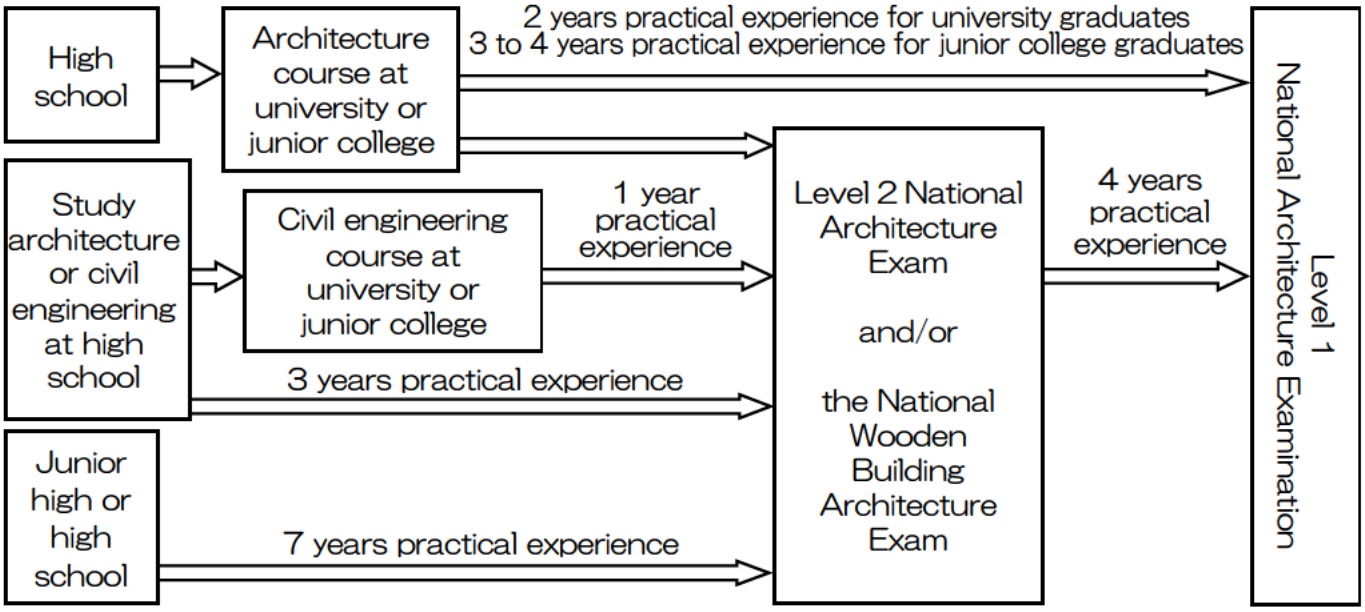
29 Architect

Only people who have passed the national qualification examination can become architects. Architects plan and design residential houses, office buildings and public buildings and also oversee the construction of the buildings.

As there are increasingly more foreign residents who are living permanently in Japan, the number of foreign residents who wish to build their own homes or start their own businesses is also increasing. For foreign residents who are not fluent in Japanese, working with an architect who can speak a foreign language could be greatly reassuring.

Becoming an architect:



Prepare now:

A high level of mathematical and scientific knowledge and Japanese language proficiency are required to become an architect. If you want this qualification in the future, it would be advantageous to do an architecture course at university or junior college as this will allow you to take the Level 2 National Architecture Exam without any practical experience. However if you study civil engineering, then one year of practical experience is required. Alternatively, 3 years of practical experience is required for architecture or civil engineering high school graduates to take the exam.

Job prospects:

It is possible to work at architectural design offices, housing manufacturers, construction companies or government offices. It is also possible to start your own business after gaining some years of experience. The average annual income for Level 2 architects is 2 to 3 million yen and 5 million yen for Level 1 architects.

Tuition:

Studying for 4 years at a public university costs upwards of 2.4 million yen while studying at a private university for 4 years costs upwards of 5 million yen. Studying architecture for 2 years at a vocational school costs upwards of 2.2 million yen.