

Career Plan for a Foreign SSW in Nursing Care

Phase 1: Entry-Level (as SSW – Specified Skilled Worker)

- **Status:** Specified Skilled Worker (SSW Type 1)
 - **Role:** General care work in facilities (elderly homes, group homes, etc.)
 - **Goal:** Gain experience, improve Japanese language skills, and study for the national *kaigo fukushishi* exam
 - **Requirements:** JLPT N4 (minimum), training completed in sending country, pass SSW test
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Phase 2: Obtain National Nursing Care License (Kaigo Fukushishi)

- **Ways to qualify:**
 - Complete 3+ years of work experience in care under SSW
 - Meet academic requirements or take the *kaigo* course (1–2 years in a Japanese school)
 - Pass the national exam
 - **Benefits:**
 - Eligible for a more stable visa (*Kaigo* residency status)
 - No limit on number of renewals (unlike SSW1 which is max 5 years)
 - Access to broader job roles
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Phase 3: Mid-Level Career (after License)

- **New Visa Status:** *Kaigo* (介護) or
- **Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services** if applicable
- **Work Options:**
 - Team leader or shift supervisor
 - Trainer for new foreign staff or interpreter for multicultural staff

- Specialized care (dementia, rehabilitation, terminal care, etc.)
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Phase 4: Career Advancement

- **Possibilities:**
 - **Management roles:** Care manager (*kaigo shokuin kanrisha*), facility coordinator
 - **Education/Training:** Teaching in care training schools or leading workshops for foreign care staff
 - **Community roles:** Multicultural coordinator, liaison for foreign workers, or municipal advisor
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Long-Term Residency & Integration

- **Options:**
 - Apply for **Permanent Residency** after 10 years of total stay (or less if married to Japanese national)
 - Apply for **Long-Term Resident** status
 - Invite family (spouse/children) under family visa (if criteria met)
 - Naturalization (Japanese citizenship) if desired