

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Where do I submit my required documents?** Please submit your required documents to the following address:

**Japan Information Center
ATTN: JET Program
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60611**

Make sure you submit your original FBI Criminal Background check application and your original IRS 8802 form, along with appropriate payment, to the FBI and the IRS.

2. **When will I be placed?** SHORT-LIST JETs will be placed sometime in mid-May to early June. However, you will not learn your exact address until you are contacted by your Contracting Organization later (usually in June). ALTERNATE JETs will be placed when and if they are upgraded.
3. **What does Short List means?** It means you have been accepted by the JET Program and are awaiting placement in Japan. In virtually all cases, Short List candidates are given placements.
4. **I am an alternate. How will I know if I am upgraded?** Upgrades from alternate to short-list status occur when a current short-list candidate decides to withdraw from the JET Program, and can occur at any time up to and even beyond the departure date. We will call or email you to notify you of your opportunity to upgrade to short-list status; there is no need for you to contact us.
5. **As an alternate, what are my chances of being upgraded?** While we do upgrade many alternates every year, it is impossible for us to predict an individual alternate's chances of being upgraded.
6. **Is there any way to increase my chances of being upgraded?** Unfortunately, there is no way to increase your chances of being upgraded.
7. **Can I find out my placement on the alternate list?** Unfortunately, we cannot disclose your place on the alternate list, even in a general way. We understand that waiting and not knowing is difficult, but how upgrades will occur from the alternate list is unpredictable. We honestly cannot predict your chances of being upgraded.
8. **Why do I need to apply for the IRS 6166 form?** The IRS 6166 form is needed to exempt ALTs from paying Japanese income taxes on your JET income. Without the 6166 form, you will have to pay Japanese income taxes.
9. **I have dual citizenship with Japan. By when do I need to renounce my Japanese citizenship?** You must renounce your Japanese citizenship by July 1, 2016. This takes some time, so do not delay. *By Monday April 11th, 2016, you must submit to the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago a copy of your application to renounce your Japanese citizenship.* Please contact the Japan Information Center ASAP for further information.
10. **I live in Japan. May I make Tokyo my departure city?** You may designate Tokyo as your departure city only if you currently have a long-term stay visa (foreign residence status) that can be converted to a JET Program visa. Student visas are not sufficient for this purpose. For details, please contact the Visa Section at ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp or (312) 280-0418/0419.

11. **Do I need to purchase my own ticket to Japan?** No. Your ticket will be purchased for you and given to you at the Pre-Departure Orientation in late July.
12. **If I withdraw from JET, will there be any consequences?** Possibly. If you withdraw from JET after accepting a placement in Japan, then you may have to pay for any transportation costs (such as your plane ticket to Japan) accrued by the Japanese government. If you withdraw from JET after placement notification, then you will also be prohibited from applying for the JET Program again the next year. Participants' contracting organizations will provide airline tickets from the airport designated in their home countries to Narita International Airport. Transportation costs from Narita International Airport to the Post-Arrival Tokyo Orientation venue, accommodation costs during the Post-Arrival Tokyo Orientation and transportation costs from the Post-Arrival Tokyo Orientation venue to the contracting organization will be borne by the contracting organization. It is for these reasons that in case where, after he/she has received his/her placement, a participant withdraws his/her intent to participate in the Programme or is disqualified, except in exceptional cases such as on humanitarian grounds, he/she must pay related cancellation fees accrued (including those fees for housing in case where the contracting organisation has already made arrangements).
13. **When should I apply for my visa?** You will get instructions regarding visa applications in June. Please DO NOT apply for a visa before then.
14. **Do I need to find my own housing in Japan?** No. If selected as a JET participant, your Contracting Organization will find housing for you, or assist you in finding housing after your arrival.
15. **Who is supervising this process?** You are currently being overseen and supervised by, and your paperwork is being processed by, the JET Program Coordinators at the Japan Information Center, part of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago (please note: we are NOT an Embassy). The JET Program Coordinators in Chicago are Mr. Austin Gilkeson (austin.gilkeson@cg.mofa.go.jp; 312-280-0434) and Ms. Maki Rogers (maki.rogers@cg.mofa.go.jp; 312-280-0428).