



Teaching Japanese in a UK school

Guidelines for Potential Teachers



As of 2013 there are an estimated 300 schools teaching Japanese in the UK, and the teaching of Japanese in UK schools has in recent years enjoyed steady growth (You can see a full list of these schools at www.jpff.org.uk/language/listofschools.php). However, it can still be difficult to obtain a full-time position teaching Japanese in a UK secondary school. The main reason for this is that only a very small percentage of schools have enough Japanese on the curriculum to merit appointing a full-time teacher. It's much more likely that a school will need either a part-time peripatetic teacher who can visit for a few hours a week or a teacher who can offer another teaching subject alongside Japanese (another language can be particularly useful if you find yourself attached to the Modern Language Department).

What qualifications do I need to teach Japanese in a UK school?

You do not need a specific qualification in teaching Japanese in order to teach it at a UK school. However, in order to become a teacher in a state school in England or Wales, you will need to complete a course of **Initial Teacher Training (ITT)**, leading to **Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)**. QTS is a very specific qualification, and there are five main routes to achieving it.

Independent schools, academies and free schools are not bound by the same rules and can be more flexible. Some academies will accept staff who do not have QTS but are "experts in their field."

How can I gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)?

There are a number of routes to Qualified Teacher Status. For full details including information about how to apply, please see the Department for Education's website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options.aspx>

1. University-based training - Undergraduate

You can train to be a teacher while completing a degree. This usually takes 3-4 years full time (or 4-6 years part time). There are two types of undergraduate ITT which lead to qualified teacher status (QTS):

:: Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) with QTS

This option allows you to specialise in a certain subject (for example, maths, physics, chemistry or languages), while gaining your honours degree and QTS.

:: Bachelor of Education (BEd)

This is an honours degree course in education. BEd degrees are available for both primary and secondary teaching.

2. University-based training - Postgraduate

If you already have a degree, you can train to be a teacher in one to two years via a **Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) course**. **PGCE courses** generally last for one year full-time or up to two years part-time. They are available at universities and colleges throughout the UK. For this route, you will need a **UK degree** or a recognised equivalent qualification. You will also need a **Grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths** (and possibly Science), or the equivalent. You can find out if your qualifications are equivalent to UK qualifications through UK NARIC. Your degree should relate to the subject you want to teach (if primary, that means the core subjects of the national curriculum). If it doesn't, you may be able to complete a pre-training course to get your knowledge up to the required level.

Trainees on PGCE courses will have to pay tuition fees, which vary depending on the course and the provider. UK and EU trainees may be eligible for a loan to cover their tuition fees, and, depending on the subject and class of undergraduate degree, a tax-free bursary of up to £20,000.

PGCE courses lead to QTS. However, please be aware that courses with a similar but different name (PGE, PGC, etc.) are **not** the same as PGCE courses.

3. School-based Training

You can train and qualify as a teacher while working in a school, through one of these routes:

- :: **School-Centered Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)**
- :: **School Direct**
- :: **Teach First**

SCITT programmes are designed and delivered by groups of neighbouring schools and colleges, and generally last for one year full-time, and enable participants to complete their training within a school environment. The qualification requirements are similar to those for a PGCE course. As with PGCE courses, SCITT course trainees will have to pay tuition fees but may be eligible for a loan or bursary.

School Direct is a new programme that opened in 2013. It allows schools to recruit and select the trainees they want with the expectation that they will then go on to work within the school or group of schools in which they were trained, although there is no absolute guarantee of employment. All School Direct places will lead to qualified teacher status (QTS) and many, though not all, will also award a PGCE. Courses should last one year, and trainees will have to pay tuition fees to cover the cost of the course. Home and EU trainees will be eligible for a tuition fee loan to cover the cost of these fees.

Teach First aims to recruit from top graduates who have shown high levels of ability in areas such as leadership and communication. As such, its entry requirements are strict. Teach First trainees are placed in primary and secondary schools in selected regions within England, where more than half of pupils come from the poorest 30% of families in the UK. The programme takes two years to complete. Teach First participants are paid and employed by their primary or secondary school throughout the two years. There are no tuition fees.

4. Assessment-based Teacher Training

Suitable for those who have a degree and substantial teaching experience in the UK, but do not hold QTS. This programme can take up to one year to complete. Please contact the University of Gloucestershire for more information: <http://www.glos.ac.uk/courses/teachertraining/Pages/qts.aspx>

5. Overseas Trained Teacher Programme (OTTP)

Another option for Japanese native speakers arriving with a teacher qualification from Japan is to enrol in the OTTP (Overseas Trained Teacher Programme). If you qualified as a teacher outside of the European Economic Area, you may be eligible to work in England as a temporary, unqualified teacher for up to 4 years. To continue teaching, you will then need to have QTS. When you have found a teaching position in a school, the OTTP will provide you with an individual training and assessment programme. This will ultimately lead to your qualification to teach in England permanently.

Can I do a PGCE in Japanese?

The University of Sheffield offers a PGCE with Japanese in addition to a European language, and usually takes on a small number of trainees with Japanese each year. Both **St Mary's University College in Twickenham** and **University College Plymouth St Mark & St John** can consider PGCE applicants with Japanese as a subsidiary language, but in most cases you would be expected to offer strong French, German or Spanish. Likewise, **Bath Spa University** offers a PGCE course in modern foreign languages (either Key Stages 2 and 3, or secondary) and lists Japanese as a desirable language, but you would need to have expertise in European languages too. **Kent and Medway Training** runs a SCITT scheme (leading to a PGCE qualification), where trainees in modern foreign languages can choose Japanese as one of their specialist languages.

