

A TALK ON RESEARCH CULTURE & HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN JAPAN

Resource person: Dr. Harikrishna Bhat

Designation: Professor & Director International collaboration at NMAMIT, Nitte.

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Introduction

On 23/07/24/ A talk titled " research culture & higher education opportunities in Japan" was delivered by Dr. Harikrishna Bhat. The presentation provided valuable insights into the Japanese higher education system, focusing on postgraduate studies.



Overview of Japanese Postgraduate Education

The speaker began by outlining the structure of postgraduate education in Japan, which primarily comprises Master's and Doctoral programs. A key emphasis was placed on the research-oriented nature of Japanese universities, with ample opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge projects.



Key Points

- **Research Focus:** Japan's postgraduate programs are heavily inclined towards research, offering students the chance to contribute to the academic frontier.
- **Rigor and Standards:** The academic environment is highly competitive, requiring dedication and perseverance from students.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Many programs integrate internships and industry partnerships to provide practical experience.
- **Internationalization:** Japan is actively promoting international education with an increasing number of English-taught programs and support services for foreign students.
- **Popular Fields:** Engineering, technology, business, science, medicine, and humanities were highlighted as popular fields of study in Japan.

With many Indians studying abroad, India is the second-largest country in the world in terms of origin for international students. In spite of this, only 0.3 percent of Indian students chose Japan as their study abroad destination, making Japan the 20th most popular country.

In comparison to other South Asian nations and nations where English is an official or semi-official language, this is quite low. It is the case either because people in India may not fully understand the allure of Japan and the advantages of studying there, or because they may have some reservations about the viability of studying there.

The Japanese government started support for international students, to reserve flight tickets outside of the daily immigration limit, students can request the use of this support from their Japanese school.



Admission Process and Funding

The speaker elaborated on the admission process, emphasizing the need for a bachelor's degree, Japanese language proficiency (for most programs), academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, and entrance exams.

There are a few tests which international students might have to take before they join these colleges/universities in Japan.

The EJU is one of the exam designed for international students who wants to enroll and study (undergraduate program) at Japanese universities. It measures knowledge of basic academic concepts (Science, Japan, and the World, and Mathematics), Scores of EJU are valid for two years.

This test held twice per year mainly in June and November in more than 14 countries and different cities across the world.

At least 60% of Japanese universities, including national universities require the submission of EJU scores as part of the application. There are other benefits of the EJU, some schools offer “pre-arrival admission” where students can be admitted to the school before arriving in Japan, and scholars are awarded with the honors scholarship who achieve the highest scores on the EJU.

The other test in the list includes the JLPT, it assesses non-native Japanese speakers’ ability to understand Japanese words, vocabulary, and syntax, as well as communication in Japanese. The levels range from N1 to N5, with N1 being the highest. The N5 and N4 levels assess students’ basic understanding of the language.

Funding opportunities were discussed, including government scholarships, university scholarships, and private scholarships.

Conclusion

The talk offered a comprehensive overview of post-graduation studies in Japan. The speaker's insights into the academic environment, research opportunities, and challenges were particularly valuable. The presentation generated significant interest among the audience, indicating a growing appeal of pursuing higher education in Japan.

