

Nagoya City's Approach to Promoting Local Japanese Language Education 2025-2029 Summary

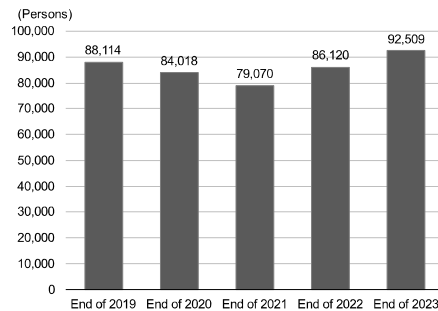
Introduction

Nagoya City aims to be a “Multicultural City” where people of different nationalities and ethnicities can live happily together. To that end, we have summarized our ideas and actions for improving the Japanese language learning environment.

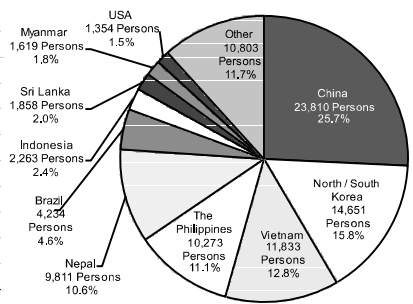
Chapter 1 Current Situation and Issues of Regional Japanese Language Education

1 Foreign Residents Situation (from the “Statistics on foreign residents” (as of the end of 2023))

Many foreign nationals from many countries and regions live in Nagoya City. The number of foreign residents has been increasing year by year, and at the end of 2023, it reached an all-time high. It is expected to continue to increase in the future.



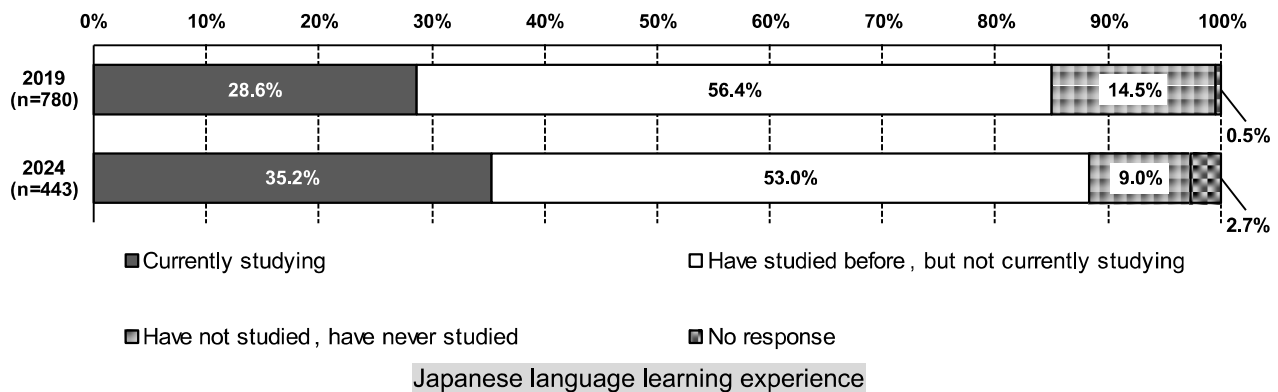
Changes in the Number of Foreign Residents



Situation by Country/Region

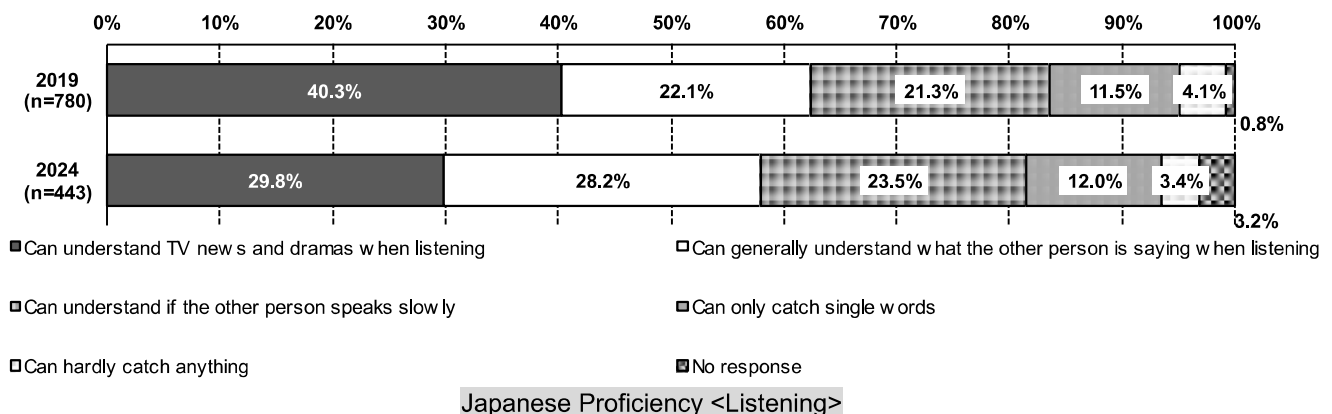
2 Situation of Japanese Language Learning of Foreign Residents (from the “Questionnaire Survey regarding Japanese Language Learning”)

Compared to the previous survey, the number of people who answered “currently studying” has increased.



