

<Release Title>

**“Significant Decline in Study Abroad to the U.S. Approximately 70,000 Japanese Students Studied Abroad in 2024—Recovery to 90% of Pre-COVID 2019 Levels.**

**Study Tours Organized by Junior and Senior High Schools and Study Abroad in Asia Remain Strong.”**

**~JAOS Annual Survey ~**

### **Study Abroad Numbers by Japanese in 2024**

<Summary Text>

To promote the healthy growth of study abroad businesses and study abroad programs in Japan, the Japan Association of Overseas Studies (JAOS; Chairman: Yoshikazu Ueoku) consisting of 63 organizations including private education agencies and foreign government institutions, compiled the results of its 2024 survey on the number of Japanese students studying abroad. Conducted in April 2025, the survey targeted 39 JAOS member agents.

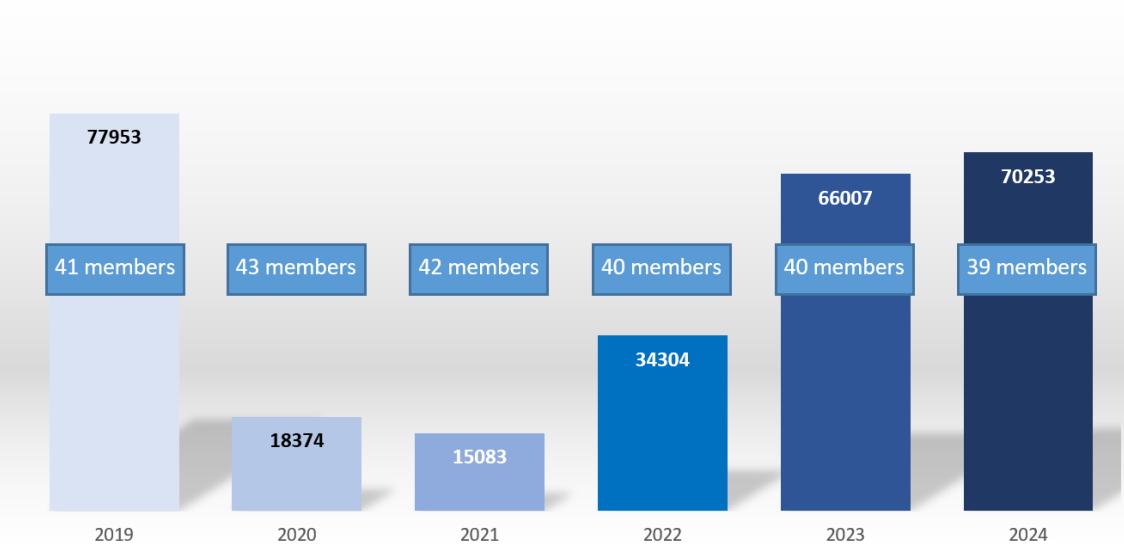
According to the findings, the number of students sent abroad in 2024 by the 39 JAOS member agents totaled 70,253—an increase of 4,246 from the previous year—reaching 90% of the 2019 pre-pandemic level.

The survey also included, for the first time, study tours organized and recruited by junior and senior high schools or local governments, which JAOS member agents planned and supported. These accounted for 15,345 students, or 22% of the total number of study abroad participants.

