

Japan university to hire non-smoking staff only

5th May, 2019



A university in Japan has said it will no longer hire teachers who smoke. Nagasaki University said it wants to create a healthier environment for its workers and students. The university's president Shigeru Kono said:

"Our job as a university is to look after our staff. We feel we have to discourage them from smoking." Many companies have also started not recruiting smokers. Mr Kono said there would be a ban on smoking anywhere in the university by teaching and other staff from August. In addition, staff and students will be banned from taking cigarettes and lighters into any areas of the university from April 2020. Approximately eight per cent of the university's professors and teachers are smokers.

The no-smoking policy taken by Nagasaki University is part of a growing trend in Japan to ban smoking in public spaces. There are currently bans in many public places, including restaurants and bars, in the lead-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. There are many areas of Tokyo and Kyoto in which people cannot smoke on the streets. The number of people in Japan who smoke is on the decline. In 1966, 49 per cent of adults smoked, including 84 per cent of men. Last year, 18 per cent of adults smoked, including 28 per cent of men. One company in Japan is trying to get its staff to quit smoking by offering extra days off to employees who did not smoke. Several staff soon quit the habit.

Sources: *asahi.com* / *nytimes.com* / *thejakartapost.com*

Writing

Smoking should be banned worldwide. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

university / teacher / smoke / environment / recruiting / ban / cigarettes / banned / policy / trend / public spaces / Olympics / streets / adults / decline / company / habit

True / False

- a) Tokyo University said it has introduced a no-smoking policy. T / F
- b) All Japanese companies will continue to recruit smokers. T / F
- c) Staff and students will be banned from taking lighters into the university. T / F
- d) Around 18% of teachers and professors at the university smoke. T / F
- e) There is a growing trend in Japan to ban smoking in public places. T / F
- f) There are smoking bans in restaurants and bars in Tokyo. T / F
- g) Many streets are smoke-free in Tokyo and Kyoto. T / F
- h) The article said a Japanese company gives smokers longer holidays. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. hire | a. prohibited |
| 2. environment | b. neighborhoods |
| 3. look after | c. shift |
| 4. banned | d. surroundings |
| 5. approximately | e. stop |
| 6. trend | f. about |
| 7. areas | g. recruit |
| 8. decline | h. addiction |
| 9. quit | i. care for |
| 10. habit | j. decrease |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is your government's policy on smoking?
- c) What do you think of the smell of smoke?
- d) What do you think of your friends and family who smoke?
- e) What do you think of cigarette companies?
- f) Will there be a time when no one smokes?
- g) Should non-smokers have longer holidays?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the university?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. it will no longer hire | a. 2020 Tokyo Olympics |
| 2. create a healthier | b. be banned |
| 3. we have to discourage them | c. trend |
| 4. staff and students will | d. the habit |
| 5. Approximately | e. teachers who smoke |
| 6. part of a growing | f. is on the decline |
| 7. There are currently bans | g. from smoking |
| 8. in the lead-up to the | h. eight per cent |
| 9. The number of people in Japan who smoke | i. in many public places |
| 10. Several staff soon quit | j. environment |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of smoking?
- Why do people smoke?
- Should teachers be allowed to smoke?
- Should smoking be banned in all workplaces?
- Should smokers be banned from other jobs?
- How can we get more people to quit smoking?
- Is there anything good about smoking?
- Why do governments allow people to smoke?

Spelling

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- The university's ieetdprsn
- osdgeacuir them from smoking
- not nigtcireur smokers
- cigarettes and rhgsielt
- atplxaiepomry eight per cent
- The no-smoking ipcloy
- part of a growing nrdet in Japan
- There are rcyternul bans
- on the eilecdn
- eypeoesml who did not smoke
- sevaerl staff soon quit

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. a	5. f
6. c	7. b	8. j	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Knowledge

You think knowledge is the most important thing a teacher should have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a sense of humour, kindness or energy.

Role B – Sense of Humour

You think a sense of humour is the most important thing a teacher should have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): knowledge, kindness or energy.

Role C – Kindness

You think kindness is the most important thing a teacher should have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a sense of humour, knowledge or energy.

Role D – Energy

You think energy is the most important thing a teacher should have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a sense of humour, kindness or knowledge.

Speaking – Teachers

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things a teacher should have at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| • strictness | • knowledge |
| • qualifications | • a sense of humour |
| • energy | • ideas |
| • experience | • kindness |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.