

To Foreign Residents: Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Basic Resident Registration Card

Q1 What is the Basic Resident Registration Card?

A1 The Basic Resident Registration Card is a highly secure IC card that can be issued at your municipality of residence. It forms the basis of Electronic government and Electronic municipality which enables online applications, etc. for administrative procedures, and is helpful in increasing the convenience and efficiency of administrative affairs.
Foreign residents will be eligible to receive the Basic Resident Registration Card from July 8, 2013.

Q2 What is recorded on the Basic Resident Registration Card?

A2 ① For the type with photo, the following information is recorded.

- Photo
- Name
- Nickname (appellation) (only for those whose nickname (appellation) is recorded on their Resident Record)
- Address
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Municipality of issuance
- Expiration date
- Others (Differs by municipality. Examples: contact information, notes, city emblem, mascot, etc.)

② For the type without photo, the following information is recorded.

- Name
- Nickname (appellation) (only for those whose nickname (appellation) is recorded on their Resident Record)
- Municipality of issuance
- Expiration date
- Others (Differs by municipality. Examples: contact information, notes, city emblem, mascot, etc.)

① With Photo



② Without Photo



※ Some municipalities have their own design on the card.

Q3 How can I use the Basic Resident Registration Card?

A3 If you acquire the Basic Resident Registration Card, you have the following benefits.

- Online application for administrative procedures that require an electronic certificate for identity verification is possible.
 - ※ If you obtain a “Public Certification Service for Individuals electronic certificate” at the counter for issuing the Basic Resident Registration Card of your municipality, you can perform online application for some administrative procedures which allows you to perform those procedures with administrative organs, etc. from a home or office computer and not appear at the counter. For the procedures and necessary items, etc. regarding online applications, please refer to [“Public Certification Service for Individuals portal site”](#) (Japanese).
- Basic Resident Registration Card with Photo can be used as an official identification card at counters that require identity verification
 - ※ The final decision of whether or not to accept the Basic Resident Registration Card as a document for identity verification is made by each business so you may not be able to use it at some businesses.
- Original services provided by municipalities can be received
 - ※ Municipalities can offer original services using the Basic Resident Registration Card by establishing a Municipal Ordinance. Residents of such a municipality can receive its services by acquiring the Basic Resident Registration Card and applying for them. For further information, please inquire at your municipality of residence.
- Special provisions for Move In Notification can be applied.
 - ※ If you acquire the Basic Resident Registration Card, you are allowed, by making Move Out Notification by mail or other method, to appear only one time at the municipality of your new residence to complete the moving procedure.

Q4 How can I acquire the Basic Resident Registration Card?

A4 The Basic Resident Registration Card is issued to anyone who wants one at their municipality of residence. Please apply for issuance at the counter of your municipality of residence.

Some municipalities can issue on the same day and others exchange the card for a notification which is delivered at a later date.

There are two types: with photo and without photo. Please select one of the two types.

Q5 What should I prepare for the application?

A5 Please prepare the following documents, etc.

- Application for Issuance of the Basic Resident Registration Card (available at the counter of municipalities)
- Photo (only for those who desire the Basic Resident Registration Card with Photo)
Photo must be from the shoulders up, with no hat, facing forward, taken within the previous 6 months, with no background and 45mm tall × 35mm wide. Note that the size may vary depending on the municipality so please confirm with your municipality of residence.
- Certificate, etc. such as Residence Card, Special Permanent Resident Certificate, passport ^(※)
^(※) Presentation of multiple certificates, etc. may be requested.
- Fee specified by Municipal Ordinance of municipality (Generally about 500 yen, but free in some municipalities. For further information, please inquire at your municipality of residence.)

- Q6 Is there anything I should be careful about during issuance?
- A6 You are required to create a 4-digit PIN number during issuance. Please avoid any numbers that are easy for others to guess such as date of birth. When verifying your identity with the Basic Resident Registration Card at the counter of your municipality, your PIN number will be verified to prevent false representation, etc.
- Q7 Is there an expiration date on the Basic Resident Registration Card?
- A7 Valid periods are as follows.
- Permanent residents, Special permanent residents
10 years from the card's date of issue
 - Medium to long-term residents except permanent residents
From the card's date of issue to the end of the period of stay
 - People granted permission for temporary refuge or provisional stay
From the card's date of issue to the end of the period of landing or provisional stay
 - People who may continue to stay transitionally in Japan by birth or after loss of Japanese nationality
From the card's date of issue to the end of the period of transitional stay (60 days after date of birth or 60 days after the date Japanese nationality is lost)
- Q8 Is there anything I should be especially careful about after issuance of the Basic Resident Registration Card?
- A8 After issuance, if there are any changes to the information recorded on the card, such as a move to another municipality, a change of address in the same municipality or a change of name, the new address, etc. will be recorded on the back of the card. Please be sure to bring the Basic Resident Registration Card to the counter of your municipality. (The Basic Resident Registration Card may become invalid if the Basic Resident Registration Card is not brought to the counter after moving to another municipality.)
- Also, if you lose the Basic Resident Registration Card, please report it to your municipality immediately.
- For further information, please inquire at your municipality of residence.

※ For the Basic Resident Registration Network System, please see ["Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Basic Resident Registration Network System"](#).

For further information on the Basic Resident Registration Card, please see ["Basic Resident Registration Card general information site"](#) (Japanese).