

# Why Start a Business in Japan?

A Global Innovation Hub Offering Safety, Stability, and Strong Support

## Section 1: Extensive Government Support and Subsidy Programs

- R&D Grants: Foreign companies can apply if they establish subsidiaries in Japan. Programs like AMED support the medical field.
- Gap Funds and PoC Support: JST, NEDO, and local governments provide prototyping and market verification in collaboration with universities. Japan has one of the world's largest university-linked gap fund networks.
- University-Based VC Funds: University of Tokyo IPC and Kyoto University VC invest in deep tech startups, with a proven track record in U.S. startups as well.

## Section 2: User-Friendly IP and Legal Systems

- Copyright Rules for AI Training: Article 30-4 of Japan's Copyright Act allows the use of copyrighted works for machine learning, ensuring legal clarity and predictability.
- Robust and Cost-Effective Patent System: Japan ranks high in PCT filings and offers swift examinations.

## Section 3: Operational Cost Advantage

- Lower Labor Costs: Engineers' salaries are significantly lower than in the U.S., reducing startup burn rates.
- Affordable Urban Living: Even Tokyo is often less expensive than cities like San Francisco or New York.

## Section 4: Deep Tech Talent and Research Base

- Leading Universities: University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Tohoku University, etc.
- In addition, the Japanese government has launched a 10-trillion-yen university fund to provide long-term, stable support to universities aiming for world-class research standards, reflecting a strong national commitment to science and technology advancement.
- Stable employment culture and high employee retention.

## Section 5: Startup-Friendly Infrastructure

- TIB (Tokyo Innovation Base): Free co-working space for international entrepreneurs.
- BDCT (Business Development Center TOKYO): The support covers not only business, but also daily life issues
- Startup Visas and Incubation Programs: Well-established in cities like Tokyo, Osaka, and Fukuoka.

## Section 6: Safe and Secure Living Environment

- Low crime rate and political stability offer peace of mind for families.
- High-quality healthcare and education systems at reasonable costs.

## Section 7: Strategic Base for Expansion into Asia

- Excellent access to China, ASEAN, and India markets.
- The "Made in Japan" brand enhances global credibility.

## J-RISE Initiative (Japan Research & Innovation for Scientific Excellence)



**J-RISE Initiative**  
Japan Research & Innovation for Scientific Excellence

The Japanese government has just launched the “J-RISE Initiative” on June 13, 2025, aimed at strengthening efforts for international brain circulation. For more details, please visit the official website of J-RISE (<https://pitmc.org/>). Three principles of the initiative are as follows:

- To create a world-class research environment including cutting-edge research facilities.
- To invite researchers with world-class treatment.
- To promote the attractiveness of Japan, including its culture and living environment.



J-RISE Initiative

## Sector-Specific Support

- AI Startups: Legal clarity for training data use, access to RIKEN and AIST computational resources.
- Bio Startups: Support from AMED and PMDA, partnerships with Kansai Bio Cluster. JST's D-Global program provides pre-startup funding of up to JPY 500 million (approximately JPY 300 million over three years), with about half of selected projects being in the bio field.
- Quantum Startups: Collaboration opportunities with QST, University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, IMS, Toshiba, NICT, and national projects.

## Support Ecosystem

<b>NINEJP</b>		
Nationwide university startup network.		
<b>JETRO</b>		
Market information, incorporation and business matching.		
<b>Tokyo Metropolitan Government</b>		 
Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TiB): Space, support programs, and event opportunities.		
Tokyo Metropolitan Government (BDCT) : The support covers not only business, but also daily life issues		

Please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you !