What are the Different Career Consultant Certifications in Japan?

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This article was written before the government has passed legislation to authorize national “career consultant” certification. How this examination will be implemented has not yet been determined. This article explains how complex the situation has been in Japan. This national certification should help to simplify the situation, although there is currently anxiety about the winners and losers in this effort by the government to simplify the situation.

Note that the terms career consultant, career counselor, employment counselor, industrial counselor, and several others are used interchangeably.

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Note: CDA and GCDF, for the qualification of career counselor, is a lot like industrial counselor, so we have combined them.

Measures recognized by the Ministry for Career Consulting


According to the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry, career consultant training was designed to support the career of an individual.

How to become a career consultant | Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

A career counselor is a private certification [Note: this will soon change], but it is possible to comply with the specified standards of the country which stipulate that those who pass the "Employment Counselor Ability Evaluation Test" are qualified to be recognized as a "Standard Level Career Consultant."

National Career Consulting Skills Test

This test provides national certification of career consulting professional skills.

Ten Private Career Consultant Certifying Organizations

Training providers approved for scholarships (grants) | Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

We’ll send you updates with more information about career advancement grants that are designed to provide financial assistance in preparing for the Employment Counselor Ability Evaluation Test. Note that earning a 10 on this test allows a Human Resources Development Director to be certified as a career consultant and receive an incremental salary increase.

1. Foundation Japan Productivity Center
Certified Career Consultant Qualification Test


This course trains career counselors to provide a win-win relationship between individuals and organizations, support individual career development, and maintain a career development environment in the organization.
① Employment Counselor/ Career Consultant Test
Japan Industrial Counselors Association: http://www.counselor.or.jp/examination/career.html

Targeted toward industry counselors or senior industrial counselors.

③ Master Career Counselor Certification Test

Implementation: Includes 12 Sunday lectures. Tuition ¥ 250,000. Beginning with 203 candidates for fiscal 2012, we passed 71 people.

④ CDA Qualification Test

The Japan Career Development Association (JCDA) has implemented the CDA exam to serve JCDA members. It covers various skills training, job hunting assistance, and in the future, will include career education support, etc.

Implementation: This test is offered three times a year. 40% to 50% of those who take the test pass at the primary or secondary level.


CDA Curriculum for Educational Institutions (https://www.j-cda.jp/test/agency.php)
JCDA implemented the CDA exam to serve JCDA members. It covers various skills training, job hunting assistance, and in the future will include career education support, etc.

Nippon Manpower offers a recurring training course for career counselors.
Nippon Manpower: http://www.nipponmanpower.co.jp/ps/choose/cda/

Career counseling provides assessment of personal interests, abilities, values along with other characteristics for use in selecting a career. This is a professional career to support the selection and development of desirable careers for individuals.

Implementation: Course takes 10 days face-to-face plus online learning. It costs about ¥ 300,000.

School Career Counselor/Career Consultant Qualification
Recurrent Career Design: http://www.recurrent.co.jp/cc/

In career counselor, career consultant qualification, Recurrent boasts a high pass rate track record. Japan’s first JCDA certified full course for school career consultants.
Implementation: The training course is 140 hours (meets 56 times). The tuition fee is ¥ 400,000.

⑤ Certified Career Consultant Qualification Test  
**NPO Career Management Counselor Association:** [http://www.cmcajapan.net/](http://www.cmcajapan.net/)

The purpose of this association is to disseminate career counseling in Japan. This non-profit organization has implemented a training course and offers a certification test. The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has designated it as a test implementing agency for which government grants are available.

Implementation: Training course meets on Saturdays 14 times. Tuition ¥ 307,800. The total number of examinees: 1,294. People who passed: 870. Pass rate: 67.2%.

⑥ Employment Counselor Certification Exam  
**Kansai Foundation Counseling Center:** [https://www.kscc.or.jp/](https://www.kscc.or.jp/)

Training and qualification of counselors in Osaka at the Kansai Counseling Center.

Implementation: Training course is targeted toward professionals with more than three years of experience. Course meets 15 times. Tuition ¥ 270,000. Candidates 50-100 people at a time. Pass rate 60-80%.

⑦ GCDF-Japan Test Career Counselor Evaluation Test  
**Career Counseling Association:** [https://www.career-npo.org/tobecc/exam.html](https://www.career-npo.org/tobecc/exam.html)

The Career Counseling Association (CCA) supports the training and qualification of career counselors (standard level Employment Counselor).

Implementation: Test offered six times a year in Tokyo, three times a year in Osaka. It has been carried out once a year in Fukuoka. About 100-200 people are tested at one time.

GCDF-Japan career counselor training program: [https://www.career-npo.org/GCDF/index.html](https://www.career-npo.org/GCDF/index.html)

GCDF-Japan career counselor training program is a training course for a career counselor/consultant certification.

Implementation: Course lasts 12 days, costs ¥ 357,500. This association sponsors leading human resources service companies (Temporary Holdings, Manpower Group, Recruit Staffing, Recruitment Holdings, intelligence HITO Research Institute (Intelligence Group)).

⑧ Certified Career Counselor (Employment Counselor) Ability Evaluation Test  
**Corporation Tekunoha Ltd.** [http://www.technofer.co.jp/tfcareerc/category/1246373.html](http://www.technofer.co.jp/tfcareerc/category/1246373.html)
The designation of Employment Counselor from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Human Resources Development Bureau can be earned by passing the ability evaluation test for the "Career counselor (Employment Counselor)" qualification.

Career counselor training course: http://www.technofer.co.jp/tfcareerc/TC91_main.html
Career counselor training course of Tekunofa is a course in which the instructors are dedicated to the development of true competency. In this 15-day training course, learn the entire process is of counseling.

The cost for 15 days of instruction is ¥ 296,300 (capacity 24 people) venue Kawasaki.

9) ICDS Employment Counselor test
ICDS committee approved.

10) Lifelong Learning Employment Counselor Exam
Employment Counselor NPO (non-profit organization) Lifelong Learning Examination: http://www.npo-sg.com/kentei/career/

Career consultants have implement the NPO lifelong learning (career counselor) test information site. Employment Counselors (career counselors) have implemented the test of continuing education for Employment Counselor (career counselors).

Implementation: Test offered three times a year. Examination of about 50-130 per person at one time. Pass rate writing/practical respectively 40/60%.

LEC
Employment Counselor (career counselors): http://www.lec-jp.com/caricon/

The LEC of Employment Counselor (career counselor) course site was designed to support the person who aims to become an Employment Counselor (career counselor). Other measures and courses are offered by LEC Employment Counselor (career counselor) site for consultation and examination. The site provides information to help you learn, such as examination and qualifications information.

Implementation: 14 days of instruction. General price is ¥ 285,000.

Comparing the curriculums of these ten providers, the impression is that they are not very different. The cost, location, and dates of the training should be a major deciding factor. Also, considering the large number of people who have acquired the CDA and GCDF certification, you should seek peace of mind about continuing education, assistance provided to graduates, and name recognition.