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WHY BANGLADESHI STUDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER STUDYING IN JAPAN

Bangladeshi students pursuing higher education abroad have been going to Japan for many years as Japan has generous scholarships available and the overall cost of higher education is lower than that of most other popular study-abroad destinations. But despite the higher cost of education, countries like USA, UK, and Canada continue to be much more preferable.

According to the latest data from UNESCO, over 30,000 Bangladeshi students are pursuing higher education overseas. Malaysia had the highest number of Bangladeshi students at 6,534 students in 2015 followed by USA with 5,441 students. UK and Australia were also among the popular destinations while Japan had 876 Bangladeshi students in 2014. Japan is worth being considered a desirable study-abroad destination by more Bangladeshi students as it offers something students often seek: the opportunity to work in the foreign country they graduated from. Moreover, Japan has affordable tuition, scholarships, and availability of part-time work for students. But, students do have to be willing to learn Japanese in order to reap these benefits.

While some Japanese universities offer programmes taught in English, not all do. Therefore, it depends on the requirements of individual universities if a student needs to learn Japanese in order to pursue a degree in Japan. Universities that do offer programmes in English may require applicants to show proof of English language proficiency such as IELTS. If the student's targeted university does offer the relevant classes in English, then the student can learn Japanese once they are enrolled there, although it is advisable to have

at least a basic idea of Japanese so that learning a new language along with university education will not be overwhelming later on.

"Japanese language can make life smooth and easy here," advised Fatemee Muhammad, who worked at KDDI Corporation in Japan after completing his BBA at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, to prospective Bangladeshi students who want to study and live in Japan. He also shared that while the first one or two years can be tough, people do get used to the culture.

Cost of education in Japan is less expensive than that of universities in countries like UK and USA. And scholarships are available on top of that, including those from the Japanese government (MEXT), Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO), and others provided by private foundations. According to QS Top Universities, the academic expenses in Japan can be around USD 4,140-8,280 annually, while the average cost of living in Japan is USD 740 per month. The cost of living is lower in rural areas as opposed to metropolitan areas.

International students can work up to 28 hours a week with approval from the Regional Immigration Bureau, provided that their work does not interfere with their studies. "Students can often earn enough money for their

living expenses as well as most of their tuition fees from part-time jobs alone," said Rouham Manzoor, Managing Partner at MACES, an overseas educational counselling firm, citing this as one of the reasons why students choose to go to Japan.

When it comes to obtaining a student visa, having a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) reduces the visa processing time. To apply by this method, a student or their proxy will have to apply for the COE prior to applying for a visa and the COE will be issued to them at Regional Immigration Bureaus in Japan. The student can then go to the Embassy of Japan with their COE to apply for a visa. "Unlike high visa rejection rates in countries like USA and Canada, Japan offers high visa success rates for aspiring students once they receive the COE," said Rouham.

After completing graduation and securing employment, international students need to obtain a work visa by applying for a change in the status of their residence at the Regional Immigration Bureau. According to the website Japan Study Support, immigration control will check if the applicant's education background matches their technical skills and the knowledge they possess, and if their job actually utilises their skills and knowledge. Immigration control will also check if the



ILLUSTRATION: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY

OH WOW! TODAY IS ONE OF THOSE DAYS I HAVE A GREAT IDEA. AND THE BOSSMAN'S GONNA LOVE IT. I'M GONNA ASK....



OW! OW! OW! STAMP!

TOLD YOU IT WASN'T A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE HIM A STAMP MAKER

THAT WAS MY PREVIOUS GREAT IDEA



HOW TO BE GENUINELY LIKABLE



Who doesn't like to be around a vibrant and lively soul? A soul that seems to be so "naturally" likable and charismatic that you almost always crave their vibes and even wish you were like them. Here's how you could master the art of being likable too.

1. Be genuine. Be YOU.

That's pretty self-explanatory. Always be honest and genuine about who you are and what your thoughts are. No one likes a fake. It is difficult to like someone when you are in doubt about who they really are. Likable people are ones who are always comfortable in their own skin, no matter how many weaknesses they may have. Do not seek likability by trying to be someone you are not, it makes you appear highly pretentious and possibly inane, even if you might not always realise it. Put your insecurities on hold for a second.

