Visa extension-Japan (Tourist visa, Tokyo)

some basic things:

- You need to have German citizenship (some others are also working but not many).
- You are entering with tourist visa. If you have a different one the procedure will be different but you still have to go to the same government building.
- This is an instruction for Tokyo, if you stay somewhere else you will have to go to the legal office of you region.
- Bring your passport!
- You are allowed to stay 180 days only (!) in Japan within the period of 1 year. Check before in case you have been on holiday in Japan or something.

Arrival

- During your flight you get a small paper (why you are here, your passport data, where you stay, how long you stay…). Fill in the data. For period of stay write 90 days (even if you want to stay longer, with tourist visa you won’t get a longer period for now)
- Congratulations you have arrived!

Extending your (tourist) visa

- You have to wait for 45 days, afterwards you can apply for extension
- Here is a list on the documents you will need. In general you need the document for extension of your visa (use the one for temporary visitor). I didn’t need a photo.
- Go to your regions “Regional Immigration Bureau” for the application
- Go up one floor and go to the counter for temporary visitor visa extension (furthest one on the left). Go directly to the counter and state what you want. Give them your formular and your passport. In return you get a small questionnaire and a waiting number (luckily most people need a different counter so you won’t have to wait as long as they do).
- Fill in the questionnaire (where are you staying; why are you in japan; have you been here before; why do you want to extend your visa…there’s also a table asking for some people in Japan you know so ask e.g. your supervisor for name, age, phone number and nationality. I don’t know how important this is.).
- When your number was called go to the counter and return the questionnaire. Now they will check it and call you after finishing (so wait in hearing distance!).
- If everything is fine you will get a paper of approval and they instruct you to go down to the convenience store to buy a revenue stamp (4000 Yen) and return with it. Hand in the paper with the stamp and you get back your passport including extended visa. It cannot be extended to more than total 180 days!
- Have a nice stay! =)