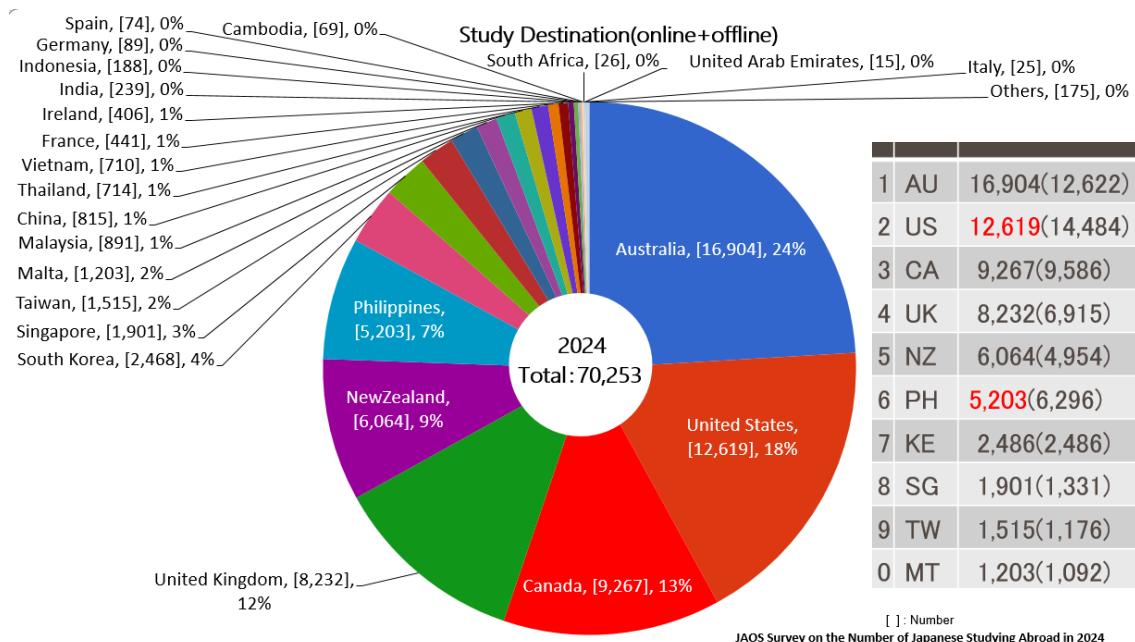
Trends in destination countries showed a continued significant decline in Japanese students studying in the United States. Australia, which increased by approximately 4,300 students, overtook the U.S. as the most popular destination. While Asia—including the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and South Korea—surpassed 2019 levels, destinations in Oceania and North America have not yet fully recovered.

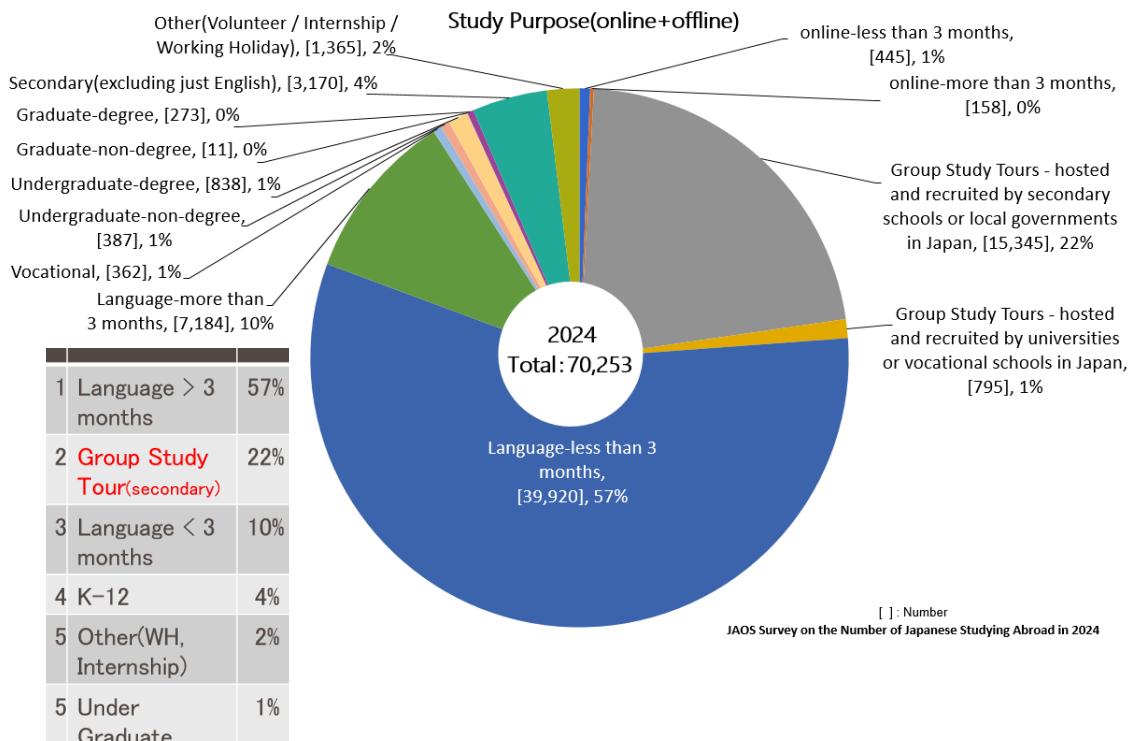
\*JAOS has 39 regular member organizations involved in study abroad services.

