



Teaching Japanese in a UK school

Guidelines for Potential Teachers

How many places in the UK teach Japanese?

As of 2017, there are over 400 establishments in the UK that offer some form of Japanese teaching. This includes approximately 300 primary and secondary schools and 70 universities, in addition to many private language schools, private tutors and other institutions and individuals teaching Japanese.

Japanese often taught as an extra-curricular activity at UK primary and secondary schools, such as an enrichment class or after school club. For this reason, many schools do not have a full-time dedicated teacher of Japanese, although some do (usually the ones that do teach Japanese in the curriculum). In many cases, the teacher teaches other subjects as well as Japanese - often other foreign languages, but there are cases of teachers of different subjects teaching Japanese too. Alternatively, the Japanese teacher may be peripatetic – in other words, they work part-time at several schools in the area.

What qualifications do I need to teach Japanese in the UK?

To be a private tutor of Japanese, or to teach at an institution not directly controlled by a local authority (for example, an independent school, free school, academy or any privately-run institution), you do not necessarily need any qualifications although this may vary from school to school. It may also be possible to teach part-time at a school managed by a local authority without any qualifications, but again, this depends on the school's own rules. Additionally, you generally do not need any qualification specifically related to teaching Japanese language.

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

To teach full time at a state school managed by a local authority 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 several routes into attaining it, including Undergraduate and Postgraduate university-based training, School-Centered Initial Teacher Training (SCITT), School Direct and Teach First. The most up-to-date information about all these routes into ITT can be found from the following organisations:

- **The Department for Education** www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching
The Department for Education can advise on all issues about teacher training and gaining Qualified Teacher Status.
- **UCAS Teacher Training** www.ucas.com/ucas-teacher-training
UCAS takes in applications for postgraduate teacher training courses
- **UK NARIC (The National Academic Recognition Centre)** <http://ecctis.co.uk/naric/>
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.
- **Teach First** www.teachfirst.org.uk
As an independent charity, Teach First has its own dedicated website. It coordinates an employment-based teaching training programme whereby participants achieve QTS through the participation in a two year training programme that involves the completion of a PGCE.

Although you do not need a qualification specific to Japanese in order to teach it, some institutions do offer ITT courses which can potentially include a Japanese language component in addition to a European language. These include:

- **University of Sheffield** - Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) www.sheffield.ac.uk/education/pgde
- **St Mary's University College** - Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) www.smuc.ac.uk/pgce
- **Kent and Medway Training** - School-Centered Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) www.kmtraining.org.uk
- **Bath Spa University** - (PGCE) - www.bathspa.ac.uk/schools/education/courses

What qualifications are available for teaching Japanese at Further Education Institutions?

There is no legal requirement for a teacher in the adult education sector (Further Education) to have a specific qualification. However, many Further Education institutions will only employ teachers with a qualification. Details on qualifications for Further Education can be found at FE Advice, www.feadvice.org.uk and the Institute for Learning, www.ifl.ac.uk.

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

- **Alpha Language Institute** www.alpha.ac.jp/japanese/london
- **Euro Japanese Exchange Foundation (EJEF)** www.ejef.co.uk/japanese
- **Institute of International Education in London** www.iiel.org.uk
- **Ito Japanese School** www.itojapanese.com
- **York St John University** www.yorks.ac.uk

Where can I look for Japanese teaching posts?

- The **Japan Foundation London's teaching jobs** page (http://www.jpff.org.uk/language/teaching_job.php) is regularly updated with details of Japanese teaching vacancies that we hear about. We also post jobs on **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. For more information about joining JLE-UK, please email info.language@jpf.org.uk.
- You can register as a private Japanese tutor on our website here: www.jpff.org.uk/language/learning_tutors.php
- **Guardian jobs** jobs.theguardian.com/education
- **The TES** (Times Educational Supplement) www.tes.co.uk
- **Jobs.ac.uk** www.jobs.ac.uk

What else can I do to boost my opportunities?

- Join **ALL** (The Association for Language Learning). Their magazine and e-mail bulletins will keep you in touch with languages teaching in general. 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 one-off Japanese tasters in schools. www.jpff.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. Please contact the UK Border Agency directly for all queries related to visas (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration)



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Still have questions? Contact us today to find out how we can help you:

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