

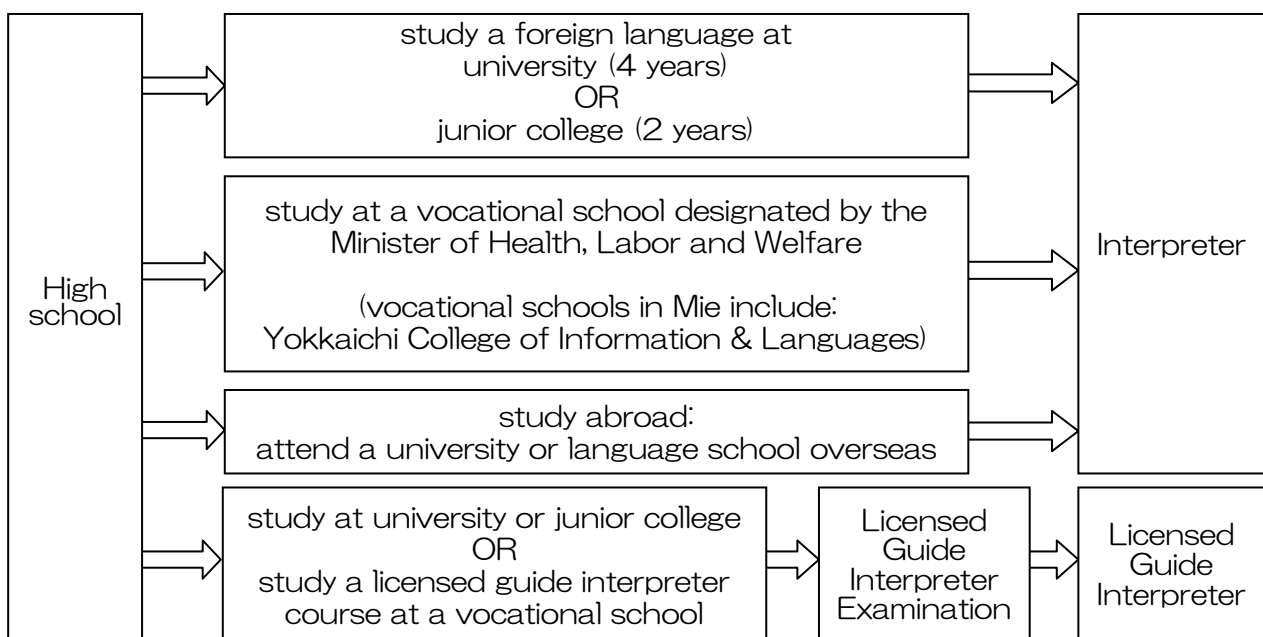
39 Interpreter



Interpreters are required when people who speak different languages need to communicate. The work of an interpreter may involve interpreting for tour guides, business negotiations or business meetings. Interpreters have an important role in building a bridge between Japan and other countries. Some interpreters also interpret for foreign residents who cannot speak Japanese in hospitals or schools.

Interpreters are not only expected to be fluent in two languages but are also expected to have expert knowledge and skills. Although there are no specific qualifications required to be an interpreter, one must have high linguistic ability, be able to understand nuances and be able to sense a speaker's emotion and intention to be an interpreter.

Becoming an interpreter:



Prepare now:

If you wish to be an interpreter, you have to learn two or more languages. To translate into Japanese, a high level of Japanese proficiency is required. Work towards improving both your native language and Japanese skills. Also make sure to be diligent in your studies at school. Studying at a vocational school or studying abroad is an effective way to gain a deeper understanding of foreign cultures or languages. Start saving up money for tuition or overseas study.

Job prospects:

Interpreters generally find work by registering with a recruitment agency. Many interpreters also work on a freelance basis. Interpreters are often requested for business meetings, business negotiations and sports or entertainment industry events.

If you pass the Licensed Guide Interpreter Examination, it is also possible to work as a licensed guide interpreter for foreign tourists visiting Japan.

Tuition:

The tuition fee to study for 4 years at a public university costs upwards of 2.4 million yen or upwards of 4 million yen to study for 4 years at a private university. Alternatively, the tuition fee to study for 2 years at a junior college costs upwards of 1.8 million yen.