

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>

© Direct Inquiries to :

International Cooperation and Economic Relations Division
Department of International Exchange, Cooperation and Economic Relations
TEL 03-5213-1726

New York Office http://www.jlge.org TEL 212-246-5542 E-Mail: jlge@jlge.org	London Office http://www.jlge.org.uk TEL 020-7839-8500 E-Mail: mailbox@jlge.org.uk	Paris Office http://www.clairparis.org TEL 01-40-20-09-74 Email: contact@clairparis.org	Singapore Office http://www.clair.org.sg TEL 6224-7927 Email: info@clair.org.sg	Seoul Office http://www.clair.or.kr TEL 02-733-5681 Email: info@clair.or.kr	Beijing Office http://www.clair.org.cn TEL 010-6513-8790 Email: clairbj-jp@clair.org.cn	Sydney Office http://www.jlge.org.au TEL 02-9241-5033 E-Mail: mailbox@jlge.org.au	Representative in Brazil : National Confederation of Municipalities - CNM http://www.cnm.org.br/ TEL 61-2101-6000 E-Mail: cnminternacional@cnm.org.br/
---	--	---	--	--	--	---	---



Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)
Sougo Hanzomon Building 6F
1-7 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083 Japan
<http://www.clair.or.jp>



Council of Local Authorities for
International Relations



Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

LGOTP

The Local Government Officials Training Program

Linking You
To Japan's Regions



A Training Program For Local Government Officials

Interested in learning about public policy in Japan?
 Want to live in Japan for 6-12 months?
 Then, the Local Government Officials Training Program in Japan (LGOTP) is for you!

We bring local government officials from around the world to undertake a training program at a Japanese local government. You will spend several months studying at your host government and get directly involved in a specific field of public policy development. You will also have opportunities to partake in international exchange projects in your host community.



Past training topics include:

Technology Skills Transfer

Sharing Cutting-Edge Agricultural Techniques

Kochi Prefecture welcomed a trainee from its international affiliation partner, Benguet, Philippines, and conducted training in the field of agriculture. The trainee studied soil management and obtained a range of cultivation skills such as those necessary for high-quality vegetable production. Japan's cutting-edge technical skills are transferred and implemented through the trainee's experience, providing the basis for agricultural development in Benguet today.



Inspecting soil for indoor cultivation facilities (Mr. Brent Andres Atew, 2014 trainee)

Tourism Promotion

Promoting Regional Development through Tourism

With the help of a trainee from China, Oita Prefecture is making its way into the growing tourism boom across Asia. From translating magazine articles to posting on social networks on the web, the trainee has played an active role in highlighting Oita tourism through various Chinese media. The trainee also contributed to creating a strong network among a broad range of organizations, including the governments and people.



Participating at an international cruise ship welcome ceremony (Ms. Jing Xiong, 2014 trainee)

Multiculturalism Promotion

Bridging Brazilian Students and Schools

Toyohashi City (Aichi Prefecture) is home to a large population of Brazilians and provides education support for foreign students by inviting a teacher from Brazil as a trainee to assist with classes. By gaining a deep understanding of the Japanese education system, trainees who have completed the program are counted on to become reliable supporters for students who have moved back to Brazil.



Assisting classes for foreign students (Ms. Marcia Keiko Ono, 2014 trainee)

Benefits for You and Your Employer

Build an Enduring Grass-Roots Link with Japan

Open channels of cultural and economic exchange using the contacts you develop while studying at your host local government.

Personal and Professional Growth

Learn about Japanese Society and Culture

Develop a deeper appreciation for Japan's unique history, culture, natural beauty and hospitable people.

LGOTP Facts:

- Financed by the Japanese government
- Matched to a suitable host government
- Orientation and initial training by CLAIR