

LIFE AFTER JET

① Paths

A brief list of jobs (top) and fields of study (bottom) previous Kumamoto JETs are in now (as of November 2018):

Apple (Japan)	Art Professor (China)	Accountant (US)
NPO Officer (Ca)	Doctor (US)	Financial Consultant (Au)
CLAIR	Surgeon (US)	Public Relations (Jamaica)
LINE (Jp)	Game Developer (Jp)	Writer (Ca)
Mitsubishi (Jp)	ES Teacher (US)	Translator (Jp)
Tourism Board (Jp)	Teacher (UK)	SHS Teacher (US)
Software Developer (Jp)	University Ass. Prof (Jp)	Teacher (Jp)
Board of Int'l Relations (US)	Football Coach (Au)	Ass. Prof of Japanese (US)
Modeling	ESL Teacher (Korea)	Physical Therapist (US)
Pre-Med (US)	Public Health (US)	Writing (US)
Education (Ca)	Counseling	Japanese Humanities

② Skills

➤ **Employers are looking for individuals who..**

- ...are proactive and have a willingness to learn and desire to improve
- ...are creative like problem-solving
- ...know their own strengths
- ...are adaptable and resilient
- ...are responsible, dependable, and have integrity
- ...can collaborate and work well on a team
- ...are goal-oriented
- ...have the ability to apply new information
- ...have leadership
- ...have communication skills
- ...have time-management skills
- ...can point to their success in other jobs/their personal lives

➤ **You as a JET have some of these skills!!**

(The following list is taken from Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey's *Transferable Skill Sets JETs Can Promote on Resume/C.V. and Applications*)

1. Classroom Instruction:

- Developing materials = *research, understanding needs of target audience, adaptability & creativity*
- Preparing lesson plans = *organization & time management, review & analysis*
- Working with faculty = *team project planning*
- Planning activities = *event management, fundraising (?), leadership*

2. Program Development & Management:

- Planning new lessons = *developing and following a strategy; needs assessment*
- Researching information/resources = *research & utilization*
- Developing a language club = *management, leadership, initiative*
- Creating a sister-city initiative = *evaluation, needs assessment, management*
- Interviewing/meeting with students = *capacity building*
- Needs assessment
- Coordinating events/visits = *project management, time management, marketing*
- Writing brochures/preparing documents/developing materials = *writing, editing, marketing, needs assessment, analysis & evaluation*
- Evaluating/presenting results = *recommendation & best practices; program evaluation*
- Making recommendations/best practices
- Working with challenging situations/environments/individuals = *best practices, evaluation, project management*

3. Leadership/Public Speaking/Presentations:

- Assessing your target audience needs to acquire specific information & ideas = *needs assessment, SWOT, recommendations/best practices*
- Multilingual communication & sensitivity = *cross-cultural awareness, flexibility, capacity to work in challenging/unfamiliar environments*
- Technology use = *training, technology use/capacity to acquire and utilize technology when relevant*
- Public relations/media/journalism/creative writing

4. Counseling/Advising/Training:

- Multi-cultural sensitivity = *capacity to adapt & connect*
- Ability to communicate needs/interests = *information transition, analysis & evaluation*
- Developing and presenting materials/ideas = *project management, marketing, training, debriefing, evaluation, information dissemination*
- Multilingual ability = *capacity to train/acquire language as needed; use of language with key examples*
- “Hands-on” experience & knowledge = *practical experience/field experience, transition from classroom to boardroom, etc*
- Public relations = *media “savvy”*

Example

- ※ I created teaching materials and team-taught in eight rural Japanese schools.
→ *I analyzed and identified the individualized needs of a specific target audience and developed educational materials that fit their needs and budgetary limits. I also have extensive experience in collaboration and project management.*

③ Leaving Japan:

- **GO TO THE LEAVER’S MEETING!!** It cannot be overstated just how important the information you get there is.

