

Before applying to the JET Programme, I had never been to Asia, I knew nothing of Japanese beyond, *Konnichiwa*, and I knew even less about the culture. What I did know was that going to Japan meant fulfilling a lifelong dream of travelling to a foreign country and experiencing a culture that was very different from my own.

Yet my five-year stint as an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) in Osaka was so much more. Anyone who has been on the programme will tell you that it's not just a teaching job; it's a life-altering experience. You are called upon to be cultural ambassadors, public speakers, entertainers, and life-changers. On the JET Programme, you are compelled to step outside of your comfort zone and explore uncharted territories. It hasn't always been easy but I have never regretted my decision.

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Osaka  
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