

Are You Receiving Child Allowance (Jidou Teate)? Apply within May!

Child allowance program is a scheme which provides financial support to a household in raising children from newborn until elementary school graduation. However, if either of the parents income exceeds that given in the Child allowance program outline, they will not qualify for this program. (*Check the Income Limit Amount Below)

The income inspection date for getting child allowance will be switched. The 2009 June allowance will be decided depending on the income for 2009(the amount from 2008). People who are not getting the allowance due to income exceeding the limit, should ask for a recognition before May 29th as the recognition may lead to qualifying for the allowance.

Furthermore, current receivers of the allowance will be sent a "Genkyou Todoke"(Current State Form) in the middle of June, whereby the current income should be stated and accordingly the continuation of the allowance will be decided.

Those who have just moved in and have not applied for the Child Allowance Program before should apply as soon as possible, as the qualified persons may start getting the assistance from the following month after income inspection. Be careful that if you forget to apply after moving in, you cannot get back the previous benefits, even if you are qualified.

Outline For Child Allowance

Eligible recipients are children until 12 years of age, and the payments will end on March 31st of the year following the child's 12th birthday. However, you won't get the allowance once your previous year's income exceeds the limit. (The allowance for January ~ May will be decided from the income of the year before last.)

Monthly Child Allowance Benefits

Children Under 3 years		10,000 yen
3 years and above	First and second child	5,000 yen
	Third and onwards	10,000 yen

Payment period: a lump-sum payment in February, June and October for accrued benefits up to the previous month.

Income Limit Amount

Applicants will be screened by considering the taxable income of the previous year or the year before that, numbers of the dependant family members, and types of pension they are enrolled in. (The income limit amount will be applied to the higher one among the parents.)

No. of dependent family members	Including National pension scheme or not including annual pension	Including employee pension and pension from place of employment
0	4,600,000 Yen	5,320,000 Yen
1	4,980,000 Yen	5,700,000 Yen
2	5,360,000 Yen	6,080,000 Yen
3	5,740,000 Yen	6,460,000 Yen

*According to the Income Tax Act, if there is tax deduction based on elderly spouse or aged dependent family member, 60,000 Yen per elderly member should be added to the limitation value.

* If the number of dependent family members exceeds three, then for every exceeding member 380,000 Yen should be added to the limitation value.

* There may be other deductions to limitation amount, so even if the income exceeds the limitation amount, request for recognition and take the screening.

Important Documents needed for applying for recognition

1. Copy of the insurance card of the applicant.
2. Copy of the bank book with the applicants name on it.
3. Seal (signature is OK).
4. Apart from the above, all the necessary documents needed for proving income.

※The necessary documents can be submitted later, please apply within the applying period.

※The application procedure for civil servants are different, please confirm with the place of work.

※People working at Independent Administrative Institutions, Public Universities, Inter-university research institutes etc.: Please do the procedure at the City Hall.

Contact Information: Tsukuba City Council, Children's Services Division (Kodomo-ka); Tel: 029-836-1111

Pay the Automobile Tax by June 1st

Every year, the automobile tax is levied on car holders as of April 1st (registered owner of the vehicle inspection certificate). After receiving the tax payment notice one can pay at banks, convenience stores or at the Prefectural Tax Office before June 1st.

Moreover, the light vehicles tax is levied on owners of light vehicles or motorized bicycles as of April 1st. Notice for light vehicles tax will be sent to the owners within May, so be sure to pay the tax within the payment period.

Contact:

Automobile Tax: Prefectural Tax Office in Tsuchiura

Tel: 029-822-7208

Light Vehicles Tax: Tsukuba

City Hall Municipal Tax Division; 029-836-1111



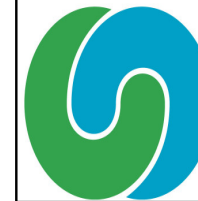
Notice Board for Foreign Residents at the Information Centre

