

Kirkland's Path to Tokyo

New York foundation. Tokyo future.

Build a legal career in Japan with Kirkland's Path to Tokyo, a specialized track for law students interested in cross-border transactions involving Japan. Spend your 2028 2L summer immersed in two of our global offices, with six weeks in New York followed by four weeks in Tokyo.

Throughout the program, you will experience two of the world's most dynamic legal markets through sophisticated work, targeted training, networking and client-facing opportunities. You will build relationships with attorneys across both offices from the outset of your career while gaining exposure to cross-border M&A, private equity and other corporate transactions involving Japanese and international clients. After graduation, launch your practice as a corporate associate in New York, building a strong foundation before taking your next step in our Tokyo office, typically after one to three years.

We seek candidates* with English fluency, advanced Japanese language skills, strong academic credentials, relevant work experience and demonstrated leadership, as well as the ability to work effectively in both English- and Japanese-language professional environments. When submitting your application for our Summer Associate Program, select New York as your primary office of interest and corporate as your preferred practice group, and indicate your interest in the Path to Tokyo career track. Please also submit a resume, transcripts and a cover letter describing your interest in practicing in Japan.

Secure your 2028 2L summer with us and shape your 1L summer around your goals. Selected candidates will receive an offer to join Kirkland's 2028 2L Path to Tokyo program. Accept your offer to receive a US$50,000 summer associate bonus and choose from the following 2027 1L summer options.

- **Kirkland's 1L Summer Experience:** Four-week experience in our New York office designed to develop meaningful professional connections while gaining exposure to the breadth and diversity of our corporate practices.
- **Flexible Experience:** Spend your 2027 1L summer gaining experience outside the Firm, whether through public service, a judicial internship or another opportunity that supports your goals.

Your ambition belongs here.
Apply to Kirkland's Path to Tokyo.

**This position is not available to any candidates who now or in the future will require U.S. visa sponsorship from the Firm, including H-1B, TN-1, TN-2 or E-3 visas. Candidates who are not eligible to apply for the U.S. Summer Associate Path to Tokyo Program due to U.S. work authorization requirements, please contact Colette Chan and Karen Yan to apply directly to our Tokyo office.*

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