- **Reverse Culture-Shock**

It doesn't happen to everyone, but it does happen to many people. Read up on RCS so you can recognize the signs and know how to take care of yourself or what kind of help to seek.

(The following is taken from the After JET Guide's *Hot Hints for Mollifying RCS*)

1. Realize that people will not always be as good at listening as you need them to be.
2. Use the distance as an excuse to keep in close touch with the people you left in Japan.
3. Give yourself plenty of time.
4. Relearn your home culture.
5. Seek support networks.
6. Don't compartmentalize your JET experience.

- **Continuing Education**

(The following is taken from the After JET Guide's *From Teacher to Student: Making*

the Decision to Pursue an Advanced Degree)

- Making the decision to attend a graduate programme takes time – time to reflect on why you feel there is a need or desire to obtain that next level of education, and time to research the market – nationally and internationally – to understand not only why you want to study a particular topic, but also where.
- An advanced degree is not some miracle job-magnet
- Individuals entering a graduate-level programme tend to fall into one of three categories:
 - ❑ They have done extensive research, not only on the university programmes they are applying for, but also in the professions. These applicants are confident that there is both a need for a specific type of advanced education in their career plan, and that they are in a degree of study that “fits” that career field;
 - ❑ They have a strong feeling that “now is the time to continue my studies”, and usually have some understanding within themselves of a particular interest, focus or direction, but not necessarily where that education will lead them professionally;
 - ❑ They feel that so far they have not been able to “figure it out”, the “it” being what they want to do, but hopefully something will happen during the course of their studies where “it” will come together and viola”...the answers to the questions they haven't yet researched on what they want to do professionally will appear.

Hopefully, as you transition from JET to the next great adventure, you find yourself checking boxes #1 or #2; if not, then postponing a graduate programme may be a good investment of your time and money.

➤ **Job-Hunting**

Learn about the job market in your country.

Look up advice for resumes/CVs and interviews.

Here are some resources you may find helpful:

Indeed	Monster	Glassdoor
LinkedIn	Robert Half	Government-run job search websites

AJET.net/graduationfromJET	After JET guide (jetprogramme.org)
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④ Staying in Japan:

(Select portions taken from Roland Carlos' 2016 SDC workshop materials)

➤ **Visa**

Your visa expires the last day of your employment. CHECK and REMEMBER whether you need to apply for a new one to stay in Japan or if you automatically get switched to a tourist visa. CHECK and REMEMBER how long that tourist visa lasts.

You will need your new employer to sponsor your new working visa. Make sure you have pictures, copies, or other documents you may need for the application process available.

➤ **About the Japanese Job Market**

-Employers want Japanese language ability, a global mindset, and adaptability to Japanese work culture.

-You are hired either as a full-time employee (正社員) or a contract employee (契約社員). Be sure to confirm what benefits (days of paid leave, health insurance through the company, etc) you will receive.

-The main hiring season is February – April with companies looking to fill entry-level, "new-hire" positions (新卒採用).

-Most JETs will have to aim for "mid-career" (job-changing/転職) hiring (中途採用).

-Level of Japanese necessary depends on the company and position, but the better your language ability is the more options you will have available.

➤ **Job-Hunting**

-Be sure to go to the JET Career Fairs!!

-You can also join non-JET career fairs, go to recruiters, look directly on company websites (search for 採用情報), look through job-listing sites, or look through JET networks.

-Here are some websites you may find useful:

Daijob	Gaijinpots Jobs	Indeed
JETwit.com	Recruit	Tenshoku.mynavi.jp (advice)
JET Internship Program (advice)		roberwalters.co.jp

-You will need a Japanese CV (履歴書). It can be typed (google for Word templates) unless specifically requested to be handwritten. For handwritten copies, you can

find blank forms in any 100 yen shop or bookstore. Your picture should be recent, taken in a suit, and your expression should be a soft smile (google image search 履歴書 写真 for examples). See Attachment 1 for an example of the CV.