The Ibaraki Prefecture Tsukuba Information Centre inside the Tsukuba Centre Building, used to distribute pamphlets and display information for foreign residents on the notice board, but from April last year the information centre got closed. However, from April 2009, the Tsukuba City took over the operations and has reopened the information centre. The contents of the display are yet to be decided and it will have a different look, magazines and pamphlets for foreign residents will be distributed once again. Other than the pamphlets and magazines, information which could not be inserted in the monthly bulletin will also be available. Moreover, people may display events related to International Exchange under certain conditions. People who wish to display information need to contact the International Relations and Culture Division at the Tsukuba City Hall. (Industrial or personal buying and selling information will not be displayed. Other than this, information may not be displayed depending on the content)

Contact: Tsukuba City Hall International Relations and Culture Division

Tel: 029-836-1111

Email: ctz031@info.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp



the **tsukuba**

MAY 2009

bulletin

TSUKUBA CITY HALL
International Relations & Culture Division
 City Hall- Sakura Branch Office
 1979 Konda, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0018
 TEL: 029-836-1111 (ext. 5412).
 Email: ctz030@info.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp

Have You Already Applied for the Fixed Allowance?

As published in the April bulletin, the Japanese government has started the provision of a fixed allowance in order to counter the serious economic recession. The fixed allowance aims to support the livelihood of the people, as well as restoring regional economies by handing out certain amount of money. This also includes foreign residents; however residents with a "short-term stay" visa status or those who are staying illegally will not be eligible to apply for the fixed allowance.

The Fixed Allowance will be provided by the local municipalities where the eligible person was registered in the resident registration or alien registration on February 1st, 2009, the criterion date. Eligible people in Tsukuba have been sent a notification and an application form for the allowance between the end of March and the beginning of April. Eligible people should fill out the application form, and mail it together with the necessary documents to the "Fixed Allowance Office" of the Tsukuba City Hall. (*Mailing is free of charge)

If a person fails to submit the application form within the application period, no Fixed Allowance will be provided. The application deadline is 24th of September 2009(as indicated by the postmark on the envelope). It is highly recommended to apply as soon as possible.

Even if a person applies, they will not be eligible if their visa has expired. To get the allowance one needs to have the visa valid on or before February 1st, 2009 until the verification day. Therefore it is necessary to get the visa updated at the Immigration Bureau and then update the Alien Registration at the City Hall before contacting the Fixed Allowance Office.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why didn't I receive the application form?

All eligible people were mailed an application form. However people who moved to Tsukuba after February 1st and have not received the form need to contact the municipality where they were registered on February 1st. Even if one is currently living in Tsukuba, the provision of the allowance will be done by the municipality where they were registered on February 1st. When applying, write the current residential address and the phone number and send it with a copy of both sides of the Alien Registration Card. (The back of the Alien Registration card confirms the change in the residential address)

2. My wife and kids do not have a bank account, is it possible to receive their allowance in my bank account?

In the case of foreign residents, one application form per person has been sent, however in case the family members are in the same household, the application form for all members have been sent in one envelope. People who received the application forms for all the members in one envelope can receive the allowance for all members of the family in one account.

3. If a child is not able to write yet, is it possible for parents to fill the forms for their children?

In case of children, guardians may fill the children's application forms; however make sure to enclose the children's necessary documents as well.

4.) What are the necessary documents to submit together with the application form?

a) Copy of the Alien Registration Card (For all members of the family)

b) Copy of the cash card or the bank book for the money transfer. (The account holders name in katakana should be visible for confirmation, thus in case of the bank book, the copy of the first page of the bank book is needed not copy of the cover.)

*** Be Careful of Fraud**

Recently, frauds where people pretending to be City Hall employees, tricked others into revealing personal information, or asking people to pay them regarding City Hall matters. Be careful that the City Hall employees do not ask people to pay the City Hall by money transfer, nor do they visit homes to receive money. Note that there are no fees for the fixed allowance. It is also recommended that you refrain from revealing personal information on the phone to strangers.

Contact

Tsukuba City Hall, Fixed Allowance Office (1st floor Yatabe Branch Office) Tel: 029-836-9811 (It is possible to get assistance in English at the Fixed Allowance Office)

Enjoy Exchange Beyond Nationality!

