

Spring
2017

Publishing Date:
April 1, 2017
No. 48

Shinjuku News



Published by: Multicultural Society Promotion Division, Regional Promotion Department, Shinjuku City
1-4-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8484 Tel: 03-5273-3504 Fax: 03-5273-3590

<http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/>

Welcome to
Shinjuku

Helpful Multilingual Information for Everyday Living

April is the time of year when many people begin a new chapter of life, such as a new job, entrance to a new school or the start of a new school year. Shinjuku City offers information in various languages so that everyone can live with peace of mind. Whether you've just arrived in Japan or just moved into Shinjuku City—or have been living in Shinjuku for a long time—there is a lot of information you'll find helpful. Please take advantage of these services.



Guide to Living in Shinjuku—A Guidebook to Starting a New Life Here



This guide summarizes rules and information for everyday living, and is especially useful to help people who have just come to Japan. Every person who completes resident registration in Shinjuku City receives a copy.

Languages: Japanese (with *kana*), English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Burmese and Nepalese

Where you can find the guide: Counter No. 12, resident registration service counter, Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F (1-4-1 Kabuki-cho); Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho) and local Branch Offices

Website: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/pdf/startbook.html



SNS Foreign-Language Editions of "Shinjuku News"



The Shinjuku City Office posts information on fun events and announcements via various social networking services. Disaster-related information is also posted when an earthquake or typhoon occurs. Please register now!

Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean

SNS: Facebook, Twitter and LINE@

Website: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/sns.html



Foreign Language Bulletin in Four Languages, *Shinjuku News*



This newspaper provides information for foreign residents, and is published four times per year.

Languages: Japanese (with *kana*), English, Chinese and Korean

Where you can find Shinjuku News: City Administration Information Center, Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F (1-4-1 Kabuki-cho); Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho) and local Branch Offices

Website: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/pdf/kuho/news.html



Information on Everyday Living for Foreign Residents of Shinjuku City



This bulletin introduces information necessary for every aspect of everyday life. It is divided into eight themes, including Preparing for Emergencies and Disasters, Employment and Status of Residence and Childbirth, Child-Raising, and Education.

Languages: Japanese (with *kana*), English, Chinese and Korean

Where you can find these guides: City Administration Information Center, Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F (1-4-1 Kabuki-cho); Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho) and local Branch Offices

Website: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/pdf/pdf.html



Official Website Information about Everyday Living for Foreign Residents



Information on everyday living for foreign residents is updated on the 5th, 15th and 25th of every month.

Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean

Website: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/index.html



Shinjuku City Scholarships for Foreign Students

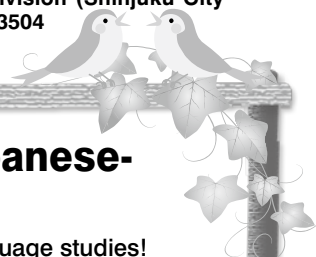
Shinjuku City offers scholarships of ¥240,000 for one year to 15 (tentative) foreign students with high grades who find it financially difficult to continue their studies.



- Eligibility**
- Those with a student visa status (Japanese-government-sponsored foreign students are not eligible.)
 - Those who have studied for one year or longer in Shinjuku City (under a master's or doctor's course at a graduate school or as an undergraduate or junior college student or in a specialized course at a specialized training college) and are planning to continue their studies for at least another year
 - Those who have completed foreign resident registration procedures in Shinjuku City and are currently living in Shinjuku City
 - Those with excellent grades, who are of good character, and find it financially difficult to continue their studies in Japan

To apply: Applications are accepted every year in May. Please apply at the coordination section of your school office. The Shinjuku City Office will make a final decision after a letter of recommendation is received from your school.

Inquiries: Multicultural Society Promotion Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F), Tel: 03-5273-3504



Why Not Challenge Yourself by Participating in the Japanese-Language Speech Contest "Shabeleon '17"?

Fill a five-minute speech with your enthusiasm, and show everyone the fruits of your Japanese-language studies!