-You will also need to provide an employment history form (職務経歴書) and (if requested) a cover letter (エントリーシート). The employment history form is for mid-career hires and closer to the western resume. See Attachment 2 for an example of the employment history form.

-There are three types of interviews common in Japan:

1. Individual interview
2. Group interview (interviewed in groups)
3. Group discussion (asked to problem-solve or complete some other task together)

The type of interview, the number of rounds of interviews, and the language of those interviews depends on the company.

※A note about recruiting firms: They are paid a fee for placing you in a job, so they have a vested interest in finding you employment – any employment. Good recruiters should interview you to discover your interests, skills, expected salary range, and availability. Don't be afraid to ask them questions (placement statistics, anticipated amount of time until they find you employment, questions about the company they recommend, etc).

➤ **Continuing Education**

There are Japanese and non-Japanese programs available, as well as a selection of scholarships. Please read the section in ③ Leaving Japan – Continuing Education for information on deciding to pursue further education.

For resources on available programs and scholarships in Japan, use Google and/or the following websites:

JASSO (www.jasso.go.jp) Japan Study Support (www.jpss.jp)

⑤ **Of-forgotten but still important things:**

- Your body is your temple. Be sure to take care of your health and make sure you have whatever health insurance coverage and medical visits you need. If you are planning to leave Japan and will be moving to a country with more expensive/less adequate coverage than here in Japan, make use of the health

insurance coverage you have now to get complete physical checkups, medical advice, etcetera that you need.

- If you decide to leave Japan and your home country doesn't have a pension agreement with Japan that you choose to take advantage of, you will be able to receive a pension refund. Depending on how long you worked on the JET Program, it will be quite a chunk of money. If the situation calls for it, you may find yourself having to use these funds, but please keep in mind that this is YOUR retirement fund. It is highly recommended that you hold on to this egg or invest it to make it work for you. Google for advice on retirement planning and investing. I personally recommend looking at LifeHacker for well-reviewed investment, savings, and other financial advice, apps, and know-how.
- Moving and changing jobs can be a hectic time and it's easy to feel overwhelmed and/or isolated. Keep in touch with the friends you've made – even after the chaos has calmed and you fall into the rhythm of your new life. It's easy to lose track of people and forget the memories made and bonds forged. Even small efforts to keep in touch will be rewarded.
- Continue to educate and improve yourself.

There are tons of inexpensive and free courses out there for improving both soft skills (management, leadership, communication) and hard skills (programming, computer skills, language skills). A google search for "free online courses" (LifeHacker is a particular favorite information portal of mine) or "XYZ online course" will bring up a host more options than you could have ever imagined.

Even when you find yourself in a job you like, remember to continue to improve yourself. A desire to improve and become more knowledgeable in and outside your field leads to self-fulfillment and better job opportunities.

- Finally, some career advice:
 - Remember to continue to reassess yourself and take stock of what skills you have obtained. You should always know your worth as an employee.
 - Don't be afraid to go out on a limb to get the job you want. You never know what opportunities lie in wait unless you try.
 - Have patience. Rare is the individual who finds themselves in their dream job in their early twenties.

ATTACHMENT 1 (履歴書)

