

POST-JET STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
Pursuit Packet
Version 2020

- **What's This?**
JETAA is looking for your help in partnering with grad schools to better publicize study opportunities for JET alumni and even working with schools to develop scholarship and other financial support specifically for them. These partnerships could possibly also help chapters better leverage their own resources.

- **What Do I Do?**
Reach out to schools in your area to explore ways to help them better connect with the JET alumni, including their willingness to consider offering financial incentives to qualified students.

- **Who Can Help Me?**
The Post-JET Opportunities Working Group would be happy to assist you. You can contact them at postjetopps@jetaainternational.org.

Overview

Many JETs decide to pursue an advanced degree after finishing their time on the Program. If leveraged properly, JET experience can become a career development asset, especially if enhanced by postgraduate study. It has become clear that what was once a haphazard, individual occurrence by a few people has considerable potential to benefit both the alumni as a group and grad schools seeking well-qualified students if chapters undertake a more organized effort to provide support.

For grad schools, competition for good students has become much stronger over the past few years (according to alumni who work in the field) and schools are literally willing to pay to attract the best candidates. The new scholarship and financial support arrangements we have been signing are proof that JET alumni are a highly attractive pool of potential recruits.

Chapters can take advantage of this situation while also helping to promote it by developing relationships with schools in your area through activities such as partnering on events and cross-promoting each other's offerings. Increasing access and resources like this can help make chapter membership more rewarding and attractive. An enticing study program, especially one that offers financial support, could even attract former JETs to a chapter's area. JETAA Northern California, for example, has a major subchapter at the Middlebury Institute for International Studies in Monterey.

This packet aims to help chapters identify and pursue post-JET study opportunities in your area for alumni based on these factors.

Guide for Alumni

Chapters can seek out and develop opportunities by using REPO:

Research

- Research local graduate programs of interest
- Learn about their scholarships, incentives, etc.
- Identify the best person to approach to discuss partnering

Evaluate

- Look for connections within the JETAA network with the school or program
- Consider creating a subcommittee within the chapter to handle the work
- Identify cross-promotional and partnering opportunities

Prepare

- Contact the Opportunities Working Group for outreach support
- Draft and review correspondence (e.g. a proposal letter or email)
- Establish a point of contact in the chapter

Outreach

- Formally reach out to target schools
- Start slowly by proposing that they consider any cross-promotional opportunities
- Emphasize the global alumni network

Outreach Points

What are the main points to emphasize in talking with schools?

- There are currently over 70,000 JET alumni around the world.
- Alumni go into every conceivable field and many have risen to positions of prominence in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors (examples available).
- The alumni support and communications networks are global, from your own chapter (and even its subchapters) all the way up to JETAA International, including JETwit and the National AJET network in Japan.
- JETs work for a highly selective program run by the government of Japan that exposes them to a wide range of experience during their time there.
- The JET Program(me) cultivates a range of personal and professional skills as participants contribute to the Japanese communities they live in and carry out their duties as education professionals and citizen diplomats.

Outreach Template

Here is a basic draft template of information you can provide to target schools to support any conversation with them. This could be provided in a letter, email, flyer, or verbally, depending on the circumstances (portions in red to be changed according to circumstances). The best target may be the person in charge of recruiting for the school or specific graduate program. However, also consider school alumni or student groups that have connections to or interests in common with JETAA if this might be a more promising route.

JETAA **XX** is the local chapter of the JET Alumni Association. We would like to discuss ways we can partner with **XX / you** to provide our alumni with enhanced opportunities to benefit from your study programs and to improve your ability to connect with them.

There are currently over 70,000 former participants in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program(**me**). Well over half of those are in the US and Canada. However, the JET Alumni Association and its various entities comprise a global network and JET alumni tend to continue to operate on the international level, so tapping into this network allows you to connect with all of its furthest-flung members around the world.

The JET Program(**me**) was established in 1987 by the government of Japan. It is a highly selective opportunity for college graduates to live in Japan and teach in public schools for up to five years, in the case of Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), or work for prefecture or municipal governments in support of their internationalization efforts, in the case of Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs). There are also a limited number of Sports Exchange Advisors (SEAs). Participants are chosen for their adaptability, motivation, ability to function well in a Japanese work environment, desire to contribute, and, perhaps most important of all, their resilience and ability to overcome challenges.

There are a number of online resources if you would like to learn more about JET, including <http://jetprogramme.org/en/> or our national website at <https://jetprogramusa.org/> / <https://www.jet-uk.org/> / <https://jetprogramme.ca/> / etc.

JET alumni have been recognized as the newest generation of “Japan hands”, knowledgeable about and familiar with the country. Beyond this, though, they have gone on to pursue careers in almost every field of endeavor in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and many have risen to prominent positions over time. Their value has already been recognized by schools such as the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Syracuse University, Carnegie Mellon University, and the School for International Training, all of which offer financial aid packages specifically for JET alumni. They are an international pool of talent who possess a wealth of skills

and experience along with a global outlook. Besides being adaptable and resilient, they possess strong research and communications abilities, making them well suited to a post-graduate academic environment.

We feel certain there are alumni who would be interested in your program(s) and would like to do whatever we can to facilitate access to them as well as to help you tap into this pool of potential students more effectively.

We / I look forward to having a chance to discuss this with you and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The above content can be adapted in various ways – or ignored altogether – by a chapter looking to develop a relationship with a school or schools in its area. As with everything else JET-related, every situation is different and no two outreach efforts are likely to be the same.

The most comprehensive lists of current study opportunities are available at:

- JETwit: <https://jetwit.com/wordpress/graduate-school/>
- AJET: <https://ajet.net/resources/graduate-programs/>
- USJETAA: <https://usjetaa.org/scholarships-fellowships-grants/>

For more information or assistance, please contact the Post-JET Opportunities Working Group at: postjetopps@jetaainternational.org.

Gambatte and good luck!