

Life as a JET Bringing Partners or Family

It is important to note there are strict guidelines on Visas and employment. It is critical that your partner pay close attention to the maximum numbers of work hours allowed on his/her visa within your prefecture. Also, he/she may be required to seek approval for multiple jobs.

Visa questions

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/long/index.html

Also visit your home country's website.

Work websites

If your partner hopes to work while in Japan, check out the following websites. Though most foreigners seek work in teaching, your partner may be able to find other types of employment. "Hello Work" and the temp agencies below may offer the solution to finding ideal jobs in your area.

Teaching and tutoring:

<http://www.ohayosensei.com/>
<http://www.findateacher.net/>

General work (government site):

<https://www.hellowork.go.jp/>

Temp agencies:

www.manpower.co.jp
www.pasona.co.jp

Au Pair, Child care, babysitting:

www.greataupair.com/jobs_Work_Agency/Find_Housekeeping_Jobs/Japan.htm

See other side for more ideas on finding jobs.

When you arrive at your contracting organization, arrangements will have already been made for your accommodation. You are entitled to view it prior to signing a lease. If it is not suitable, you may make alternative arrangements. While renting a private apartment can be time consuming and expensive up-front, you and your family may find it more comfortable and the monthly rent can be quite reasonable at times.

Documentation.

Your supervisor will assist you in obtaining most of the necessary legal documents such as an Alien Registration Card, health insurance card, inkan (a stamp you use for legal documents) and so on. The Non-JET partner, spouse or children will need many if not all of the same official documents as the JET. Your supervisor may help you to get a phone, a bank account, connect your utilities and set up an internet connection; however they are not obligated to do so.

Koseki

This is the register of births, marriages and deaths. Your superior will probably take you to city hall during your first week. This is a good opportunity to ask if you will be required to register.

Juminhyo

This is the city register where all residents must be recorded. It's needed for opening a bank account and registering a child at school. It's also a prerequisite for health insurance.

Jidouteate - Child Allowance

If you have children under 12, you may be entitled to child support payments from the government. While the federal government designates the minimum amount, some cities supplement the funds.

Your child's education

There are several options depending on your child's age and your budget. These include hoikuen (daycare), youchien (kindergarten), shougakko (primary school) and home schooling. Talk with your supervisor about what is available in your area and to request assistance with applications.

Community Support

Support and information is all around you: other for teachers with families (many are not on the JET Programme), your supervisor, colleagues, locals, CLAIR and JET. Don't be afraid to ask.

Also, many bloggers within the JET Community share their suggestions for daily living and overcoming challenges. A popular blog for a wide range of questions is <http://www.survivingnJapan.com>.