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Crypto license in Japan

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Crypto license in Japan



Flag

Regulator	Financial Services Agency (JFSA) [1]
License	Registration as a crypto-asset exchange service provider [1]
Legal basis	Payment Services Act [1]
Minimum capital	¥10 million [1]
Application fee	Not confirmed
Decision time	Not confirmed
Travel Rule	Required [1]
Client asset segregation	Required [1]
Compensation scheme	None
Cross-border passport	No
Licensed firms	See the JFSA list [1]
Public register	JFSA list of registered crypto-asset exchange service providers

In short: Registration as a crypto-asset exchange service provider from the Financial Services Agency (JFSA). [1] Minimum capital: ¥10 million. [1] Travel Rule: required. [1] Compensation if the firm fails: none. As of November 2026.

Japan was the first major economy to regulate crypto exchanges, requiring **registration with the Financial Services Agency (JFSA)** under the Payment Services Act since 2017. Registered exchanges are also members of the Japan Virtual and Crypto assets Exchange Association, a self-regulatory body.

License types

The license used by crypto businesses in Japan: Registration as a crypto-asset exchange service provider. [1] Legal basis: Payment Services Act. [1]

- **Crypto-asset exchange service provider** – buying, selling and exchanging crypto-assets, intermediation and custody

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in Japan (2026): Stated capital of at least ¥10 million and positive net assets. [1]

Application fee: Not confirmed.

Capital is only the regulatory floor. Staff, audit, compliance, security and technology usually cost more than the capital itself.

Application process

Decision time: Not confirmed. The usual steps are:

1. Consult the JFSA or the local Finance Bureau.
2. Apply with the business plan, systems, segregation and AML/CFT arrangements.
3. Join the self-regulatory association and start operations once registered.

Substance and governance

A Japanese stock company, or a foreign company with a branch and a representative in Japan. [1]

Client protection

What the rules in Japan require, as of November 2026. See Client protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Protection	Rule in Japan
Travel Rule	Required since June 2023. [1]
Client asset segregation	Required: customers' crypto-assets and money must be held separately from the firm's own, with most customer crypto-assets in cold wallets. [1]
Custody	Not confirmed.
Compensation if the firm fails	None.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

Registered providers are listed by the JFSA. [1]

> The public register is the only current source of who holds a license.

How to verify a license

1. Find the exact legal name and license number of the entity you would contract with, usually in the website footer or the client agreement.
2. Search for it on the regulator's own register: JFSA list of registered crypto-asset exchange service providers .

3. Check that the website address and contact details on the register match the site you are using, to rule out an impostor site.
4. Check which group entity your account would be opened with: crypto brands often run several entities under different regulators.

Frequently asked questions

Can a foreign exchange serve Japanese residents without registration?

No. Soliciting Japanese residents without registration breaches the Payment Services Act.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the JFSA or a qualified adviser before applying. Where we could not confirm a figure from an official source, this article says so.

See also

- Crypto licenses compared
- Crypto license in Singapore
- Crypto license in Hong Kong
- Crypto license in Australia
- How to verify a crypto business's license
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the regulator, the law or another public body.

1. Official Financial Services Agency . JFSA. Accessed November 2026.

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