Alternatively, you can take a PGCE in another subject (e.g. history, maths, etc.) and then offer Japanese as an additional subject once you start applying for jobs. It is sometimes possible for trainee teachers of subjects other than Japanese to negotiate with their tutors to undertake one of their teaching practices at a school that offers Japanese.

Please note that most teacher training providers will only consider inviting to interview those who have recent classroom observation of their subject being taught. This usually means between a few days and a couple of weeks seeing the subject taught across a wide age range, normally in UK state schools. It should also include observing the role of a form tutor. See <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/school-experience.aspx> for more information.

The Japan Foundation London Fact sheet

Contact details for the above universities:

:: University of Sheffield (PGCE)

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/education/courses/>

Tel: 0114 2228080, 0114 2228081

Contact: Terry Lamb ite@sheffield.ac.uk

:: St Mary's University College (PGCE)

<http://www.smuc.ac.uk/pgce>

Tel: 020 8240 4154

Email: Bob Vertes bobv@smuc.ac.uk

:: Kent and Medway Training (SCITT)

<http://www.kmtraining.org.uk/>

Tel: 01322 620518

Contact: Brenda Smith / Heidi King

bsm@leighacademy.org.uk

hki@leighacademy.org.uk

:: Bath Spa University (PGCE)

<http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/courses/teaching/>

Tel: 01225 875624

Contact: teaching@bathspa.ac.uk

:: University College Plymouth St Mark & St John (MARJON) (PGCE)

<http://www.marjon.ac.uk>

Tel: 0115 951 4543

Contact: EducationEnquiries@nottingham.ac.uk

Will any teaching qualifications I obtained in Japan be recognised?

The Department for Education only recognises teaching qualifications from EU countries. However, if you are a qualified teacher in Japan and now teaching as an unqualified teacher in the UK, you may be eligible for the **OTTP** (see above).

Where can I look for Japanese teaching posts?

:: The Education section of **The Guardian** on a Tuesday (eG)

:: **The TES** (Times Educational Supplement) on a Friday

:: The **Japan Foundation London's teaching jobs** page (http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_job.php) is regularly updated with details of Japanese teaching vacancies that we hear about.

What else can I do to strengthen my chances?

:: Subscribe to **JLE-UK**, the Japan Foundation's email discussion list for teachers of Japanese and those involved in Japanese language education. This will help you to keep up-to-date with the issues specific to teaching Japanese at secondary level in the UK, and also gives you the opportunity to communicate with teachers of Japanese in the UK.

<http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/>.

:: Join **ALL** (The Association for Language Learning), which has a Japanese Language Committee. Their magazine and e-mail bulletins will keep you in touch with languages teaching in general. <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/>

:: If you are a fluent or native speaker of Japanese, join our **Japan Taster for Schools (JTS) programme** as a volunteer, to gain more experience of teaching Japanese tasters in schools.

http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_stepout.php

What about finding a teaching job if I'm in Japan?

Although you can still access online advertisements, it can be quite hard to find work unless you are in the UK and available for interviews. Also, if you don't have UK residency, you should bear in mind that you will need to ask any potential employer to apply for a work permit for you.

If you are currently teaching at a Japanese Junior or Senior High School, you may be interested in the **REX programme**. This was set up in 1990 and is now administered by Monbukagakusho (the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan). It offers Japanese teachers working in Japanese schools the chance to teach Japanese language and culture in secondary schools abroad for two years, include a four-month pre-departure, intensive training programme in Japanese language teaching methodology in Japan. After completing the programme, REX teachers are expected to return to teach in Japan. If you have 3 or more years' experience in the classroom, you can find out more about the REX programme by contacting your local prefectural board of education in Japan. For more information, see:

http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shotou/rex/main.htm

Useful Contacts and Websites

:: The Department for Education – Teaching Agency <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching>

Tel: 0800 389 2500

The Department for Education's Teaching Agency can advise on all issues about teacher training and gaining Qualified Teacher Status.

:: GTTR (The Graduate Teacher Training Registry) <http://www.gtrr.ac.uk/>

The GTTR takes in applications for postgraduate teacher training courses:

Tel. 0871 468 0 469

:: UK NARIC (The National Academic Recognition Centre) <http://www.naric.org.uk/>

This is the National Agency which compares overseas qualifications to the UK's qualification frameworks. If you have qualifications from outside the UK and want to apply for teacher training leading to QTS, you will need to apply to UK NARIC to see if your qualifications are equivalent to UK qualifications.

E-mail: info@naric.org.uk

Tel: 0871 330 7033

There are also several institutions that run teacher training programmes in the UK specifically for Japanese nationals. They are not officially recognised by the TDA or GTTR and do not lead to Qualified Teacher Status.

:: Alpha Language Institute

Tel +44 (0)20 7849 6935

Email: london@alpha.ac.jp

Web: <http://www.alphalondon.co.uk>

:: Euro Japanese Exchange Foundation (EJEF)

Tel +44-(0)1494-882091

Email: info@ejef.co.uk

Web: <http://www.ejef.co.uk/japanese/index.html>

:: Institute of International Education in London

Tel: +44 (0)20 8331 3100

Email: enquiries@iiel.org.uk

Web: <http://www.iiel.org.uk>

:: Ito Japanese School

Tel +44 (0)20 7734 4877

Email: info@itojapanese.com

Web: <http://itojapanese.com>



JAPAN FOUNDATION

Would you like to know more about how the Japan Foundation can support Japanese language teachers?

Contact us today to find out how we can help you:

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