

がいこくじんそうごうそうだん ぞうだん
 「外国人総合相談センター」への相談から
 にほん きか
 Q.28) 「日本への帰化」について

こた
 答え

■**帰化とは**：日本人になることを希望して申請した外国籍の人に
 対して、法務大臣の許可によって、日本の国籍を与える制度で
 す。帰化が許可されると、官報（*国の機関紙。インターネットのウェブ
 サイトでも見ることができる。）に告示された日から日本人となります。
 申請窓口は、住んでいる地域の法務局 国籍課です。（*取り扱
 法務局：さいたま地方務局本局、川越・熊谷・秩父・所沢・東松山・越谷・
 久喜の各支局）

■**永住と帰化の違い**：◇永住の申請窓口は、入国管理局です。
 永住許可を受ければ、無期限に日本に住むことができ、在留活動
 （仕事）にも制限がありません。本国の国籍はそのままなので、
 母国に帰ることが簡単にできます。◇日本は、二重国籍を禁止し
 ていますので、帰化した場合、原則として母国の国籍を捨てるこ
 とになります。◇全ての面で、日本人と全く同じ権利が与えられ
 ます。例えば、選挙・被選挙権が与えられ、公務員にもなれま
 す。日本のパスポートを持ち、外国での日本政府の邦人保護の
 対象にもなります。ただし、母国の国籍に戻ることが難しい国
 もあるので、注意しましょう。

■**帰化の条件**：最低限の条件を定めたもので、これらの条件を
 満たしていても、必ずしも帰化が許可されるとは限りません。

【**住所条件**】正しい在留資格を持っていて、申請をするまで
 に、引き続き5年以上日本に住んでいること。

【**能力条件**】20歳以上で、本国の法律によっても成人の年齢
 に達していること。

【**素行条件**】素行が善良であること（*犯罪歴の有無、納税状況、
 社会への迷惑の有無などから総合的に判断）。

【**生計条件**】生活に困るようなことがなく、日本で暮らしていけ
 ることが必要（*生計を一にする親族単位で判断される）。

【**重国籍防止条件**】【**憲法遵守条件**】のほか、【**日本語能力
 条件**】（*小学校2~3年程度の読み書きができること）。

■**帰化の申請方法**：本人（15歳未満のときは、父母などの法定
 代理人）が、自ら住所を管轄する法務局に行き、必要書類を添
 えて、書面によって申請します。

※帰化の手続きは、提出する書類が非常に多く、複雑です。本国か
 ら取り寄せなければならない書類もあります。個人によって必要書
 類が異なります。審査基準や審査の期間も決まっています。帰化
 を希望する人は、先ず法務局国籍課に行って相談してください。

“SIS” Question and Answer :

Q.28) About “Naturalization in Japan”

Answer

■**What is naturalization?**: It is a system that ,by permission of the
 Minister of Justice, Government gives Japanese nationality to a
 foreign national who wishes to obtain Japanese nationality and ap-
 plies for it. When naturalization is permitted, the result is announced
 by a public notice in the official gazette, or “*Kanpou*” (*It’s a kind of
 national bulletin, which you can also find on the internet). Nationaliza-
 tion comes into effect from the day when the notice is made public.
 The application has to be made at the **Nationality Division in the
 Regional Legal Affairs Bureau**, “*Homu-kyoku, Kokuseki-ka*”,
 governing the area where the foreign national
 lives. (*Bureaus that are available for foreign
 nationals to make applications: the Main Office of
 Saitama Regional Legal Affairs Bureau, the Branch
 Offices of Kawagoe, Kumagaya, Chichibu, Tokoro-
 zawa, Higashi-matsuyama, and Kuki.)



■**Differences between “Permanent Residence” and “Naturaliza-
 tion”**: ◇An application for the residence status of “**Permanent
 Residence**” should be made at the Immigration Bureau. A perma-
 nent resident has no limit on the period of stay in Japan and on the
 activities authorized to engage in. In addition, as one retains foreign
 nationality, one can easily leave Japan and go back to one’s home
 country. ◇**Japan prohibits Japanese nationals from possessing
 dual nationalities. After being naturalized, the person has to
 lose his/her foreign nationality by law.** ◇After naturalization he/
 she is granted the same rights as original Japanese in every respect.
 For example, he/she is given both the right to vote and eligibility for
 election, and even a chance to become a public servant. He/she can
 obtain a Japanese passport and is entitled to have Japanese Govern-
 ment protection overseas. Be aware that you might not be permitted
 to reinstate the status of your previous citizenship in some countries.

■**Requirements for naturalization**: The following are the mini-
 mum requirements for naturalization. Fulfilling all of these require-
 ments by itself does not always enable an applicant to be permitted
 to become naturalized.

[**Duration of Stay**] You are required to have a valid residence
 status at the time of application and to have been living in Japan
 consecutively for at least five years.

[**Qualification**] You are required to be twenty years of age or older
 and have reached the official age as an adult in your home country.

[**Conduct**] You are required to be a person of good conduct. (*You
 are judged as a whole by assessment factors including having or not
 having a criminal record, paying or not paying your taxes and being or
 not being a nuisance to society.)

[**Livelihood**] You are required to be able to secure a livelihood in
 Japan. (*The property and the economic ability of your spouse or other
 relatives with whom you live and share common living expenses should
 be taken into account.)

There are other conditions such as [**Conditions that prevent Dual
 Nationality**], [**Allegiance to the Constitution of Japan**] and
 [**Japanese Language Ability**] (*You need to have Japanese reading
 and writing skills equivalent to the language level of second-year or
 third-year students of elementary school.)

■**How to apply for naturalization**: Application should be made in
 person. You should submit your application form and the required
 documents to the Regional Legal Affairs Bureau governing the area
 where you live. (If an applicant is under 15 years of age, a legal
 representative such as his/her parent can apply for naturalization
 instead.)

※The naturalization process is very complicated and requires many
 documents including ones that have to be sent from your home coun-
 try. Required documents differ from person to person.
 Neither the assessment standard nor the assessment
 duration is fixed. When you want to become a Japa-
 nese national, you are well advised first to go to the
 Nationality Division in the Regional Legal Affairs Bu-
 reau and consult with an officer about your case.



がいこくじんそうごうそうだん さいたま
 「外国人総合相談センター埼玉」：TEL.048-833-3296
 げつ きんようひ のぞ
 月～金曜日 9:00 am ~ 4:00 pm (祝日・12/29 ~ 1/3 を除く)