1. International Café (City Chat Café)

At the Tsukuba University, the City Chat Café has been established with the aim of promoting exchange between foreigners and Japanese people who live in Tsukuba through casual conversations. Regardless of age or nationality, people can enjoy chatting in English or Japanese, while drinking coffee. No fees or reservations needed. The event is held twice every month at the Lala Garden shopping centre. The planned dates are as follows: May 24th, 31st; June 7th, 13th; Time: 14:00~16:00.

The dates after June 13th will be posted on the website after it is decided. For more information please contact the Tsukuba University International Café Office on the following address: icafe@sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp

URL : <http://www.sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp/~icafe/>

2. International Women's Network

The "International Women's Network" is a group where ladies from different parts of the world can meet and enjoy friendly conversations. A potluck party is held every month, where information regarding the local community is exchanged. As long as one brings an item, one can participate (no reservations needed). There are foreign members as well as Japanese members, and new comers are warmly welcome. (Languages are mainly English and Japanese). The dates and locations of the monthly parties and other details can be found at the following URL: <http://tsukubawomen.wordpress.com/>

Email: tsukubawomen@gmail.com

Library information: Tsukuba Public Library.
TEL: (856) 4311. Open : Tue thru Fri: 9:30-19:00, Sa/Su/holiday 9:30-17:00
Other than Tsukuba Public Library, there the library rooms at Yatabe Community hall, Tsukuba Community hall, Onogawa Community Hall and Kukizaki Community hall.(Tue - Fri: 10am - 6pm)
Library closed on: May: 18, 25; June: 1, 8, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29
When borrowing from the library...
When borrowing books and other materials from the city libraries you will need a "Member's Card". If you are a resident in Tsukuba, you can simply apply at the central library or community center libraries after having presented some document that states your address. Even if you don't live in Tsukuba, but work or study here, you can apply for a card, but you will also need to present a work or student ID.
Story telling: The library organizes story telling meetings in the "Story Room" at the back of the Children's Corner. Stories are told by volunteer story tellers.
May 16, 23, 30 : 3.00pm-3.30pm
May 23: 3.00 - 3.30pm; 3.30 - 4.00pm
June 6, 13, 20: 3.00pm-3.30pm

Consultation center for foreigners
The Tsukuba City Hall as well as the Ibaraki International Association provides consultation to foreign residents regarding problems in their livelihood.
Consultation room for foreigners living in Tsukuba (Tsukuba City Hall)
Schedule: Tuesday and Wednesday - 10:00~12:00, 13:00~16:45 (Closed on holidays)
English and Thai: Tuesday; Chinese and Korean: Wednesday
You can either call us or come in person. (If you decide to come in person be sure to make an appointment by phone on the same day.) It is free and everything said will be strictly confidential. TEL: 029-857-1870

Consultation center for foreigners (Ibaraki International Association, Mito)
Schedule: Monday - Friday 8:30~12:00, 13:00~17:15 (Closed on holidays)
English and Japanese: Monday-Friday; Chinese: Monday (13:30~17:15) and Wednesday; Portuguese: Monday (8:30~12:15) and Thursday; Spanish: Tuesday; Korean: Tuesday; Thai: Wednesday and Friday; Tagalog: Thursday
You can either call us or come in person. It is free and every thing said will be strictly confidential. TEL: 029-244-3811

Come and look before the public auction!
Tsukuba City Hall will organize an event to display articles that will later be available in an internet auction. The event will be held on May 28th from 10:00 to 20:00 at the shopping mall Iias Tsukuba (close to TX Kenkyū-gakuen station) on the 2nd floor, Iias Hall C. Auction inventory ranges from cooking appliances, beer machines, paintings, wine storages, high-quality table sets etc.
Inquiries: Tsukuba City Hall, Collection Services Task Force, Tel: 029-836-1111

Eco-life information
1.)Tsukuba recycling market
Several times every year volunteers open a market with used goods. Clothes, electric appliances and other miscellaneous goods are lined up for sale. Entrance is free of charge, but smoking within the meeting place is forbidden.
Date and time: May 24th, 10:00-14:00
***Will be cancelled in case of rain.**
Place: Tsukuba, Central Park, Mizu no hiroba (Tsukuba, Azuma 2-7-5/ in front of the Suijō rest house)
Parking lot: the closest one is the "Kita dai 2 chūshajō" (*fee: 220 yen per hour)

