

Interview with a JET participant



Q: What made you apply for the JET Program?

I applied to the JET Program because I thought it was a great opportunity to return to Japan and gain international work experience while being supported along the way. For me, this is my first job outside of college and it is outside of the country. While this may have seemed intimidating at first, there is always someone to help and assist in any tough logistics or difficulties from application, to preparing to leave for Japan, to settling in in Japan and daily life. Being able to work and live in Japan is very different from visiting or studying abroad and can provide a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and society and the JET Program is a great way to experience working in Japan.



Q: What do you actually do every day as a JET at your schools?

My every day as an ALT consists of teaching multiple classes, usually 3-6 grade. I start the class by saying "Hello" and "How are you?" then move into the daily questions about the weather and date. The JTE takes over to start the lesson and then I provide support by either doing pronunciation practice, reading something from the textbook, engaging the students in an activity, or doing examples with the JTE. My day and lessons are very low stress and the JTEs are nice and we work well together.

Q: In your opinion, what is the most appealing part of JET?

I think the most appealing part of JET is the people. First, all of the Japanese people you will meet and make friends with or share experiences with. Every Japanese person I have met has been so kind and welcoming, it has made adjusting much easier. Second, the other ALTs and CIRs that are placed in your location and around you from all over the world and all over the US. In my city, there are seven of us: one from Canada, one from the UK, one from South Africa, and three from the US, California and New York/New Jersey. So, not only do I get to do cultural exchange with my Japanese students and peers, I also get cultural exchange from my colleagues, which I really enjoy. Third, the JET alumni network. The JET alumni network is so vast with people who have done JET everywhere and anywhere and having the shared experience of doing JET starts a connection. For example, I have been reached out to already by two JET alumni who I have never met but are interested in following my journey. On the JET Program, you can build so many new and great relationships.