The percentage of people at the top three levels of Japanese proficiency has not changed significantly.

(The graph below is for “listening,” but “speaking,” “reading,” and “writing” were the same.)



Chapter 2 Basic Policy

Although people who want to learn Japanese are becoming able to study, we have not yet reached the state we have been aiming for. Therefore, Nagoya City will continue to improve the environment for Japanese language learning as follows.

1 Regional Japanese Language Education Vision for the Region

Through foreign residents and Japanese people being able to communicate in Japanese, a multicultural society (a society where people of various cultures live together) will be created in various regions of Nagoya.

- Foreign residents are living independently in the community.
- Foreign residents are active and participating in society in the community.
- Foreign residents and Japanese people communicate frequently, understand each other, and live together in society.
- Foreign residents learn Japanese, and Japanese people speak in “easy Japanese” (Japanese that foreign residents can understand).

2 Important Considerations for Regional Japanese Language Education

We will ensure that foreign residents who want to learn Japanese have the opportunity to study the “Japanese necessary for daily life.”

- * While learning “Japanese necessary for daily life,” they will also learn about Japanese society, which is necessary for living.

3 The Level of Japanese Language Proficiency that Nagoya City Wants Foreign Residents to Attain

A level where they can participate in society around them in Japanese if people around them help them.

(How the people around them can help: Using “easy Japanese,” speaking slowly, etc.)

- If they are spoken to in simple Japanese, they can understand questions and what is being said.
- They can answer with single words when asked simple questions. When they don't understand, they can ask the speaker to repeat or speak slowly. They can ask simple questions, such as asking for directions.
- If it is written in a way that foreign nationals can understand, they can understand the meaning of words and sentences that are often seen in daily life.
- If they look up the Japanese syllabary or a dictionary, or if people around them help them, they can write short sentences such as letters.

4 Foreign Residents Who Especially Need Regional Japanese Language Education

Among the foreign residents living in Japan, those who have not yet reached the desired level of Japanese language proficiency

- ▼ Those who want to learn Japanese ⇒ Can have opportunities to learn Japanese
- ▼ Those who do not want to learn Japanese ⇒ Understand that learning Japanese is important

Chapter 3 Basic Measures

In cooperation with various people and organizations, we will increase the number of places to learn Japanese and train people to teach Japanese.

We will also deliver information on Japanese language learning so that many people can learn Japanese.

1. Promote the creation of places and opportunities for Japanese language learning

For example... Help solve problems in Japanese language classes

Create new classes that meet the needs of learners, etc.

2. Increase and train people to conduct regional Japanese language education

For example... Increase the number of people who teach Japanese

Help people who teach Japanese to continue their activities for a long time, etc.

3. Collect and deliver information on regional Japanese language education

For example... Collect information on Japanese language classes, etc.

Make it possible to search for Japanese language classes on the Internet, etc.

4. Convey the importance of Japanese language learning to foreign residents

For example... Convey the importance of being able to use Japanese in daily life

Plan events that make people want to learn Japanese, etc.

5. Encourage Japanese citizens to understand Japanese language learning for foreign residents

For example... Convey the situation of foreign residents to Japanese citizens

Make it possible to use "easy Japanese" in government office procedures, etc.

6. Create a system to improve the environment for Japanese language learning

For example... Create a place to hear opinions from foreign nationals and people familiar with Japanese language learning

Make it possible for the entire government office to improve the environment for Japanese language learning, etc.

Chapter 4 Regarding Promotion

1 Support System

We will improve the Japanese language learning environment in cooperation with the following people and organizations.

1. National, Aichi Prefecture, and Nagoya City government offices
2. Nagoya International Center
3. Organizations that run Japanese language classes
4. Organizations that promote multicultural coexistence and support foreign nationals
5. Japanese language schools and institutions that train people to teach Japanese in schools
6. Companies and universities
7. Neighborhood associations and residents' associations
8. People and organizations interested in Japanese language education, foreign residents, etc.

2 Performance Measurement

We aim to improve the following percentage figures for Nagoya City as a whole.

Item	FY2024
Japanese Language Proficiency of Foreign Residents (Listening) Percentage of “Can understand if the other person speaks slowly” or higher	81.5%
Japanese Language Proficiency of Foreign Residents (Speaking) Percentage of “Can have simple daily conversations” or higher	74.9%
Japanese Language Proficiency of Foreign Residents (Reading) Percentage of “Can understand the information they want by looking at advertisements, flyers, station timetables, and guides” or higher	65.7%
Japanese Language Proficiency of Foreign Residents (Writing) Percentage of “Can write a simple memo to convey requirements to colleagues, family members, etc.” or higher	65.9%
Percentage of foreign residents who want to learn and are currently able to learn	40.7%

Concept of Nagoya City's Regional Japanese Language Education Promotion 2025-2029 (February 2025)

Nagoya City Bureau of Tourism - Culture & Exchange International Relations Division

Nagoya International Center Programs Division

TEL: 052-972-3061

MAIL: a3061@kankobunkakoryu.city.nagoya.lg.jp