2.)Subsidy system for purchasing a raw garbage disposer
In order to reduce the amount of raw garbage made by the households of Tsukuba, the city hall will start a subsidy system for the purchase of a raw garbage disposer or container. (However, if the subsidy budget for 2009 runs out, the system will be ended.) If you are living in Tsukuba and haven't received the subsidy in the last five years, and you want to lower the amount of your raw garbage, we encourage you to apply. The details regarding the subsidy are as follows.
Raw garbage container (compost containers, EM mycogenous garbage container, manually-operated disposers etc.): disposers that use the microorganisms within earth to ferment garbage and turn it into compost.

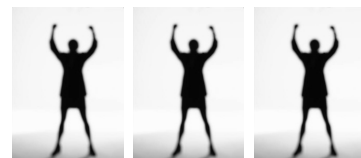
Subsidy amount: 50% of the purchased price (However the upper limit is 15,000 yen and one household may receive the subsidy for up to 2 disposers.)
Electric raw garbage disposers: disposers that use electricity to ferment or to dry the garbage and the turn it into compost.
Subsidy amount: 50% of the purchased price (However the upper limit is 15,000 yen and one household may receive the subsidy for only 2 disposers.)

How to apply
Be sure to fill out an application form before buying a disposer. The application form (4 pages) can be found in all city hall branches (expect Kasuga branch) at the reception (at Kukizaki branch only: on the 2nd floor in the Recycling Division) or it can be downloaded from the Tsukuba city homepage (Japanese version).
Among the 4 pages of the application forms is 1 page that needs to be filled out by the store where you plan on buying your disposer (To prove the model and the price). Please be sure to get it filled out by the store's representative. After buying the disposer, please fill out the rest of the application form and hand it in together with the receipt to the city hall. If your application is approved, the subsidy will be paid directly to the designated bank account.

Inquiries: Tsukuba City Hall, Recycling Division, Tel: 029-836-1111

Population of Tsukuba (as of April 1st 2009)

Population: 209,388
Male: 107,414
Female: 101,974
Households: 84,029



Are you thinking of working in Japan?
Employment guidance for foreign students
Employment guidance is going to be held for foreign students who are scheduled to graduate universities, graduate schools, junior colleges, vocational high schools, and vocational colleges in March and September 2010, as well as March 2011. Participants will be taught how to find a job in Japan, change their residential status, and also they will receive useful information regarding employment in Japan. (Participation: free of charge)
Date: May 22nd, June 2nd and 16th, July 2nd and 16th
*The meeting time will always be from 10:00 to 12:00. (Please be punctual.)
Meeting place: Hello Work Shinagawa, Tokyo Foreigners Employment Service Center, Tokyo, Minato-ku, Roppongi, Roppongi Job Park 2nd floor, Meeting floor (*Deai no furoa*)
Program: How to find a job in Japan, changing the residential status and choosing a profession, "job-hunting" manners, how to register and make use of the Tokyo Foreigners Employment Service Center
*On the day of the guidance please bring your Alien Registration Certificate, Student ID and something to write with.
How to apply: Persons who wish to participate should make an appointment at the Tokyo Foreigners Employment Service Center either by phone or by e-mail (sending an application form from the homepage). Tel:03-3588-8639; URL:http://www.tfemploy.go.jp/index.html
Business manner seminar for foreign students
This seminar will provide insight on business manners that people should mind while trying to get a job in Japan. On the day of the seminar please wear formal clothes. Also please bring your Alien Registration Certificate, Student ID and something to write with.
Date: May 20th, June 18th
*The meeting time will always be from 10:00 to 12:00. (Please be punctual.)
*All the participants are obliged to make an appointment. (Limit of 10 people per seminar) If you want to cancel, please let us know beforehand.
Meeting place: Hello Work Shinagawa, Tokyo Foreigners Employment Service Center, Tokyo, Minato-ku, Roppongi, Roppongi Job Park 5th floor conference room
Program: Entering and exiting a room for a job interview, practicing greeting and talking when looking for a job, "job-hunting" manners
How to apply: Persons that wish to participate should apply by phone to the Tokyo Foreigners Employment Service Center; Tel: 03-3588-8639

