

Q&A Frequently asked questions

Q1 Who is eligible to apply?

A To apply, you must be an employee of a local government in your home country. This includes employees of municipal, shire, state, provincial and regional governments. Public servants employed by a national/central government are ineligible to apply.

Q2 Are there language requirements?

A LGOTP is officially conducted in English and Japanese. Participants must be able to communicate in at least one of these languages.

Q3 How long will I stay in Japan?

A The program runs anywhere between 6 -12 months including the initial orientation and training program. Your length of stay will vary depending on your placement.

Q4 What type of training will I receive?

A There is no restriction on your field of study. However, the number of available positions and field of study are dependent on the number of host governments that can support training in a specific field. Past fields of training include: Administration, Environmental Protection, Health Care and Medicine, Welfare, Trade Promotion, Economics, Tourism, Agriculture, Public Works, Construction, Water and Sewer Services, Education, Fire-fighting, Public Safety

Q5 Who runs the program?

A Each host local government is responsible for their trainee and the training program content. The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) oversees the overall logistics of the program, such as recruitment, selection, orientation, and initial training.

Q6 What is 'orientation' and 'initial training'?

A Upon arrival, trainees will attend a 3-day orientation program in Tokyo, which will help with transitioning to life in Japan. Thereafter, trainees receive initial training at Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities (JIAM) in Shiga Prefecture for about 1 month. During this time, trainees receive intensive Japanese language training and additional lectures on Japan's local government system. Following initial training, departures to host local governments will begin in late June.

Q7 What are the application procedures?

A For details pertaining the LGOTP, contact your nearest CLAIR office. Please be aware that trainee positions will become available based upon the ability and interest of a host local government to accept a trainee in a specific field.

Q8 Is there a fee to participate?

A The program is entirely free of charge. Acceptance to the program entitles you to a return ticket to Japan, a daily stipend, domestic transfers within Japan, and accommodation. Please note that the daily stipend is not a salary, and while it is calculated by each host government to be sufficient to cover daily expenses such as food and transport, it is a minimal amount.

Q9 What is the overall timeline for the LGOTP?

Sept – Nov	Japanese local governments request to host a trainee
Nov – Feb	Recruitment and selection of applicants
Feb – Mar	Preparations for arrival in Japan (passport, VISA, etc.)
Apr – May	Arrival in Japan Orientation
May – Jun	Initial training
Late Jun	Go to host local government to commence training
Nov – May	Trainees return to home country

Q10 Do I need to quit my current job to participate?

A No. In fact, it is a prerequisite that you receive permission from your current employer in order to participate, and that you are guaranteed your current job upon returning to your home country. The purpose of the LGOTP is for trainees to gain specialized skills in Japan and put them to use upon returning home to their respective workplace. Therefore, applicants should have a desire to improve in his/her specialty and inform their workplace of the LGOTP timeline. Further, some trainees continue to receive their salary throughout the program, while others do not. Please discuss such matters with your employer.

Q11 Can I bring my family to Japan?

A Unfortunately, no. The Japanese government does not issue spouse/dependent visas for accompanying family members under the visa category issued to trainees.

For more information, see the following website: <http://www.clair.or.jp/e/cooperation/lgotp/lgotp.html>

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LGOTP

The Local Government Officials Training Program

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