Date and time: June 17 (Sat.), 2017, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. (subject to change)

Note: A party will be held after the contest.

Location: Shinjuku Bunka Center 3F, small hall (6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku)

Eligibility: Those who live, work or go to school in Shinjuku City and whose mother language is not Japanese. Restricted to those who have lived in Japan for two years or less. Although those who have entered the contest before may participate up to two times, including the upcoming contest, those who have won an award are not eligible to participate in the contest again.

Capacity: Eighteen contestants. If the number of applications exceeds capacity, preliminaries will be held.

Theme: As a rule, contestants are free to choose their own theme (must be unpublished), excluding those that criticize or praise a particular person or organization.

To apply: Submit a completed speech contest application form and your planned speech in person or by mail to the Regional Exchange Division below by May 10 (Wed.), 2017. For more information, see the contest guidelines.

Note: The speech contest application form and guidelines are available at the Regional Exchange Division below, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku), the Multicultural Society Promotion Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F) and Shinjuku Bunka Center.

Recruiting Students for Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Classes (April through July)

Let's learn basic Japanese for everyday living! If there is an opening, you can start in the middle of the term.



Eligibility: Beginning level for those who need to learn basic Japanese necessary for everyday living. However, those junior high school age and younger are not permitted to join the class.

Date and time: Weekdays, April through July 2017. There are classes that meet once a week and those that meet twice a week. Schedules vary depending on the class location. Class hours are 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Evening classes are on Mondays and Thursdays only.)

Location: Ten locations in the city, including Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Fee: Classes that meet once a week—¥2,000; classes that meet twice a week—¥4,000

To apply: Contact the Regional Exchange Division below by telephone, fax or e-mail.

Website: www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=273#sjc

E-mail: sjc@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp



Enjoy Studying with Your Kids! Family Japanese-Language Classes for Foreign Residents



Wouldn't it be fun to learn Japanese with your family? There are babysitting services, so families with infants and toddlers can study in a worry-free environment. You can join in at any time.



Eligibility: Foreign children and parents whose Japanese is at an introductory or beginner level

Date and time: Every Saturday from May 13 (Sat.) through July 22 (Sat.), 2017, from 10 a.m. to noon for a total of ten sessions

Location: Shinjuku Municipal Okubo Elementary School 3F, Tsutsuji Room (1-1-21 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku)

Fee: ¥500 per person (total of ten sessions); babysitting services are free of charge

Capacity: Twenty families on a first-come, first-served basis

To apply: You can apply by e-mail or postal mail to the Regional Exchange Division below. Please be sure to supply or write down (1) the parent's name (including *furigana*) and language he/she usually speaks; (2) the child's name (including *furigana*), age, and language he/she usually speaks; (3) address; (4) telephone number; (5) fax number (if you have one); and (6) name of the class.

Website: www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=40305

E-mail: chiiki@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp



Inquiries: Regional Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future (within Shinjuku Cosmic Center), 3-1-2 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku 169-0072, Tel: 03-3232-5121, Fax: 03-3209-1833

Have a Problem? Go to a *Koban* (Police Box)!

Kabukicho *Koban* Can Help in Foreign Languages



Many foreign residents live in Shinjuku City, and a lot of foreign tourists visit the city as well. To address their needs, police officers that can speak English or Chinese are stationed at the Kabukicho *koban* to offer help in those languages and more. You can relax because the officers can also help you in nineteen other languages using a computerized tablet device.

Q & A We speak with a Kabukicho *koban* police officer.

Q : Please tell us about the role of the *koban*.



A The *koban* is part of a system unique to Japan. Staffed by police officers twenty-four hours a day, *koban* serve as centers that protect the lives and safety of community residents. Have you ever seen a small building in your neighborhood with the letters "KOBAN" written on it? *Koban* are different from police stations. The officers stationed in *koban* patrol the neighborhood, keep lost children safe, give people directions, handle lost item reports and offer advice.

Q : How many foreign language-speaking police officers are there?



