



Job-Hunting Stories 2023

CONTRIBUTOR

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Major in PUH:
Information
Management
**Length of stay in
Japan:**
2 years 5 months
**Japanese language
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COMPANY NAME

NTT Data Global
Services

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS ARE INVOLVED WITH THAT JOB?(JOB DESCRIPTION)

The position is called "IT Professional" and it's content can vary depending on assignment after training. The job description can include everything from consulting, application development, infrastructure, analysis, etc...

Why did you decide to work in Japan?

The main reason is that I have really enjoyed living here during both my times studying, so I'd like to continue living here as long as possible. The convenience and freedom of living here, the culture, and the safety of the country, also played big factors in my decision to work here.

What are your reasons for choosing the company/institute?

They deal with global companies expanding into Japan, and Japanese companies expanding globally so there are many chances to use my abilities to speak both English and Japanese, as well as my IT skills. There's also great safety with joining a company with a big name attached like NTT DATA, especially as a foreigner as it can be useful when renewing your visa and finding apartments.

How many jobs did you apply for?(more details such as interviews, web application, etc)

I believe I attended around 30 seminars, applied for around 20 positions, and from those 20 companies I interviewed for 10, got a final interview for 8, and received 4 job offers. All my interviews were conducted in Japanese but some companies did offer to conduct them in English too.

What are the most common questions you were asked during the interview?

I was asked the usual questions that Japanese students are asked, such as self PR, reason for applying, and some episodes from your time as a student. Beyond that I got very specific questions that only foreign students would get. For example, "Why did you come to Japan?", "How well can you read and write Japanese?", "Do you plan to stay in Japan in the future?". So be prepared to be asked some different questions compared to Japanese student.

Do you have any tips for job hunting? If you have, please explain the details.

It's important to start job hunting early. I started quite late, so I really felt the importance of that. In addition, I recommend participating in internships and getting a part-time job if possible. These two activities can provide valuable experiences to prove that you can work in Japan. Please make use of the free resources available at the university's career center and the Hiroshima International Center. There is a wealth of information and advice for international students, so I strongly suggest you visit. Also, don't hesitate to consult someone if you have questions or concerns. I believe many people are not used to interviews, so the only thing you can do is to accumulate interview experiences and gradually get used to it. If you're still very anxious, you might want to try doing a mock interview.

What are the most common questions you were asked during the interview?

The flow of job hunting in Japan may differ greatly from that in your home country, so it's important to understand that before you begin. There may be other students like me that graduate in September so I advise you to try and search for companies like mine that allow entry in October. I suggest looking for jobs in large cities like Tokyo as there is much more demand for foreign students as there are more opportunities to work internationally and make use of language skills. You often hear that interviews in Japan are very strict on your appearance and use of words and manners, whilst this is very true, as a foreign student they will give you some leeway as long as they see you are trying your best.