

## Education

The Japanese education system consists of kindergarten, 6 years of elementary school (shōgakkō 小学校), 3 years of junior high school (chūgakkō 中学校), 3 years of high school (kōtōgakkō 高等学校), and 4 years of university (daigaku 大学). Only elementary and junior high school are compulsory, but many children also attend kindergarten and nearly all students complete high school. Foreign children may attend Japanese schools, but unlike for Japanese citizens, attendance is not compulsory. The school year runs from April to March of the following year and is divided into two or three terms, with a recess period at the end of each term.

### Kindergarten

(Yōchien 幼稚園)

Responsible Organization: **Infant Welfare Section** (Hoiku-ka 保育課)  
 Urasoe City Hall, 2nd Floor  
 Telephone: (098) 876-1234 (ext. 3626)

There are 8 public kindergartens in Urasoe, as well as kindergartens that have been certified to transition into nurseries. All public kindergartens are located on the campuses of public elementary schools.

#### Urasoe City Public Kindergartens (As of April, 2019)

<b>Urashiro Kindergarten</b> Address: 2-13-1 Iso Telephone: 098-877-8050	<b>Makiminato Kindergarten</b> Address: 2-14-1 Makiminato Telephone: 098-877-1991	<b>Toyama Kindergarten</b> Address: 2-34-2 Toyama Telephone: 098-877-7876	<b>Uchima Kindergarten</b> Address: 4-3-1 Uchima Telephone: 098-879-1639
<b>Minatogawa Kindergarten</b> Address: 4-37-1 Gusukuma Telephone: 098-878-3011	<b>Takushi Kindergarten</b> Address: 998 Takushi Telephone: 098-878-5235	<b>Miyagi Kindergarten</b> Address: 3-7-3 Miyagi Telephone: 098-879-5997	<b>Maeda Kindergarten</b> Address: 333 Maeda Telephone: 098-879-5703

#### Kindergartens certified to transition into nurseries (As of April, 2019)

<b>Nakanishi Nursery</b> Address: 2-4-1 Miyagi Telephone: 098-877-5164	<b>Urasoe Nursery</b> Address: 2-47-2 Nakama Telephone: 098-877-1042	<b>Kamimori Nursery</b> Address: 1-4-1 Jicchaku Telephone: 098-877-2647
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Any child who has reached the age of four or five by April 1st is eligible to sign up for kindergarten. Four-year olds may apply to kindergartens if there are openings available. In addition, children who have reached the age of three by April 1st may consult with kindergartens for eligibility. For those who wish to apply, a parent-child interview will take place at the kindergarten after submitting application documents.

Children are generally assigned to the kindergarten located in the district in which they live. However, parents may apply to send their child to a specific kindergarten in certain circumstances.

Kindergarten is not part of compulsory education. Monthly childcare fees are determined by the parents' income and must be paid, as well as additional small fees for materials and snacks. Kindergartens also provide afternoon daycare until 6pm, which costs ¥5,000 per month. Extended hours for 6pm ~ 7pm are available for an additional ¥2,000 per month.

Children walk to school with their parents or other students and arrive around 8am. Some kindergartens do not prepare lunches, meaning lunch fees do not need to be paid. In addition, dismissal times vary depending on age.

For kindergartens with lunches, children bring their own lunches once a week (twice a week for kindergartens without lunches). Kindergartens without lunches release children without lunch for other days. Please refer to the application documents for details.



## Elementary School Junior High School

(Shōgakkō 小学校)

(Chūgakkō 中学校)

Responsible Organization: **Education Section** (Gakkō Kyōiku-ka 学校教育課)  
Urasoe City Hall, 7th Floor  
Telephone: (098) 876-1234 (ext. 6562)

Urasoe City has 11 public elementary schools and five public junior high schools. If you live in Urasoe and your child falls between the ages of six and fifteen, he or she is eligible for enrollment at one of these schools. Please visit City Hall with Residence Cards for both student and guardian if you wish to enroll your child. Children will be assigned to the school in the district in which they live and placed into a grade level according to their age. If you wish to enter your child into an international school or national/private elementary school or junior high school, please apply directly to each school.

