

Fukuoka Growth Next — Japan's First Startup Special Zone

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Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Japan's first National Strategic Special Zone for global startup creation (December 2014), pioneering the country's startup visa for foreign entrepreneurs. Fukuoka Growth Next hub housed 94 resident startups and 12 VC offices in early 2024; 247 startup visa holders admitted by Se

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Fukuoka City Government / Cabinet Office of Japan](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Fukuoka City — National Strategic Special Zone \(official\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Startup City Fukuoka official](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[JETRO — Japan Startup Visa report](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Japan.go.jp — Fukuoka startup visa programme](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

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