

Applications open soon for the 2013-14 JET Programme

The *Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme* is a wonderful opportunity for young university graduates to gain an understanding of Japan while contributing to language education and internationalisation within their local community in Japan.

At the end of July, the latest cohort of NSW JETs was farewelled to take up their places on the 2012-2013 program.

The **JET Programme** was established in 1987 by the Japanese Government. The Programme seeks to enhance internationalisation in Japan by promoting understanding between nations.

Specifically, the JET Programme aims to enhance foreign language education in Japan and to promote international exchange at the local level by fostering ties between Japanese and young people from other countries.

JET Programme participants for the 2012-2013 programme are drawn from 40 countries around the world. Alumni number approximately 55,000 internationally of whom around 3,500 are Australians.



The Positions

There are two main positions on the program.

Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) work with Japanese English teachers at Japanese primary, junior high and senior high schools.

Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) work with local government bodies to promote international exchange.

Both roles involve sharing knowledge of your own culture and offer participants the chance to experience Japan, the people and culture.



A reception was held on 18 July for the nineteen New South Wales JETs on the 2012-13 programme. Here Dr Kohara looks on as Mr Lance Ferguson spoke on behalf of the NSW JETs. The new JETs left for Japan on 28 July. Three JETs were sent earlier from NSW in April, meaning a total of 21

new participants from NSW this year. In all, there were 104 new Australian JETs bringing the total number of Australian JETs on the 2012-13 JET programme to 262.

Interested in applying?

Applications for the 2013-2014 programme will be opening in early October 2012. Several information sessions will be organised by the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney. These are a great opportunity to learn more about the programme and hear from former JETs. See our website for session details closer to October.

Applications close early December 2012 and must be received on the due date by close of business at the Embassy.

For further information, contact the JET Desk on (02) 9231 3455 or visit the following websites:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education.htm

www.jetprogramme.org

日本語能力試験 Japanese Language Proficiency Test

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test has been held since 1984 and it is the largest-scale test of Japanese language in the world. The test is widely considered as a benchmark to gauge the Japanese ability of non-native speakers. It not only acts as a reliable guide for government and corporate organisations, it is also a great way for students of Japanese to assess their own proficiency. This year the test will be held on **Sunday 2 December**.

The test is offered by the Japan Foundation and the Japan Educational Exchange and Services. In Australia, it is organised by the Japan Foundation Sydney in cooperation with host institutions around the country.

Studying for the test

An official practice workbook based on past exams is now available online at the JLPT website—www.jlpt.jp/e/samples/sample12.html. The Japan Foundation Sydney Library has study guides and past papers available for loan. They are also available through select bookstores.

Note: Apply directly to the host institutions, not the Japan Foundation. In NSW, the host is the University of NSW.

Sydney application dates: 27 August—21 September

For details see: www.jpf.org.au/jlpt/