

Ontario
(other than National Capital Region)
Japan Foundation, Toronto
Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba
and the Northwest Territories
Consulate-General of Japan,
Edmonton
British Columbia and Yukon Territory
Consulate-General of Japan,
Vancouver

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN PROGRAMS

Regional and Educational Exchanges for Mutual Understanding Program (REX)

The REX was established in 1990 by the Japanese Ministry of Education and Culture (Monbusho). Under this program, Japanese secondary school teachers, usually teachers of English, spend two years teaching abroad. All REX teachers have both formal teaching qualifications and teaching experience and receive a supplemental four-month training in Japan prior to assuming their positions abroad.

Candidates are sponsored by individual prefectures. In 1990, the first year of the program, 13 teachers were sent to four countries: Canada, United States, Australia and New Zealand. By 1992, 21 candidates were selected of whom four were sent to Canada -two to British Columbia and two to Alberta.

Teachers are often sent to cities twinned with Japanese partners. For more information, contact the International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Education of Japan.

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET)

JET's primary aim is to foster mutual understanding among young people around the world. Each year, some 500 young Canadians work in Japan either as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) in junior or senior high schools or as Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) in municipal

government offices. They are part of a much larger group of young people - some 3,000 - from around the world who participate in JET. Canadian educators may take advantage of this program to develop or enhance their Japanese-language skills.

The primary responsibility for the program rests with the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) which initiated JET as part of its internationalization strategy. Local authorities are responsible for schools in their area and for municipal functions and are the employers of ALTs and CIRs. Airfare and salary for ALTs and CIRs are covered under the program.

The program is open to Canadian citizens, generally under 35 years of age, who will have obtained a first university degree by the time of take-up of their duties. CIRs must be competent in Japanese, but ALTs are not required to have any knowledge of the language. A teaching certificate is not a requirement either, although many ALTs are qualified teachers. Participants must be flexible and adaptable, must have good oral and written communication skills in English and must, for ALTs, have a genuine desire to assist Japanese students to learn English. There is a two-tier evaluation process. Written applications are assessed in late fall of each year. Those selected in the first round are then interviewed in February and learn of the results in March. JET participants travel to Japan in mid-summer, stopping first in Tokyo for a week's orientation session with their new colleagues from around the world and then proceeding to their host prefecture. Participants may renew their contract for a second year, if their employer agrees.

Information/application forms:
Embassy or Consulates-General
of Japan in Canada.