

**SAMPLE ANSWERS FOR EXPLANATION OF
REGULAR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN YOUR COUNTRY.**

Q1. Describe the regular educational system of your country, including starting and graduation age, from elementary school to university (the most common system) and the years in total including summer holidays or other long holidays, and fill the table below.

A1. The common educational system in Japan is 6 years of elementary school, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of high school and 4 years of university, for a total of 16 years.

From age 7 (turning 7 by next 1st of April as the educational year in Japan is from April to March of next year) to age 12 in elementary school, from age 13 to age 15 in junior high school, from age 16 to age 18 in high school and from age 19 to age 22 in university if you go to university straight from high school.

| | Regular period | Starting age (Turn to) | Graduation age (Turn to) |
|---|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| Elementary school | 6 years | 7 Years old | 12 Years old |
| Middle School | 3 years | 13 Years old | 15 Years old |
| High school | 3 years | 16 Years old | 18 Years old |
| Undergraduate school | 4 years | 19 Years old | 22 Years old |
| Graduate school (If you have attended or are attending) | 2 years | 23 Years old (If you go up straight after graduated undergraduate school) | 24 Years old |

The most common system

Q2. If your academic background is different from the regular academic background, please describe the reason and details.

A2. I was an excellent student when I was in elementary school therefore I skipped a year and graduated elementary school in only 5 years instead of 6 years. I was absent from junior high school for 1 year due to hospitalized treatment for an illness, so I took 4 years instead of 3 years. After graduating from junior high school most students go directly to high school for 3 years, but I entered a special high school for engineering that takes 5 years to complete. Engineering high school graduates are given the same level as grade 2 university students in Japan so I entered the university as a grade 3 student and studied for 2 years before graduating from the university. I entered a graduate school after one year work for a company and I took extra one year due to changing research topic.

Your academic background

| | period | Starting age (Turn to) | Graduation age (Turn to) | Note |
|----------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Elementary school | 5 years | 7Years old | 11Years old | One year skipped due to excellence |
| Middle School | 4 years | 12Years old | 15Years old | Repeated a year due to hospitalized treatment for an illness |
| High school | 5 years | 16Years old | 20Years old | Entered a special high school for engineering |
| Undergraduate school | 2 years | 21Years old | 22 Years old | Entered an university into grade 3 due to graduation the special high school for |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | | | | engineering |
| Graduate school | 3years | 24 years old | 26 years old | Entered a graduate school after one year work for a company. Took extra one year due to changing research topic. |

Q3. Inform the term and month for normal entrance and graduation.

A3. Japanese elementary, junior high and high schools have three semesters: the first semester is from April to July, the second semester is from September to December and the third semester is from January to March. So, entrance into school is in April and graduation is in March. Japanese universities have only two semesters: the first semester is usually from April to September and the second semester is usually from October to March. Some graduate level universities allow students to enter from either April or October, and graduate in either March or September.

| | Start | End | Note |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| Elementary school | April | March | 1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March |
| Middle School | April | March | 1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March |
| High school | April | March | 1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March |
| Undergraduate school | April or October | March or September | 1 st semester: from April to September 2 nd Semester: from October to March |
| Graduate school | April or October | March or September | 1 st semester: from April to September 2 nd Semester: from October to March |

Q4. If your academic background does not match the answer to Q3, please explain the reason and details-including starting and graduation month, or starting and graduation age.

A4. I planned to enter ○○○○ Technical College in April 2002 but there was a political event in my area during spring 2002 that caused the semester to begin 2 months late. That affected my entrance for undergraduate school and I entered the university in October instead April.

| Name of school | Start | End | Note |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|---|
| ○○○○ Technical College | June 2002 | May 2007 | Entering school postponed two months due to political event in my area. |
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- Q5. If you have relevant additional information regarding your academic background, please describe here.
- A5. I have a certificate to prove that I entered elementary school in April 1993 and graduated in March 1998 because I skipped a year. I can submit the original document. However, I would like to have the original certificate returned to me after the application process because it is only issued once and I would like to keep the original.

7. Sample of Academic background in the MEXT application form and some questions: (学歴)

| | Name and Address of School (学校名及び所在地) | Year and Month of Entrance and Completion (入学及び卒業年月) | Duration of Attendance (修学年数) | Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years/Levels (学位・資格・専攻科目・飛び級の状況、他に特記すべき事項) |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Primary Education (初等教育) Elementary School (小学校) | Name (学校名) ○○○○ Elementary SCHOOL Location (所在地) Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka, Japan | From (入学) 04/1993 To (卒業) 03/1998 | years (年) 5 and months (月) 0 | 1 year skip due to excellence |
| Secondary Education (中等教育) Middle School (中学) | Name (学校名) ○○○○ JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL Location (所在地) Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka, Japan | From (入学) 04/1998 To (卒業) 03/2002 | years (年) 4 and months (月) 0 | When taking leave of absence, the period and reason 04/1989~03/1990 For disease treatment |
| High School (高校) | Name (学校名) ○○○○ technical College Location (所在地) Osaka-shi, Osaka, Japan | From (入学) 06/2002 To (卒業) 05/2007 | years (年) 5 and months (月) 0 | *-1 Special high school for engineering After graduation, obtained an associate degree |
| Tertiary Education (高等教育) Undergraduate Level (大学) | Name (学校名) ○○○○ University Schools of Engineering Location (所在地) Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan | From (入学) 10/2007 To (卒業) 09/2009 | years (年) 2 and months (月) 0 | Bachelor of Engineering |
| Graduate Level (大学院) | Name (学校名) Kyushu Institute of Technology Graduate School of Engineering Location (所在地) Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka, Japan | From (入学) 10/ 2010 To (卒業) 09/ 2013 | years (年) 3 and months (月) 0 | Master of Engineering Took extra one year due to changing research topic. |
| Total number of years of the aforementioned schooling (以上を通算した全学校教育修学年数) *as of April 1, 2015 (2015年4月1日現在) | | | years (年) 19 | |