A There are about forty police officers in Shinjuku Police Station with which the Kabukicho *koban* is affiliated. If there is a need for consultation in a foreign language at another *koban* besides the Kabukicho *koban* under the jurisdiction of Shinjuku Police Station, they cooperate with the Metropolitan Police Department Interpretation Center to handle the case.

Consultations by telephone are also available.

Metropolitan Police Department Living and Safety Consultation Center

Eligibility: Foreign residents

Hours: Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Tel: 03-3503-8484

Q : What kinds of questions do foreigners ask you?



A Many people come to *koban* when they are lost or become separated from their family or friends. I have also been asked how to sort garbage, and how to complete change-of-address procedures when a person moves to a new home. One person came because he wasn't feeling well. We will try to solve the problem, but if we cannot do so, we will help that person connect with the city office or a hospital.

Q : Finally, please give us a message for our readers.



A Don't worry if you have a question or a problem not related to a crime or traffic accident. If you have a problem and don't know who to ask for help, the best idea is to go to your local *koban* and talk with a police officer. The officer will help you work toward a solution.

When to dial 110

Caution!

Remember that 110 is for emergencies only. Please do NOT dial 110 as a joke.

If you are a victim of a crime such as robbery or theft or involved in a traffic accident—or if you witness a crime or traffic accident—please dial 110 (available toll-free on a 24-hour basis). Police officers will come to your location immediately.

Why Not Use Your Skills on Behalf of the Community?

Volunteer Interpreters and Translators Sought

There are over 40,000 foreign residents from about 120 countries living in Shinjuku City. Among them are people unable to read important announcements in Japanese, and others who need an interpreter to participate in city events because of their lack of Japanese-language skills. People who can speak both Japanese and another language can help these residents.

We hope that as many people as possible will consider becoming volunteer interpreters and translators. If you know family members or friends who might volunteer, please tell them about this announcement.



Description of Activities

Interpreters: For Shinjuku City health checkups, international events, etc.
Translators: For Shinjuku City announcements, fliers for everyday living rules, announcements from elementary/junior high schools, etc.

Note: You can volunteer just to interpret or to translate if you like.

Recruiting Languages

Any language would be helpful.

In particular, there is an increasing need for interpreting and translating to and from Tagalog, Thai, Nepalese and Burmese.

Volunteer Requirements

Interpreters: Those who can speak Japanese.

Translators: Those who can read and write in Japanese.

Note: English-speaking volunteers must have an English-language proficiency test (Eiken) grade of Pre-1 or a TOEIC score of 800 or more. However, in some cases you can be registered even without these qualifications. Please ask for more information. There are no particular requirements for other languages. Please list your qualifications and experience on the application form.

Remuneration

There is no remuneration, although you may be reimbursed for transportation expenses.

Flow of Events from Application to Activity

Complete a volunteer interpreter/translator registration application form and submit it by e-mail or fax to the Regional Exchange Division below.

When your registration is complete, you will receive an e-mail.

When someone requests an interpreter/translator, an announcement is sent via e-mail to all registered volunteers.

Confirm the job description. If you are willing to take the assignment, please respond by e-mail. Volunteers are basically on a first-come, first-selected basis.

Interpreter: Go to the assignment location and provide assistance as requested.
Translator: Complete the translation by the designated deadline.

If you are to be reimbursed, you will receive the money directly later, or it will be paid into your designated financial account.



Regional Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future (within Shinjuku Cosmic Center), 3-1-2 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku 169-0072, Tel: 03-3232-5121, Fax: 03-3209-1833, E-mail: chiiki@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp

Shinjuku Celebrates Seventieth Anniversary on March 15, 2017



Shinjuku City is a town of many facets. The Shinjuku Station area is one of Japan's leading shopping districts and bustling outlet areas. We also have areas rich in natural greenery—such as Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and Otomeyama Park—and Kagurazaka, which has the smart atmosphere of old Edo.

Shinjuku City has preserved its traditions and history and nourished various cultures. We always strive to be a town overflowing with attractive qualities and to share these charms with everyone.

