

My goal in applying for JET as an ALT is multifaceted. I hope to expand my horizons, learn about different mindsets, and experience a new way of doing things, all the while exploring a culture foreign to that of the United States'. I have had an interest in culture since adolescence, and that interest has only grown as I conclude my fourth year of international business study at [INSTUTION HERE].

Personally, my enthusiasm for culture study has manifested in a desire to learn about the Japanese experience. These consist of the mundane such as mannerisms and daily life, but also the broadly scoped including customs and language. I have fed this curiosity by completing various academic tasks including an export project analysis that evaluated the business opportunities of exporting grains from the United States to Japan, and opting into a religious-studies elective that included the study of Shintoism's Kami, and Buddhism's three jewels and five precepts. I plan on furthering my understanding of these concepts and more as I continue my study of Japan.

Professionally, the social skills I acquired at the [HOTEL HERE] has taught me the power of personal stories and the universal appeal they bring. As the night auditor at a 4-star hotel, I personally oversaw the shift operations including negotiating rates, providing customer support, and managing accounting records. I used my position to gain insight into the international community on an individual level.

I recall one guest with a thick accent donning what appeared to be a pilot's uniform. After a brief talk of the weather, I inquired about his uniform. He explained how he had begun working as an expatriate for the local airline. This prompted a detailed 20-minute conversation of piloting as a career, after mentioning I was unsure of my major at the time. These interpersonal skills have served me well in connecting with a diverse set of individuals from all over the world.

Growing up in a tiny town in rural Vermont, I gained an unparalleled appreciation for active teachers and faculty who will encourage students and drive them to pursue their interests. I am confident in my ability to share my excitement with the students I will be teaching. I believe we are all naturally curious and it is my desire to further stoke that curiosity in the next generation.

Looking outward, I aim to gain a deeper understanding of the Japanese viewpoint. Questions for adults, teenagers, and children alike, “What do you think of English? Have you tried international foods and did you like them? Would you like to visit America, Australia, Korea, or another country? If so, what would you like to see first?” I believe there is value in these questions and I hope to share my passion for all things worldly with the students I will be working with.

It is my aspiration to ultimately use the JET program as a stepping stone that propels me into working internationally. I pride myself on lessening inhibitions and attempting that which sparks my curiosity. As an international business student, I see working, living, and experiencing Japan as a wonderful opportunity to get hands-on experience. I intend to further develop my professional skills, inspire my students to continue their international studies, and utilize my JET experience in future endeavors as a part of the international community. It is for these reasons I will make a strong Assistant Language Teacher.