

Version 1 09/15/11	
Country	Japan.
Name of Credentialing Body/Registration Board	Japanese Board of Genetic Counseling (JBGC). This committee was incorporated in 2005.
Website/Address	http://plaza.umin.ac.jp/~GC/ (Japanese language only)
Is there a separate credentialing/registration process for nurses? If yes, please give details of nursing credentialing group	No.
Eligibility criteria to apply for certification/registration	<p>1. Master's degree in Genetic Counseling from JBGC accredited 2 year MSc program for Genetic Counseling (Nine graduate programs so far in Japan).</p> <p>AND</p> <p>2. Active Membership status at least for 2 years in Japanese Society of Human Genetics (JSHG http://jshg.jp/e/index_e.html) and/or Japanese Society of Genetic Counseling (JSGC http://www.jsgc.jp/ Japanese language only).</p> <p>And then one may apply and sit for the Certification Examination.</p> <p>(Until 2010 since 2005, there was the interim measure for application for certification. That required any bachelor`s degree, completion of at least 345 credit hours of medical genetics, and genetic counseling accredited by JGBC, and a genetic counseling log book including at least 50 cases.)</p>
Required criteria to apply for a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling	Earned a baccalaureate degree from any undergraduate college, university and/or institution prior to applying.
If there is a Masters Degree in Genetic Counseling, is this accredited? If so, by whom?	YES. MSc Genetic counseling programs (Nine programs, as of 2011) are accredited by JGBC.
Minimum length of time between completing the training requirements and applying for certification/registration	2 years.
Number of cases used in Masters in Genetic Counseling course that can also be used in registration	For application for the certification examination, a genetic counseling log book is required. But no specific number of cases is required.
Written examination on clinical issues? Yes/no, give details	YES. Examination consists of both multiple-choice items and written items. It covers a broad range of basic medical genetics, genetic counseling, and ELSI issues.
Portfolio of work submitted for certification/registration, yes/no	No.

(n.b. this question relates to certification/registration and not to a portfolio of work needed to complete a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling)	
Portfolio assessed by independent assessors, yes/no	No.
Portfolio ratified by the Registration Board, yes/no	No.
Candidate has an interview as part of the credentialing/registration process, yes/no	No.
What work is done for certification/registration?	Every genetic counseling program has own curriculum according to a required minimum standard criteria for accredit master's degree-granting programs, that was publish in Japanese Journal of Genetic Counseling 24(2), 63-78, 2004 (Japanese language only). So one seeking to certification must work and complete curriculum provided by each program.
Core competencies for practice as a genetic counselor, these are the skills that are assessed in the certification/registration process	Core competencies are described in together with the required criteria for accredit programs as described above. It is summarized as 1) knowledge for supporting practical genetic counseling, 2) practical skill
Is Genetic Counseling Supervision required in order to obtain certification/registration? Please see Clarke et al (2007)¹ for a definition of Genetic Counseling Supervision.	No.
Are certified/registered genetic counselors regulated? If so, by whom?	No.
What requirements exist to maintain certification/registration? How frequently is certification/registration maintained?	Recertification required every 5 years. For recertification, one required 50 credit units accredited by JBGC.
Do you have an international policy on registration of genetic counselors trained outside your country? If so, please provide a link to this	YES. If one who completed a genetic counseling program and/or certified as CGC by foreign counties, and have been an active member of JSGH and/or JS GC, one may request of application for certification examination. JGBC serves the right to decide the eligibility of the certification examination. It is included the Regulation of Japanese
Please briefly summarise what is required of international genetic counselors wanting to register/certify in your country	Appropriate accredited training of Genetic Counseling, at least two yeas active membership status in JSHG and/or JS GC, and passing the certification examination by JGBC.

1 Clarke A, Middleton A, Cowley L, Guilbert P, Macleod R, Clarke A, Tran V (2007) Report from the UK and Eire Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors (AGNC) supervision working group on genetic counsellor supervision. *J Genet Couns.* 16(2):127-42