

JET Program Placement FAQ

1. Can I change my placement?

No. You must either accept the placement you have been given or withdraw from the Program. Under absolutely no circumstances can your placement be changed.

2. If I withdraw after receiving my placement, are there any penalties?

Yes. If you withdraw after receiving your placement, you will NOT be allowed to apply for the 2017 JET Program. You can apply for the 2018 JET Program. If you withdraw after the travel agency reserved your flight, you will have to pay for the flight, the hotel for Tokyo Orientation and the transportation to your placement.

3. My prefecture and Contracting Organization (C.O.) are the same. What does that mean?

It means you are a Prefectural ALT or CIR. In other words, you have been hired by that prefecture (Nagasaki-ken, Osaka-fu, etc.). For ALTs, this usually means you'll be working primarily in high schools, as high schools are operated at the prefectural, rather than municipal level (prefectures are roughly equivalent to states in the United States).

4. My C.O. is different from my prefecture. What does that mean?

This means you are a Municipal ALT or CIR, or a School ALT. Municipal JETs are hired by a city/town/village. For ALTs, this usually means you will work as a junior high school/elementary school ALT, since junior high schools and elementary schools are operated at the municipal level.

If you have been hired by a specific school or academy, it is difficult to say what grade levels you will teach as it depends on the specific school.

5. What do the Japanese suffixes mean?

- a. 県・府・都・道 (-ken • -fu • -to • -do) = Prefecture
- b. 市(-shi) = City
- c. 町 (-machi *or* -cho) = Town
- d. 村 (-mura *or* -son) = Village
- e. 学園・学院・学舎 (-gakuen • -gakuin • -gakusha) = Academy /School

6. My prefecture has a -shi suffix. What does that mean?

A few cities in Japan (like Sapporo and Kobe) are called “designated cities” and operate like prefectures. They hire their ALTs like prefectures do. So, if your “Prefecture” is Kobe-shi, it means you are probably going to be a high school ALT in the city of Kobe.

7. I’m a Prefectural ALT. When will I find out the specific city/town I’ll be living in?

Whenever your prefectural government contacts you. It may be this week. It may be the week before departure. The Chicago Consulate will never know, so do NOT ask us. It will come directly from Japan straight to you. Be patient. Sometimes it takes a while for prefectures to match JETs to specific towns/schools.

8. When will my C.O. (Contracting Organization) and/or predecessor contact me?

Again, that’s their discretion. We do advise you to be patient. Sometimes it takes a while.

9. How can I get in touch with my predecessor?

Your predecessor will be given your contact information and will be asked to contact you (note: not all JETs have predecessors). You may also want to connect with local AJET (Association of the JET Program) chapter in your placement area (<http://ajet.net/>) so you can get in touch with the local JETs already in your area.