The school day usually runs from 8am ~ 4:30pm. Some students may have classes until 4pm, and students in 5th and 6th grades of elementary school and in junior high schools may have after-school commitments as well. Tuition is free, but school lunches (¥4,200/month for elementary and ¥4,600/month for junior high) and some teaching materials must be purchased.

## High School

(Kōtōgakkō 高等学校)

Responsible Organization: **Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education** (Okinawa-ken Kyōiku I'inkai 沖縄県教育委員会)  
Address: Kencho Building, 13th Floor, 1-2-2 Izumizaki, Naha 900-8571  
Telephone: (098) 866-2705

Unlike elementary and junior high schools, high schools are administered by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. As high school is not part of compulsory education, tuition fees are charged. These vary depending on the school.

After graduating from junior high school, students are placed in higher-level or lower-level high schools based on an entrance examination offered every year in March. Due to this system, many students attend schools far away from where they live. Urasoe has five public high schools and one private high school, with students in attendance who come from all over Okinawa Prefecture. Those of foreign nationality may also take the Junior High School Graduation Certification Exam (chūgakkō sotsugyō teido nintei shiken 中学校卒業程度認定試験) to certify that they have academic abilities equivalent to those who have graduated from junior high schools.

The entrance exam system makes it difficult for students not proficient in Japanese to attend public high school. If your child does not speak Japanese, you may wish to enroll him or her in a correspondence course, or investigate the Okinawa Christian School International, a private K-12 school where English is the language of instruction. The Christian School is located at 1835 Zakimi, Yomitan-cho and can be reached by telephone at (098) 958-3000 or at <http://ocsi.org/>.

## University

(Daigaku 大学)

Junior colleges take 2 years to graduate, and national, public, and private universities take 4 years to graduate. Applicants are required to take an entrance exam to enter university, and check with respective institutions for expenses and eligibility.

Applicants must fulfill one of 3 conditions to take the entrance examination.

- Graduate from high school in Japan or overseas
- Pass the Junior High School Graduation Certification Exam
- Possess an International Baccalaureate diploma or equivalent certification and be over 18 years old on April 1 of the year of entry



## Studying Japanese

Studying Japanese can help you make the most of your time in Okinawa. Luckily, there are a number of Japanese language schools and other organizations offering a wide variety of programs. Please contact the organizations listed below for further information.

Name	Address	Contact
<b>JSL Nippon Academy</b> (JSL 日本アカデミー)	1-1-1 Nakanishi, Urasoe	(098) 875-1456 <a href="http://www.jslnippon.jp/en/">http://www.jslnippon.jp/en/</a>
<b>Cross Cultural Communication Center</b> (異文化間コミュニケーションセンター)	4-13-18 Nagata, Ginowan	(098) 893-6467 <a href="http://www.e-cccc.com/en/">http://www.e-cccc.com/en/</a>
<b>Japanese Language Institute</b> <b>International Center of Language and Culture</b> (国際言語文化センター附属日本語学校)	2F Sunhills Tabaru, 1-4-1 Tabaru, Naha	(098) 859-3881 <a href="http://iclcjapan.com/course/english/">http://iclcjapan.com/course/english/</a>
<b>Japan Institute of Culture&amp; Economics</b> (日本文化経済学院)	2-12-14 Nishi, Naha	(098) 869-8686 <a href="http://gores.ac.jp/en/">http://gores.ac.jp/en/</a>
<b>Nichia Foreign Language Academy</b> (日亜外語学院)	1-1-1 Matsugawa, Naha	(098) 833-8666 <a href="http://orange.zero.jp/nichia/eindex.htm">http://orange.zero.jp/nichia/eindex.htm</a>
<b>Okinawa International Exchange &amp; Human Resources Development Foundation</b> (沖縄県国際交流人材育成財団国際交流課)	4-2-16 Isa, Ginowan	(098) 942-9215 <a href="https://kokusai.oihf.or.jp/project/yomikaki/">https://kokusai.oihf.or.jp/project/yomikaki/</a>  The OIHF has what is probably the most extensive offering of Japanese classes available on Okinawa. Although most of the schools listed here offer beginning Japanese, the OIHF has very advanced classes as well.
<b>Step World Japanese School</b> (ステップワールド日本語学院)	1-10-2 Uenoya, Naha	(098) 860-5353 <a href="https://k-stworld.com/">https://k-stworld.com/</a>

