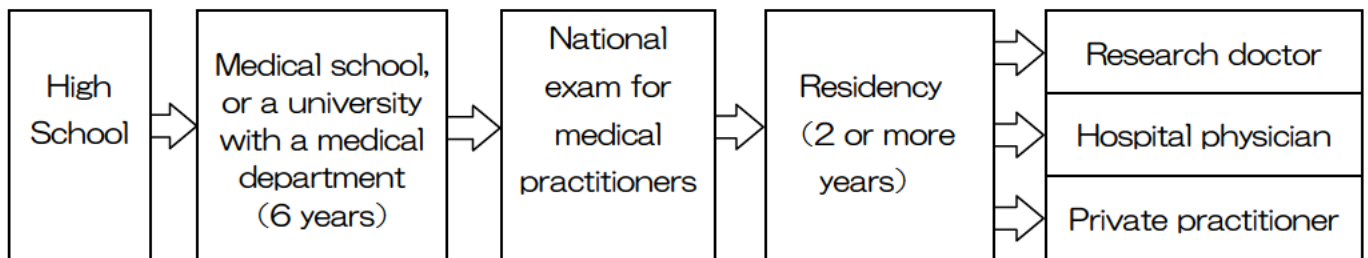


3 Doctor



Have you been sick and had trouble communicating with doctors and staff at the hospital? Hospitals, unlike schools and government offices, often don't have interpreters. For non-Japanese residents, having a doctor that speaks their native language can be a big relief. By becoming a doctor, you can contribute to your local community by helping those in need, acting as a bridge between your country and Japan, and serve as an expert in the fields of health and medicine.

Becoming a doctor:



Prepare now:

It takes 6 years of study at a medical school or university with a medical department to become a doctor, and gaining admission to these schools requires a high level of academic achievement. Japanese language, science and math skills are particularly important. Be sure to study both Japanese and your native language.

Job prospects:

After passing the national exam for medical practitioners, doctors work as residents for 2 or more years at a hospital or other medical institution. After completing their residency, doctors go on to work at universities, research institutions and pharmaceutical companies as research doctors; at hospitals and clinics as physicians or specialists; or open their own practice.

Research doctors make on average 4 million yen per year. Doctors at hospitals make on average 6 million yen per year. Salary for private practitioners varies by the number of patients, and can range from about 10 million to 20 million yen per year.

Tuition:

Studying medicine at a public university can cost upwards of 3.5 million yen over 6 years, in addition to costs for practicum and textbooks. Studying medicine at a private university can cost between about 20 million and 50 million yen over 6 years.

Scholarships:

Non-Japanese students who are admitted to a medical school or university with a medical department in Mie Prefecture may be eligible to receive up to 600,000 yen in scholarship loans. There is a system that provides loans for medical students across 6 years of study, regardless of nationality. Students that use this system and work in Mie as a doctor for specified amount of time after completing their education qualify for loan forgiveness.