



The number of Japanese students rushing to enroll in schools outside the country seems to go up and down like a roller coaster depending on what the Japanese economy is doing.

The sudden rise of dollar made the cost of studying abroad much too expensive. So students who had been planning to enter foreign schools had to cancel their plans, and many students who were already overseas and depending upon their parents for money had to drop out of school and return to Japan.

There are several reasons why Japanese students want to study overseas:

- @: Japanese's college entrance exam is so difficult.**
- @: The chance to become fluent in English.**
- @: A degree from a Japanese University is no longer necessary to get a good job with a big Japanese company.**

The most popular country for overseas study is the USA, followed by Canada and Australia.

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you think of the idea of going abroad to study:
 - in elementary school or middle school?
 - in high school?
 - for undergraduate (college) study?

2. Nowadays, Japanese employers prefer to hire people who have studied overseas. What do you think about this?

@: It's not fair for Japanese who can't afford to study abroad.

@: It's a good idea because students who go overseas have better language ability.

3. Have you ever study abroad, or would you like to study abroad? If so, what did you study or what would you like to study and where?

4. What are some of the biggest problems that students studying abroad have?

5. What would be some of the most interesting things about studying abroad?