

Assistants to Teachers of Japanese Program 2020

Program information

The Assistants to Teachers of Japanese (ATJ) Program provides a valuable opportunity to assist teachers of Japanese in Victoria by helping students to learn about Japanese language and culture and to enable them to increase their proficiency in Japanese.

The program is an initiative of the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) and is available to students of select Japanese universities. Since 1996, hundreds of graduates from Japan have participated in the ATJ Program.

Victoria has the second largest education system in Australia and is recognised as a world leader in all sectors of education and training. The Victorian education system has earned a reputation for providing high-quality educational opportunities in a safe environment.

'Languages' is one of eight subject areas taught in Victorian government schools. Japanese is one of the most widely taught languages in Victorian government schools.



School placement arrangements

Placement in a Victorian school through the ATJ Program are for nine months commencing in mid to late April each year. You will be placed in a Victorian school and assist a qualified teacher of Japanese in the preparation and delivery of the school's Japanese language program.

You will be assigned to one main school and may support the Japanese program in 2 or 3 schools, always working under the supervision of a qualified teacher.

Living with an Australian homestay family, you will be able to learn first-hand about Australian life while being immersed in an English-speaking environment.

In your role as an ATJ you will:

- assist the Japanese teacher/s in a Victorian school/s
- collaborate with the teacher/s to develop lessons, activities and resources that require the expertise of a native speaker
- foster an understanding of the Japanese language and culture within the school community
- be involved in activities to promote Japanese in the school.

The hours of duty are 30.5 hours per week with between 18 – 20 hours face-to-face contact with students. The school principal, in cooperation with the Languages coordinator will be responsible for overseeing your placement.

The Languages coordinator in a secondary school will be a member of the Languages faculty but not necessarily a teacher of Japanese. The Languages coordinator in a primary school will generally be the teacher of Japanese.

During the program you may have the opportunity to participate in a number of professional learning workshops. These workshops allow you to develop your teaching skills by networking and sharing resources with other assistants and teachers.

You will receive an allowance of AUD\$120 per week to help cover incidentals (this may not cover the full costs of incidentals).

Homestay arrangements

Homestay accommodation, (including three meals a day), will be provided at no cost for the duration of the school placement. Your homestay family is carefully selected by the school from within the host school community. You will join your host family for meals and other activities during the week and on the weekends. You are likely to have more than one host family during your placement.

Benefits to you

- Experience life in Australia
- Experience a homestay with a local Australian family
- Develop teaching skills
- Learn about the Victorian education system
- Develop communication skills and build confidence
- Further develop your English language skills through immersion in a native English speaking environment
- Participate in professional learning sessions to build your knowledge of education and teaching skills
- Establish ties with schools and teachers in Australia
- Develop friendships

Benefits to the host school

- Current knowledge of Japanese language and culture
- Verification of Japanese language usage both in written and spoken forms
- Support to the Japanese language teacher/s
- Increased opportunities for teachers and students to communicate using Japanese
- Promotion of Japanese to the wider school community



Program eligibility requirements

All ATJ Program applicants must be:

- a recent university or college graduate from a partner ATJ Program university
- under 31 years old (visa requirement)
- certified by their university to be of good character and have met appropriate academic standards

In addition, applicants must meet one of the following requirements for English Language Proficiency:

Test type	Minimum score
IELTS	6.0
TOEFL	500 (PBT)
	61 (iBT)
Eiken	Pre-1
TOEIC	605

Please note: The listed scores are a recommended proficiency level only. You will need to be able to communicate in English with students, school staff and homestay family.

To work with teachers, groups of primary and/or secondary students and live in a homestay, ATJ participants must also be:

- Confident
- Adaptable
- Easy going
- Able to communicate effectively in both Japanese and English
- Willing to work with a range of people
- Demonstrate an ability to adapt to new cultures and situations
- Demonstrate a willingness to fully participate in the life of the host family, school and community
- Have the capacity to work in a team situation.

Financial responsibilities of participants

Applicants selected to participate in the ATJ Program will be responsible for:

- obtaining a passport and visa (see visa information below)
- organising and paying for all airfares
- obtaining travel/health insurance prior to departure, covering the duration of the placement. Health insurance is compulsory and must be arranged before departing Japan.

Participants should also have access to sufficient personal funds as the allowance of \$120 per week may not cover all personal costs.

Visa arrangements

Applicants selected to participate in the ATJ Program must apply for a Temporary Activity Visa (Subclass 408) through the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

This visa is for individuals to participate in approved programs that provide opportunities for cultural enrichment and community benefit. For further information about this visa go to <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408->

Successful applicants will receive a letter of invitation from the Victorian Department of Education and Training to participate in the program, as per the visa requirement.

When the opportunity to participate in the ATJ program came up I thought it would be a great experience. I completed a Bachelor of Arts with a major in English Literature at Doshisha Women's College. The college has been involved in the ATJ Program for a long time and I found out about it through other students who recommended the program.

Through the program I've been able to experience first-hand the teaching of Japanese in a Victorian primary school, and have learnt a lot about language education. The skills I have developed will also be really useful for when I teach students in Japan. Not only have I been able to teach the children Japanese language but I have been able to share some aspects of Japanese culture such as calligraphy and origami. The students really like learning about Japan and are excited to participate in class.

Staying with a host family, I've been able to learn a lot about the Australian lifestyle. I've been able to do some sightseeing too, such as visiting Lakes Entrance which is not too far from Sale. It's been great for developing my English language skills, which is something I also wanted to get out of the program. I'd definitely recommend the program to other students, especially those interested in teaching.

Asako Aoki ATJ Program 2010

How to apply

To apply for the ATJ Program, you will need to complete the Assistants to Teachers of Japanese Program application form.

Please check the application form for the closing date. Please read the application form carefully and ensure that you complete all details and attach all required supporting documentation.



Program timeline

Application form and other supporting documentation submitted to DET	18 October 2019
Successful applicants notified by email	Mid-November 2019
Participants sent a letter of invitation letter from DET to apply for visa	December 2019
Participants arrive in Melbourne	14 April 2020
Orientation in Melbourne	15 April 2020
Participants commence placement in school	16 April 2020
End of school year*	Mid-December 2020

IMPORTANT NOTE:

It is not possible for participants to extend their stay in Australia or to be placed in another school following the completion of the initial placement.