

JET Program Info Forum



Right: Mr. Ryan Pauley, JET Coordinator from the Consulate General of Japan at Houston gives an informative presentation on the Jet Program at UTSA

On November 3, 2011 the East Asia Institute welcomed the JET Program Coordinator Mr. Ryan Pauley from the Consulate General of Japan at Houston to give a presentation outlining the JET Program to a group of 45 students at UTSA.

JET Program stands for Japan Exchange and Teaching



Program. This 25-year-old program gives native speakers of English the opportunity to teach the English language and their country's customs and cultures in Japan while learning about Japan and its society. The program's goal is to promote international exchange at a local level. The JET Program offers two types of positions: Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) and Coordinators for International Relations (CIR).

Most JET participants work as ALTs. An ALT is usually placed at a specific school or will visit many schools by working from a board of education.

ALTs do not need to be fluent in Japanese since they will be assisting the Japanese teacher of English. Although some proficiency in Japanese would prove to be beneficial. They may have to design lessons and activities or grade exams. They may also be asked to help with foreign language clubs, school festivals, or speech contests. They could even be asked to teach adult or community English classes. ALTs' mission is to motivate their students to study English and other countries.

On the other hand, CIRs work in prefectural or municipal offices and are required to speak

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Ryan Pauley, JET Coordinator of the
Consulate General of Japan at Houston

For more information please see the official JET Program website
at <http://jetprogramme.org/> or visit the homepage

For the Japanese Embassy to the United States at
<http://www/us/emb-japan.go.jp/jet/index.html>



Japanese fluently to do their work. They have many duties, including translating documents, interpreting for overseas visitors or local officials, giving presentations, and coordinating sister-city relations. However, similar to ALTs, CIRs still teach. They may teach English in schools or they might provide language instruction for employees and residents.

Candidates that are interested in applying must be adaptable, have an outgoing personality with a sense of humor, creativity, patience, humility, initiative, a desire to teach, and a desire to learn about Japan.

According to Pauley, understanding Japanese would be helpful, but is not required unless it is for a CIR position. Having a teaching certificate also looks desirable, but again is not mandatory.

“Despite how fun Japan maybe, the JET Program is a job,” said Pauley, “It is a one-year

contract and can be renewed up to four times.” Qualified candidates will be employed by a contracting organization/school, not the JET Program. The program only manages and facilitates in the hiring process.

The annual salary is approximately 3,360,000 yen (\$43,000) for the first year. Afterwards, the amount gradually goes up. In addition, JETs are covered by health, accident, pension, and employment insurance.

The flights to and from Japan (upon fulfillment of the contracts) are also remunerated for qualified candidates.

Generally, JETs work 35 hours a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, Monday through Friday. Saturdays and Sundays are usually days off. Participants get at least 10 days of paid holidays and 15 days of paid national holidays per year.

“JET is a life altering experience,” said Pauley, “It opens doors to new friendships and opportunities. The mission of JET is multidimensional and I would

encourage all of you to apply as I benefitted from the experience myself and am so glad that I had the opportunity to teach about the U.S. and learn about Japan at the same time.”



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