2. Engage humbly

Let a healthy conversation flow. Don't just talk; make sure you actively listen too. It's not always your verbal responses and advice people seek, it's more of your non-verbal attention to what they say. Smile, shake hands, sit straight, and make eye-contact. Show genuine interest in what they think is important. That's what makes the other party not only feel important and willing to continue the ongoing conversation, but want to come back for more.

3. Put your phone away

Nothing's a bigger turn-off than a mid-conversation text message or a glance at your phone. Half-hearted interest in the conversation is the worst way to treat someone. Not only is this impolite and annoying, but at times insulting to the other party. When you're talking, put all of your energy and attention into the conversation. It's a rare gift only a few know how to give. Be

one of those people.

4. Don't be too quick to pass judgment

Being open-minded does wonders to your likability. It makes you easily approachable and reliable. People don't like talking to someone who they know already has a pre-formed prior opinion about them and is not willing to listen or believe otherwise. Sure, you might not always agree with others, but you can always agree to disagree without passing cocky, judgmental remarks. Accept the fact that people can hold opinions and try to see the world through their eyes too.

5. Do not attention-seek

People who exude charisma are never the ones who appear desperate for others' attention. That's exactly why they are likable! Forget that big, extroverted, sarcastic persona people try to don all the time. You don't have to act important; you just have to be friendly and genuinely considerate to win people over.

6. Be thoughtful, simply because you can

Be kind to others, more often than not. The world's hard to keep up with, but you must take time out to spare a minute for others—not just for your loved ones, but for a stranger too. Go the extra mile to bring a smile on people's faces; not because you have to, but because you can. Sure, you need have some me-time like anyone else does, but do something nice for someone now and then, something that shows you genuinely care. It won't hurt.

7. Be consistent

The last thing people will tolerate is someone who is all over the place. We like approaching someone when we know what sort of response we can expect from them. It makes them your go-to person. Of course you understandably have your mood swings and low points, but that shouldn't change much about how you treat people.

8. Know how to balance passion and fun

We gravitate towards passion, always. That said, passionate people might appear a little too serious because they seem to be absorbed in their work and personal goals most of the time. But likable are the ones who take time out to enjoy life with others too. They literally work hard, and party harder.

9. Admit your failings, never discuss others'

Be humble. Share your screw-ups. Be the cautionary tale. It doesn't make you appear less successful; it makes you more human and relatable. Humility is as likeable as it gets. Laugh at yourself, not at others. See how people learn to laugh with you that way. We all like gossiping at times, but be a relentless gossip buff and people will stop trusting you. Respect them and their efforts, regardless of how you might feel about them personally. Spread as much positivity as you can.

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Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.

the EXERCISING entrepreneur

Many of the world's top entrepreneurs consider physical fitness vital for their continued success. Find out how 8 of them stay in shape and let their regimes help inspire your own fitness plan!

1 **RICHARD BRANSON**, founder of Virgin Media Group runs, swims, lifts, does yoga and even finds time to kitesurf!

600 CALS/DAY
4200 CALS/WEEK

2 Co-founder of airbnb, **BRIAN CHESKY**, is a former pro-bodybuilder, and lifts regularly.

600 CALS/DAY
3000 CALS/WEEK

3 **ANILAMBANI**, chairman of Reliance Group runs every single morning and is known as the 'Marathon Man'.

1215 CALS/DAY
8500 CALS/WEEK

4 CEO of Square and Co-founder of Twitter, **JACK DORSEY** runs and meditates every morning.

800 CALS/DAY
4000 CALS/WEEK

5 Editor in Chief of Vogue and cardio queen, **ANNA WINTOUR**, plays tennis every day.

529 CALS/DAY
2645 CALS/WEEK

6 **PADMASREE WARRIOR**, CTO of CISCO, works out every morning, without a set routine.

400 CALS/DAY
2400 CALS/WEEK

7 Founder and former CEO of Microsoft, **BILL GATES**, runs on the treadmill at the gym daily.

400 CALS/DAY
2800 CALS/WEEK

8 OWN Network owner, **OPRAH**, does cardio 6 times a week along with strength training and meditation

500 CALS/DAY
3000 CALS/WEEK

Source: The Funding Circle | Infographic by: Amiya Halder