## JAOS Survey



"Survey of Japanese Study Abroad Students by JAOS in 2024"



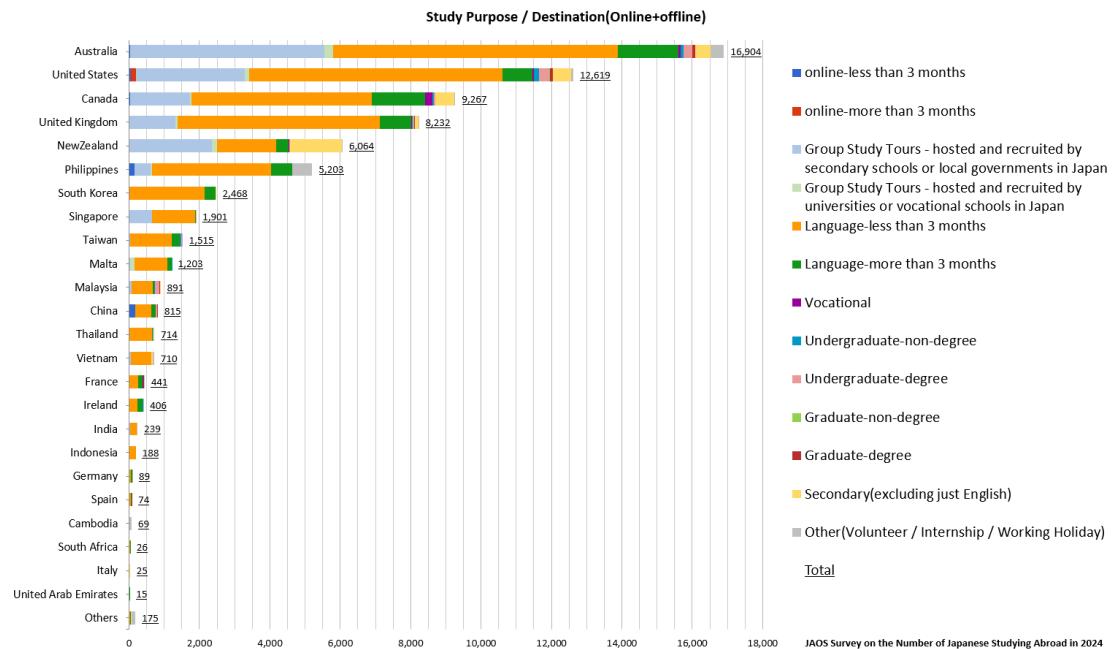


Number of Japanese Study Abroad Students by Study Abroad Destination Purpose "JAOS Survey Report 2024"

