



WELCOME TO THE JET PROGRAMME FROM AJET

If you're reading this, you have been accepted into the JET programme and will be moving to Japan shortly. Congratulations! You'll soon be joining over 4,000 current JETs who work as ALTs, CIRs or SEAs across the country.

Here at AJET, we understand that you'll undoubtedly have questions about all sorts of things—from what to pack to how to start getting in touch with new friends in your prefecture. We hope that this leaflet will go some way to helping you find the answers you need.

Yours in service,

The 2016-2017 AJET National Council

WHAT IS AJET?

AJET (Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching) is a network of local groups and a national resource for JET participants, run by democratically-elected current JETs, who volunteer their time to help bring the JET community closer together.

WHAT DOES AJET DO?

- Represents JETs to the programme's government sponsors (MIC, MOFA, MEXT and CLAIR)
- Provides resources such as professional development opportunities, corporate special offers and teaching materials
- Connects our diverse community of over 4,000 JETs and JET Alumni from all over the world through events and networking

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Find out more about your new life

Whether or not you've lived in Japan before, many aspects of your day-to-day life and work will be completely new to you! Start finding out what to expect at bit.ly/AJETresources

Chat to your predecessor

No one knows more about your new area, home and job than your predecessor, so once their details are passed on to you, do have a chat with them. If you have any questions or concerns, they'll likely be able to help.

Connect to your AJET Block and your local AJET chapter

The 47 prefectures of Japan are grouped into 11 geographical "Blocks", each of which has an elected AJET Block Representative. Your Block and Block Rep can not only help you be an active member of the national JET community, but also provide great resources that can assist you with every part of your life on JET.

No matter where in Japan you are moving, your local JET community will be present on social media and no doubt excited to meet you!

You can see a full list of websites and social media outlets for JETs living in your prefecture, or prefectures nearby, at bit.ly/AJETblocks

Find an AJET Special Interest Group

If you want to connect with like-minded people, check out our ever expanding list of JET-run Special interest groups (or start one of your own) at bit.ly/AJETSIGs. VegJET (<http://bit.ly/VegJETFB>) and JETs of African Descent (JETs AD) (<http://bit.ly/1TYnTDv>) are two examples of prominent, support groups operating within the JET community.

Check out the AJET website

While you're excitedly waiting to depart, why not browse the AJET website (ajet.net)?

As well as hosting a wealth of information which aims to assist you through your JET journey, we'll have special pre-departure features throughout July which should help you get pumped for your upcoming adventure.

If you like what you see, be sure to connect with us on social media—more details can be found at bit.ly/AJETfollow

Take a stroll, and some pictures, around your hometown

If you have time, visit your favourite places and popular tourist spots in your hometown—being sure to take lots of pictures! Your students and coworkers will love seeing where you come from, and it's a nice chance to see everything before leaving for a year or more.

Practise your self-introduction

First impressions are important in Japan and so perfecting your self-introduction (*jikoshoukai*) should be a priority. Whether you're already fluent in Japanese or have only just started getting to grips with hiragana, it's worth practising your self-introduction in both Japanese and English before you depart.

Check out AJET's handy script template, which you can find on the other side of this leaflet.

Make a packing list

Make sure you'll have everything you need (and nothing you don't)! You'll need to consider everything from ensuring you have weather appropriate clothing for your area to stocking up on *omiyage* (souvenirs) for your new coworkers.

You can find heaps of useful tips at bit.ly/AJETincoming



TOKYO ORIENTATION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When you touch down in Tokyo you're likely to be jet-lagged and it will almost definitely be sweltering hot due to Japan's extreme summer. However, if you can battle through the heat and the tiredness, Tokyo Orientation is an invaluable opportunity to meet new friends and gather important information.

Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions to help you make the most of it!

“Should I wear a suit on the plane?”

No need to wear a suit on the plane to Tokyo—just make sure you have your suit or formal wear (don't forget a jacket!) in your orientation luggage. There'll be an iron in your room to knock out any creases and ensure you look your best.

However, you should bring a suit and dress nicely when travelling from Tokyo to your new home. You'll likely be greeted upon arrival by your new boss, so be sure to make a good impression!

“Will I have WiFi during Orientation?”

Yes. WiFi is available at the hotel, in your room, and in Starbucks near to the Keio Plaza, which will be indicated on the map AJET provides you with in Connect magazine.

“Is there time for networking?”

Absolutely, Tokyo Orientation is one of the best opportunities you will have for networking throughout your time on JET. As well as attending official events organised by CLAIR and your country's embassy, be sure to say hello to fellow new JETS during lunchtime, or join an impromptu evening karaoke session. You might make a friend for life!

Be sure to join the Facebook groups of your Block, Prefecture and any Special Interest Groups you're interested in before you leave for Japan. They may be planning orientation meet-ups or events.

SELF-INTRODUCTION SCRIPT

You can use this simple script to introduce yourself to people you are meeting for the first time. Just insert your name (1) and which country you are from (2).

.....

Romaji

Hajimemashite

Watashi wa (1) _____ to moushimasu.

(2) _____ kara kimashita.

Yoroshiku onegai itashimasu.

.....

Hirigana

はじめまして

わたしは (1) _____ ともうします。

(2) _____ からきました。

よろしくおねがいします。

.....

English Translation

Nice to meet you

My name is (1) _____.

I came from (2) _____.

I ask for your kindness and support.



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