履 歴 書

平成 28 年 3 月 1 日現在

ふりがな まいなび いちろう 氏 名 舞奈比 一郎			
昭和 60 年 7 月 31 日生 (満 30 歳)	男 ・ 女		
ふりがな とうきょうとちよだくびとつばし 〒100-0003 東京都千代田区一ツ橋 1-1-1		電話番号 090-XXXX-XXXX	メールアドレス mynavi@mynavi.jp
ふりがな 〒 同上		電話番号 [現住所以外に連絡を希望する場合のみ]	
年	月	学歴・職歴	
		学歴	
平成 16	3	東京都立マイナビ高等学校 卒業	
平成 16	4	マイナビ大学経営学部経営学科 入学	
平成 20	3	マイナビ大学経営学部経営学科 卒業	
		職歴	
平成 20	4	株式会社○×△ 入社	
		広告代理店業 従業員数 312 名	
		営業担当として、新規開拓の提案営業を行う	
平成 21	3	一身上の都合により退職	
平成 21	4	株式会社△×○ 入社	
		リフォーム業 従業員数 108 名	
		入社後、営業部 営業一課に配属 (首都圏担当)	
		営業担当として、広告反響による提案営業を行う	
平成 26	4	営業部 営業二課に配属 (神奈川県担当)	
		担当エリアの営業の他、新入社員の同行営業を行う	
		現在に至る	
		以上	

年	月	免許・資格
平成 17	5	普通自動車第一種運転免許 取得
平成 23	12	宅地建物取引主任者試験合格
平成 25	1	TOEIC スコア 720 点取得
		以上

志望動機
<p>リフォームの営業職として、以前から貴社の物件に興味を持っていました。 開発コンセプト「お客さまのためのデザインを」に基づいた物件を実際に拝見し、 貴社のお客さまに感動を与える商品開発の姿勢に大変共感しています。 現職では、リフォームをお考えのお客さまに最適なリフォームを提案する営業職として、 お客さまのニーズはもちろん、生活についてもヒアリングし、 お客さま一人ひとりにマッチした提案ができます。 この経験を貴社で生かし、営業職として短時間で戦力になり 貢献したいと考え、志望いたしました。</p>

趣味・特技
フットサル（学生時代の仲間と組んだフットサルクラブで毎週末プレーしています）

本人希望種
営業職を希望します。勤務地・待遇などは、貴社の規定でお願いいたします。

通勤時間	約 1 時間 分	扶養家族(配偶者を除く)	0 人
配偶者	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 有	配偶者の扶養義務	有 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ATTACHMENT 2 (職務経歴書)

職務経歴書

20××年×月×日

氏名〇〇 〇〇

【経歴要約】

繊維メーカーで3年間、営業職として従事してきました。W社との新ブランド開発に参画し、ブランドの立ち上げにも携わりました。社内のデザイン企画部と製造部をコントロールし、商品開発やブランドデザインも経験しました。新ブランド開発の経験から得た折衝・調整能力を貴社でも生かし、営業職として働きたいと考えております。

【勤務先企業】

株式会社〇△△ (20××年××月～現在)

資本金〇億〇千万円 従業員数〇〇名 繊維・アパレル

【職務内容】

・営業職

大手アパレルメーカーW社を顧客とした婦人服生地の営業。また、売掛管理、サンプル出し、工程管理、下請けとの打ち合わせなども日常的に行っていました。

【営業実績】

年度	売上高	備考
20××年度	〇〇〇〇万円	部内順位〇名中〇位 営業2課として前年度比115%の売上達成
20××年度	〇〇〇〇万円	部内順位〇名中〇位
20××年度	〇〇〇〇万円	部内順位〇名中〇位 営業2課内の順位は1位

【アピールポイント】

(1) 20××年度W社の新ブランド開発に参画

社外テキスタイルデザイナー〇〇〇〇氏を起用。関連会社の中国工場での生産体制、物流などを担当しました。課長のアシスタントとして、企画・デザイン・生産・物流を学びました。

(2) 20××年度W社ブランド〇〇へ新規参入

W社ブランドのうち、それまで取引のなかった〇〇と取引開始。年間×××万円の売上を上げました。

(3) 営業としてのさまざまな経験

W社の中国視察のコーディネイト、視察同行。W社主催のゴルフコンペの幹事(5名で担当)。

(4) 外部テキスタイルデザイナーとの仕事。

有名デザイナーの〇〇〇〇氏、〇〇〇〇氏、〇〇〇〇氏と、企画から一緒にブランド〇〇の生地提案をし、採用されました。