

**EMBASSY OF JAPAN**  
**LONDON**

21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

*Dear Dr. Hood and Dr. Inaba,*

Please allow me to begin by expressing my gratitude for your committed support for the advancement of the Japan-UK relationship, and for sharing with me your concerns regarding the effect that Japan's border control policies may have on that aim through your letter.

I hope Prime Minister Kishida's recent announcement on 17<sup>th</sup> February regarding the relaxation of Japan's border control measures will alleviate some of your concern. This relaxation will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March. This announcement detailed a number of changes in Japan's policy. New entries of foreign nationals into Japan under the supervision of receiving organisations will be allowed for educational or business purposes. The daily limit on the number of people who can enter the country will also be increased from 3,500 at present to 5,000. In addition, there will be a number of changes to the home quarantine requirement, making it shorter and easier to fulfil.

The Covid-19 pandemic remains a serious issue and the Government of Japan will continue to pursue cautious measures in the interests of public health. Nevertheless, I am pleased to be able to say that the people-to-people exchanges which form the very foundation of our bilateral relations will soon resume.

I sincerely hope that, along with a continued improvement in the COVID-19 situation, it will be possible to have greater exchanges of students and researchers.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hajime Hayashi".

HAYASHI Hajime

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of Japan to the UK

Dr Christopher Hood  
President,  
British Association for Japanese Studies

Dr Miho Inaba  
Chair,  
British Association for Teachers of Japanese

CC. 120 academics and students working in Japanese Studies who signed  
the letter.