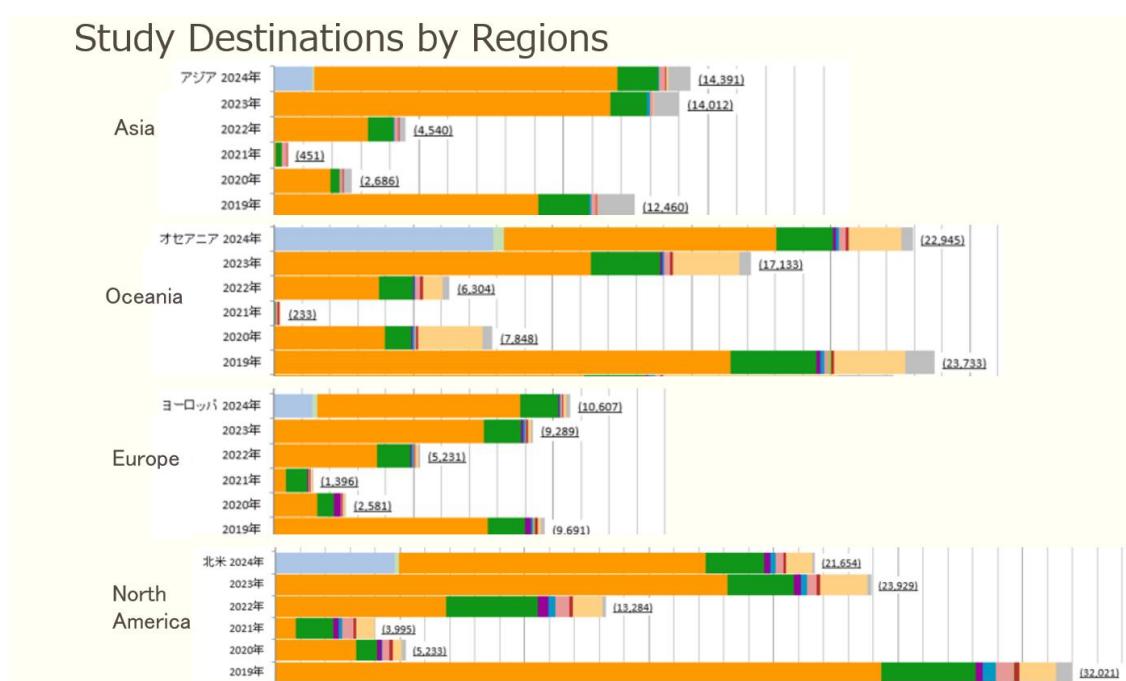
### 【Survey Background】

In 2023, the Japanese government set a target to increase the number of Japanese students studying abroad to 500,000 by 2033. While there are surveys on the number of Japanese overseas students conducted by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology based on OECD data and others, these surveys only measure the number of Japanese students studying at overseas universities, graduate schools, etc., or the number of students studying abroad through domestic universities in Japan through their exchange programs. "JAOS Survey Report 2024" provides statistical data on the number of study abroad students, including adults, and junior and senior high school students. The aim is to clarify the number of Japanese study abroad students more accurately.

\*This survey was conducted by a third-party agency on behalf of JAOS, targeting the number of students sent abroad in 2024 by 39 JAOS member organizations. Data from non-member organizations are not included.



# Number of Japanese Study Abroad Students by Study Abroad Destination Country "JAOS Survey Report 2024"



2024: 39members														
	online-less than 3 months	online-more than 3 months	Group Study Tours - hosted and recruited by secondary schools or local governments in Japan	Group Study Tours - hosted and recruited by municipalities or vocational schools in Japan	Language-less than 3 months	Language-more than 3 months	Vocational	Undergraduate-non-degree	Undergraduate-degree	Graduate-non-degree	Graduate-degree	Secondary(excluding just English)	Other(Volunteer / Internship / Working Holiday)	Total
Australia	30	0	5,525	243	8,081	1,724	57	94	250	5	86	431	378	16,904
United States	42	155	3,096	124	7,198	844	36	150	297	5	102	504	66	12,619
Canada	35	0	1,688	55	5,116	1,513	205	55	25	0	1	553	21	9,267
United Kingdom	1	0	1,325	50	5,740	904	10	24	49	0	25	88	16	8,232
New Zealand	0	0	2,360	133	1,689	341	30	3	7	0	2	1,488	11	6,064
Philippines	152	3	463	42	3,366	611	0	4	0	0	0	2	560	5,203
South Korea	0	0	15	0	2,125	318	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	2,468
Singapore	0	0	644	3	1,219	21	0	0	0	0	6	0	8	1,901
Taiwan	0	0	30	0	1,184	233	0	27	41	0	0	0	0	1,515
Malta	1	0	30	124	926	121	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1,203
Malaysia	0	0	75	0	593	39	0	27	126	1	20	10	0	891
China	184	0	0	0	438	137	0	0	40	0	16	0	0	815
Thailand	0	0	0	7	638	23	0	0	0	0	0	46	714	714
Vietnam	0	0	51	0	590	0	0	0	0	0	40	29	710	710
France	0	0	5	3	245	135	23	0	0	0	7	13	10	441
Ireland	0	0	0	11	221	160	0	2	1	0	0	6	5	406
India	0	0	30	0	177	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	239
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	188	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	188
Germany	0	0	2	0	57	27	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	89
Spain	0	0	0	0	43	25	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	74
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	69	69
South Africa	0	0	0	0	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Italy	0	0	0	0	16	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	25
United Arab Emirates	0	0	2	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Others	0	0	4	0	35	2	1	0	2	0	0	19	112	175
Total	445	158	15,345	795	39,920	7,184	362	387	838	11	273	3,170	1,365	70,253

