

3. Safety in Life

① Traffic Rules and Regulations

The number of traffic accidents has been rising sharply these days. Please observe traffic rules and regulations and not to get involved in any traffic accidents.

② Bicycle

Having a bicycle is a convenient and inexpensive mode of transportation, especially if you live close to campus. However you must use extra cautions when you ride a bicycle. In Japan, bicycle owners are required to register their bicycles under the crime prevention bicycle registration system in order to prevent bicycle theft. Please lock your bicycle whenever you leave it behind, and park at designated parking lots.

③ Driving a Car and Riding a Motorcycle

We do not recommend that international students own or drive cars in Japan. In particular, newly-arrived international students who are not used to driving in Japan are more likely to have/cause traffic accidents. Should you have/cause an accident, you may need substantial amount of compensation money and other expenses. Please consult with your instructor before you drive a car in Japan.

*1 Drivers License in Japan:

There are three ways you can obtain a **driver's license in Japan**. First, finish a driving school and take a written test at designated examination sites. Second, take a written test and a driving test also at designated examination sites. Third, switch a international driver's license to a Japanese driver's license.

Only holders of international driver's license issued by The Geneva Convention on Road Traffic are permitted to drive in Japan.

An international driver's license plus a driver's license from your home country will allow you to drive in Japan for up to one year from the date of issue of the international license. Under the Japanese law, if anyone, who registers as a resident or as a foreign national in Japan, leaves and re-enters this country within three months, the above mentioned one year duration will never starts newly. It means even if they leave and reenter Japan with newly issued genuine international driving permit, driving with that permit will be considered to be a driving without license, if they return to Japan within three months after their departure.

*2 When you get your own car:

Auto insurance consists of two main components: the "compulsory insurance (automobile damages compensation insurance)" and an "optional insurance". All automobile owners are required to have compulsory insurance by law. The optional insurance covers the compensation payment exceeding the limit of payment covered by the compulsory insurance and also covers items of insurance not covered by compulsory insurance. The optional insurance is valid for the following items which are not covered by the compulsory insurance: property damage, damage to the third party's vehicle, damage to your own vehicle, injuries to the driver or passenger while driving, etc. Please make sure you also purchase an optional insurance.

*3 Parking permit:

Both "Parking Permit" and "Pass Card" are necessary for anyone to drive a car into Gifu University. Please apply to the faculty/graduate school office.

④ Traffic Accident

If you are involved in a traffic accident, remain calm and do the followings:

- (1) If anyone is injured, call 119 immediately for an ambulance.
- (2) Report the accident to the police (Call 110) and accept "Traffic Accident Certificate" from the police.
- (3) Remove anything from an accident site which may disturb traffic.
- (4) Must have to note the following information in case of a car collision, crash, etc.: name, address, and telephone number, date of birth, work place and license plate number of the driver.
- (5) Report the accident to the faculty /graduate school office.

⑤ Disaster Prevention

Japan is an earthquake-prone country and extra precautions are necessary. Creating an earthquake preparedness plan can help you to know what to do in case an earthquake strikes. Please also attend a natural disaster prevention drill organized by the International Planning Division.