

Transforming Fukuoka City into Japan's Startup Hub under the National Strategic Special Zone!



TAKASHIMA Sōichirō
Mayor of Fukuoka City

In May 2014, Fukuoka City was designated by the Japanese Government as a National Strategic Special Zone for Global Startup & Job Creation.

I firmly believe that Fukuoka City should play a role in driving the Japanese economy by becoming the hub where new values, products, and never-before-seen services can be created, and startups can take on the challenge of expanding onto the global market. Fukuoka is the city where such dreams can be achieved.

From civil servants to startup employees

Support to secure talent for startups

* One of the NSSZ special initiatives

Startups can hire Fukuoka City officials for up to 3 years.

Fukuoka City has a unique system that supports its officials in making a career change to the private sector so that startups in their early stages can secure those with day-one competence. They can return to work for the city within three years of leaving for a startup. This provides a low-risk opportunity for both the startups and the city officials.



▽ Scene from a matching event

✓ Registration requirements

- 1 The company was established less than five years ago.
- 2 The head office or branch office is located in Fukuoka City.

* Other specific conditions will be confirmed separately.

Key points:

- * Free registration
- * Free matching
- * Simple application process
- * No obligation to hire city officials

Comment
1

62Complex

Employment period

Establish in 2021 Apr. 2023 to Mar. 2025

This is an effective system that supports city employees in taking on new challenges, while helping companies secure talent. By leveraging the administrative perspective gained, we have successfully promoted collaboration with local governments.

Comment
2

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Employment period

Establish in 2021 Apr. 2024 to present

The integration of government expertise and the agility of startups makes new challenges possible. We look forward to seeing your contributions as an industry-ready recruit.

Created in March 2025

Leading the Change: Fukuoka City's Support for Startups



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Contact information

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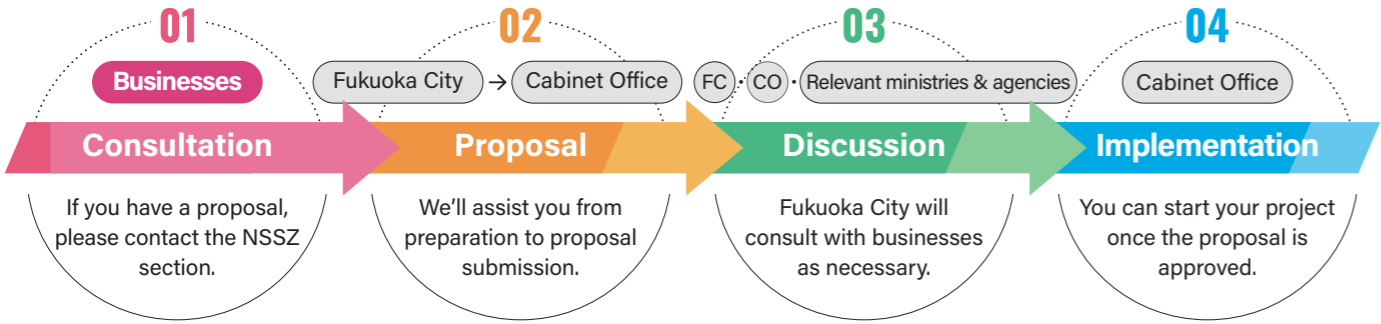
Fukuoka City
Website

About National Strategic Special Zone Program

A regulatory reform program that drastically relaxes rules and regulations and offers a preferential tax system in designated geographic areas and industrial sectors, aiming to create one of the world's most business-friendly environments.

1 Creating special provisions to ease regulations

Local governments and businesses can propose new special provisions. If the proposals are approved, these provisions can be utilized within specific areas of the NSSZ; furthermore, if their outcomes are highly evaluated, these provisions could be expanded nationwide. The main flow of proposal process is as follows:



We invite innovative ideas that will open doors to deregulation!

Are there any rules that are barrier to your new business?
Fukuoka City will do its best to support you, leveraging our long-accumulated expertise that have helped realize numerous special provisions.

Consult us if you encounter cases like these:

Case 1
Outdated regulations are holding back your business operations.

Case 2
Rules have not adapted to your new technologies and services.

NEWS Here's our latest proposals.

Transportation Under discussion

Proposal regarding driver's license for autonomous buses

Challenge Although autonomous buses require only simple operations, their drivers still need a mid-sized motor vehicle (M-MVL) license (manual transmission).

Proposal A small autonomous bus without a steering wheel can be operated with a standard motor vehicle license (S-MVL) (with an automatic transmission restriction).

Welfare Under discussion

Proposal for supporting shoppers with mobility or health challenges

Challenge A goods transport license and other necessary authorizations are required for individuals who provide shopping assistance using their personal vehicles and charge a delivery fee.

Proposal They can provide shopping assistance using their personal vehicle without such permission or authorization.

2 Utilizing special provisions to ease regulations

Local governments and businesses can utilize any special provision menus they prefer. So far, over 160 special measures have been implemented in the National Strategic Special Zones across various fields.

天神未来創造
天神ビロバン

A project that creates new spaces, employment, and tax revenue by promoting the redevelopment of buildings in the Tenjin area through special provisions that relax building height restrictions under the Civil Aeronautics Act.

1st deregulation Project
Completed in Sep. 2021

▽ Tenjin Business Center

Calling for aspiring startups!

You can view the special provisions on the Cabinet Office website. If you are unsure about the applicability, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Telephone E mail **Both are OK!**

内閣府 国家戦略特区
National Strategic Special Zones

Scan the code for the list of special provisions.

Key points:

- * Consult us first before doing anything.
- * No need to create documents.
- * No need to deal with the national government.

Notable examples Just a few examples of the special provisions utilized so far.

International human resources

Engineer Visa

Challenge Companies face challenges to hire international engineers due to the lengthy residence status screening process.

Special provision If your company is certified by Fukuoka City, the processing time for verifying residency status when hiring international engineers can be shortened.

Medical service Implemented nationwide in 2022

Online medication guidance by pharmacists

Challenge Pharmacists must provide in-person medication guidance, and patients must visit the pharmacy to obtain their medication.

Special provision Online medication guidance became available following the relaxation of the in-person guidance rule.