



# Job-Hunting Stories 2022

## CONTRIBUTOR

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**Major in PUH:**  
Program in Biological  
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(Environmental  
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**Length of stay in  
Japan:** 3 years upon  
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(1 year as research  
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**Japanese language  
proficiency:** N2  
(N3 when receiving 内  
定)

## COMPANY NAME

AGC

## WHAT KINDS OF THINGS ARE INVOLVED WITH THAT JOB? (JOB DESCRIPTION)

I am assigned to Quality Assurance, QA of AGC's Chemical company where I check the specification of our products to ensure it conform to set legislations and standards, beside developing new testing methods focusing on environmental friendly, cost effective, etc.

### Why did you decide to work in Japan?

After spending 3 years at PUH Shobara campus during corona restricted situation, There is a sense of "reset", if I just return to Malaysia and then start looking for work. I feel it would be a missed opportunity given the deeper knowledge I acquired in PUH courses, some Japanese language I learnt, friends and connection I made during my stay here, if I just end it all with graduation. I feel there are more to Japan out there after graduation and post-corona. So, I followed my heart and decided to challenge myself to job-hunt in Japan.

### What are your reasons for choosing the company/institute?

Apart from the main reason of AGC offered a position in the same field which I am interested in and majored at in PUH, this company was specifically recruiting international graduates. Being a global company, I am more at ease that I won't be looking out of place for not knowing some norms of being a Japanese 社会人. In addition, this company also offers dormitory and other benefits (VISA process, moving house, etc.) which helps a foreigner like me a lot.

### How many jobs did you apply for? (more details such as interviews, web application, etc)

In total, I listened to about 40 company briefings (all online). I joined 2 online internships, 2 face-to-face internships, about 10 interviews (including first, second and final interview). Most of them are companies who specifically looking for international students. Penultimately, I shortlisted 6 companies to rigorously follow through with their respective scheduled flows. After considering between 3 内定s, I opted to join AGC.

### What are the most common questions you were asked during the interview? ?

From my little experience, in the 1st interview, companies asked me about topics I already written in my entry sheet (possibly to observe communication skills). In further interviews, I was asked "Why did you choose to apply for this position?", "What interested you most about our company/ products", "As a non-Japanese, do you think you cope working with Japanese?", "What is your career vision in our company", "Do you have any intention of learning Japanese language further", etc.

### Do you have any tips for job hunting? If you have, please explain the details.

**[General]** Make full use of PUH's career center. First and foremost, understand how job-hunting in Japan works (recruiting schedule/ flow, learn manners (phrases, way of bowing, attire, appearance, etc.)). In addition to MyNavi (and the likes), put more focus on websites/ organizations that are more international students centered like Ryugakusei.com, Job-Haku, JETRO, Hiroshima International Centre (HIC), etc.

**[Japanese Language]** Make use of the various learning platforms; free: (any YouTube/ Instagram/ browser extension (Rikai-kun)/ smartphone application (Takobon dictionary, Todai easy Japanese (JLPT drills), Ankidroid flashcard (memorizing)) etc), paid (I used) Nihongonomori, Japan Online School (J-OS).

**[Entry Sheet]** When writing, consult and get comments from multiple people to create a versatile entry sheet. Some points might need adjustments depending on company/ job type but I think it is best that we know well what to include and what to be elaborated verbally.

**[Interview]** Note that they already know what is written in your entry sheet. Repeating those points when asked is fine but, try not to speak with just those points that you memorized. While maintaining interview

formalities, try to make the interview more of a conversation (smile, show interest, ask questions, etc.) rather than stage acting (only say scripted lines memorized from entry sheet).

**[WEB test/ SPI test]**To be honest, this was the most challenging part for me. Mostly because I started practicing for it late into the selection process (in job-hunting schedule). This is potentially the hardest part just because it's a little hard to find English study materials. So, I recommend you to start practicing early.

### **What advice would you give to future students?**

**[General]**START NOW! The sooner the better, this marks your resolve from the very start and possibly how far you'll get. In retrospect, job-hunting is a process where we get to know our own selves in the sense of our interests and what kind of future we realistically envisage for ourselves. When job-hunting, please avoid from looking too much at the salary. Please don't work in Japan just for the sake of it (because of social status or it sounds/ looks cool back home). This is because the starting of our independent working life is crucial for many reasons. After confirming with yourself that working in Japan is really what you need after graduation, it all comes down to how much you really want it.

**[Japanese Language]**Please actually speak it no matter how broken. Start to think and speak to yourself in Japanese while doing routine things. Mingle with Japanese friends, teachers and the community by joining clubs, activities, etc. Learning Japanese language never ends. (You know what I'm talking about. all those kanjis with their readings of when to use onyomi or kunyomi and when we forget how to write them on the very next day. Not to mention a new can of worms of keigo nihongo). Nevertheless, no matter how insignificant, continue learning every day. The difficult will only be impossible the moment we stop trying. I am also still learning Japanese. Also, please keep in mind not to BE Japanese. I think comparing ourselves too much with our Japanese colleagues' abilities would end up causing stress. We are not Japanese to begin with and probably never will be. Instead, let's be comfortable in our own skins while adapting to new environments and work to contribute not only for Japan and our own respective countries but globally.

**[Practice]**Here is where you must first feel the taste of failing or lacking. Practice as much as possible with career center, friends, etc. Keep in mind that the best way to improve is by participating in the real thing; be it writing entry sheets, attending interviews, answering web/SPI tests, etc. Experience everything there is to job-hunting. Getting a job is probably the next big thing after graduation, treat job-hunting as a process. Please do not be afraid to fail (after working hard and preparing of course). Fail as much as possible early in job-hunting schedule. Failing at this stage only confirms those uncertainty you had, and what comes after is a better version of yourself.