Clinics Open During Sundays
May 17: Jin-ai Naika Iin, Onozaki 785-1, TEL: 855- 4577
Terazaki Clinic, Yoshinuma 1437-1, TEL:865-0034
May 24: Tsukuba Hakua Clinic, Mase 918-1, TEL:837-0208
Nakagawa Iin, Shinozaki 2272-1, TEL:864-7760
May 31:Togo Iin, Tateno 636, TEL:837-1785
Hojo Iin, Hanabatake 3-28-8, TEL: 864-0006
June 7: Hayashi Clinic, Inarimae 5-6, TEL:859-0550
Minano Clinic Naika Kokyuki-ka, Nishihiratsuka 318-1, TEL:850-4159
June 14:Higashi Geka Naika Iin, Higashi 2-26-16, TEL:856-7070
Hilltop Clinic, Sa 1004, TEL:877-3130
June 21:Narushima Clinic, Tateno 363, TEL: 839-2170
Atsushi Clinic, Tamiyama 975, TEL:850-7878
June 28:Nemoto Clinic, Onigakubo 1108, TEL: 847-0550
Ogura Iin, Numata 181, TEL: 866-0108

Preventative Vaccination for Infants
Preventative vaccination for infants carried out by the Tsukuba City, is a fixed term preventative vaccination complied with the Preventative Vaccination Act. There are two ways to get the vaccination. The "Individual Vaccination", for which one needs to make a reservation at the cooperating medical institutions. The other is "Group Vaccination" which one can get at the Health Centre on the days specified by the Health Centers. Certain age groups may get the vaccination free of charge. The Group Vaccination is only for Polio vaccinations, while other vaccinations are as Individual Vaccination.
Polio Vaccination "Group Vaccinations"
It is best for siblings who have not yet been vaccinated to get it on the same day to prevent infection in the family. Please select a suitable date and place to get the vaccination.
Qualifying age: from 3 months ~ 90 months. Reception hours: 13:00~14:20. *No reservations and vaccination will be done in the order of reception.
*Children over the age of 1, who haven't been vaccinated, need to get vaccination for measles and rubella as a priority.
Sakura Health Center: May 18, 26., June 11, 22
Yatabe Health Centre: May 29, June 8, 19
Oho Health Center: June 1

Medical examination for infants
Health check-ups for 18 months old and 3 year old infants will be held at the city's health centers. Regardless of your address, you may take your child for the medical examination at either the Sakura Health Center or the Yatabe Health Center. The eligible persons will be notified by the end of the previous month.
Inquiries: Sakura Health Center Tel: 029-857-3931
Yatabe Health Center Tel: 029-838-1100
Check-up for 18 month old infants
*If you cannot come by the designated date, please do so before the child becomes 2 years old.
May (born in October 2007): Sakura Health Center: 20th, 22nd
June (born in November 2007):Yatabe Health Center: 3rd, 24th
Sakura Health Center: 23rd,
Check-up for 3 year old infants
*If you cannot come by the designated date, please do so before the child becomes 4 years old.
May (born in April 2006): Sakura Health Center: 19th
June (born in May 2006): Sakura Health Center: 4th, 16th
Yatabe Health Center: 10th

AIDS consultation center for foreigners
Tsukuba Health center provides free AIDS and health consultation for foreigners in English and Thai, be it by phone or in person. Also the center organizes free and anonymous HIV, Chlamydia, syphilis, and hepatitis tests. An appointment is necessary for both consultation and testing. The appointments are taken in Japanese, so do not hesitate to make an appointment even in broken Japanese.
Tel (appointment and consultation): 029-851-4920
Consultation in English: Every first Monday of the month (13:00-15:00)
Consultation in Thai: Every third Monday of the month (13:00-15:00)
Location: Tsukuba, Matsushiro 4 chōme 27
E-mail: tsuho@pref.ibaraki.lg.jp