Number of Japanese Study Abroad Students by Study Abroad Destination Country "JAOS Survey Report 2024"

### 【Summary of Survey Results】

#### 1) 70,253 students, recovery to 90% of 2019 levels, 106% year-over-year

Following a sharp decline during the COVID-19 pandemic starting in 2020, the number of Japanese students studying abroad has rapidly increased since 2022. The 2024 survey revealed that 70,253 students were sent abroad by the 39 JAOS member agents—a 106% increase from the previous year and 90% of the 2019 level.

#### 2) Australia Becomes the Top Destination for Japanese Students, While the U.S., Last Year's Leader, Sees a Sharp Drop of Around 2,000 Students

Australia, previously ranked second, gained about 4,300 more students than the previous year and surpassed the U.S. to become the most popular study abroad destination for Japanese students. The U.S. dropped to second, losing about 2,000 students. Canada remained third and the UK fourth. While Canada's numbers slightly decreased, the UK saw an increase of about 1,300 students.

#### 3) Study tours by junior and senior high schools: 15,345 students (22% of total)

For the first time, JAOS surveyed study tours organized and recruited by junior and senior high schools or local governments, which JAOS members supported in planning and execution. These accounted for 21.8% of all students sent abroad. This indicates the growing trend among schools and municipalities to promote global education. With increasing subsidies from national and local governments and MEXT's efforts to globalize domestic educational institutions, it is expected that more schools and

municipalities will implement such trips. Top destinations in this category were:

Australia

United States

New Zealand

Canada

United Kingdom

Asian countries such as Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia are also gaining popularity.

#### **4) Growing destinations for university degree study abroad: Australia, Malaysia, Taiwan**

The number of Japanese students aiming for undergraduate study at overseas universities reached 838 in 2024, a 114% increase from the previous year. The top five destinations were:

United States (35.4%)

Australia (29.8%)

Malaysia (15%)

United Kingdom (5.8%)

Taiwan (4.9%)

While the U.S. had long been the dominant destination for this sector, its numbers have dropped significantly. Meanwhile, Australia gained popularity, and Asian countries like Malaysia and Taiwan are becoming prominent destinations for undergraduate study. Contributing factors include the yen's depreciation and rising study abroad costs, making Asia a more economical choice. Both Malaysia and Taiwan have robust infrastructure for international students, and education agencies have actively promoted these destinations through seminars and fairs.

#### **[Survey Overview]**

Survey Period: January to December 2024

Subjects: 39 JAOS member organizations

#### **■ About JAOS**

Established in 1991, our mission is to promote the healthy development of the study abroad industry in Japan by establishing ethical best practice guidelines for

organizations, educating and training study abroad counselors and advisors, and engaging in various other promotional activities to increase awareness of, and further the development of a safe and rewarding environment for Japanese study abroad students.

Recognized by the Japanese government as a General Incorporated Association in 2008, JAOS membership consists not only of private companies but also includes public organizations such as the Australian Embassy Marketing Office and the British Council, as well as various trade-related associations. As of 2025, total membership now exceeds 60 organizations. JAOS is also an active member of the international association FELCA (The Federation of Education and Language Consultant Associations). By representing Japan through this membership, JAOS is able to educate and promote Japanese market needs to industry providers and assist them in developing the optimal study abroad environment for Japanese study abroad students.

Established: 1991 (incorporated in 2008)

Chairman: Yoshikazu Ueoku

Location: 7F, Robert Kagurazaka, 6-46 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0825

URL: <http://www.jaos.or.jp/top-eng>

**[For more information and inquiry]**

Tatsu Hoshino

Executive Secretary, JAOS

[hoshino@jaos.or.jp](mailto:hoshino@jaos.or.jp)

TEL: +81-3-3269-8446      URL: <http://www.jaos.or.jp/top-eng>