you can't get in the big city. There are plenty of spots, like music or sports clubs, where you can spend time with Japanese people and improve your language skills at the same time. It's fun hanging out with people who share the same interests as you!

For those who are thinking of working here in Kochi, I'd say it's really important to start networking. When others around you know that you're looking for work, you never know what opportunities can fall into your lap. Also, remember to start as soon as possible. You can do this!

Foreign Resident Interview 2:

United States, Education

Finding employment as a foreigner in Japan has been very challenging. I can speak Japanese without any issues, but many companies list N1 level of the JLPT as a requirement for their job postings. I have never taken the JLPT, and without proof of my language ability, I can't even apply for them. That's why when I applied for my current position, I'm glad they performed an in-person language assessment instead of asking for qualifications. My current position is at an educational institution in the city. It's a rewarding role where I feel like I'm part of a team, and not just a foreigner, which I'm very thankful for.

Unlike Tokyo or Osaka, Kochi may not have the most job opportunities for foreigners. But what it does have is beautiful nature, a rich culture, and friendly people. I feel like living here is worth it.

In terms of advice for people thinking of finding jobs here, I'd say: find where you belong. For instance, you can meet a lot of different people and widen your social circle by joining a sports class or club. The people of Kochi are incredibly kind and are willing to lend a hand when you need it. The connections I have made with the friendly folks here are the number one reason I chose Kochi over Tokyo.

Announcements from Kocoforre

Kocoforre Consultation Sessions with Specialists

※Details will be posted on Kocoforre's website and social media.

July 29th, 2025 (Tue)	Shimanto City On-site Consultation	3rd Floor, Shimanto City Hall (Address: 4-10 Nakamura Oohashi-doori, Shimanto-shi)	Immigration Bureau staff will be available for in-depth consultations regarding residence status. Kocoforre consultants will also be available to discuss general concerns about life in Japan in addition to residence status. *Konan City On-site Consultation will only handle queries regarding life in Kochi.
October 29th, 2025 (Wed)	Konan City On-site Consultation*	4th Floor, Conference Room, Konan City Hall (Address: 2706 Noichicho Nishino, Konan-shi)	
December 7th, 2025 (Sun)	Nankoku City On-site Consultation	Nankoku City Chiiki Koryu Center MIARE! (Address: 2117 Oosoneko, Nankoku-shi)	
February 1st, 2026 (Sun)	Tosa City On-site Consultation	Tosa City Cultural Complex Tsunade (Address: 3451-1 Takaokachootsu, Tosa-shi)	
①September 29th (Mon) – October 4th, 2025 (Sat) ②February 24th (Tue) – 28th, 2026 (Sat)	Free Legal Consultation Week for Foreigners	Kocoforre (Address: 1F, 4-1-37 Honmachi, Kochi-shi)	Lawyers will be giving free consultations to all clients regardless of financial means (excluding corporations).
August 30th, 2025 (Sat)	Education Guidance Session for Foreigners	Kochi International Association (Address: 2F, 4-1-37 Honmachi, Kochi-shi)	Kocoforre will hold a guidance session on the Japanese education system for international families.

Website



Available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, and Vietnamese.

Instagram



We provide useful information on living in Japan in simple Japanese and foreign languages.

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