Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language Program

A unique opportunity to learn English and share Japanese language and culture with Australian students

Program Information

The Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language (TJFL) Program offers an unforgettable opportunity to experience life in Australia. It provides an opportunity to improve your spoken English skills and gives you the chance to learn about teaching Japanese language and culture in an Australian school.

The program runs in February and August during breaks in the Japanese Academic year and is available to students of our partner Japanese universities. The program is an initiative of the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

It is a unique opportunity to assist teaching Japanese language and culture to Australian children, while learning about Australian life and making international friendships.

You will gain excellent classroom experience and establish ties with a Victorian school and homestay family.

About Victoria

The Australian State of Victoria has the second largest education system in Australia and is recognised as a world leader in all sectors of education and training. The Victorian education system is internationally renowned and has earned a reputation for providing high-quality educational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment.

Melbourne is the capital of Victoria and home to 4.1 million people. Melbourne is Australia's second-largest city. It is a multicultural city, with people from many different countries enjoying its mild climate, sporting and culture facilities, cosmopolitan restaurants and cafes, picturesque parks and gardens.

Life in Victoria's country regions is a great alternative to Melbourne. The Great Ocean Road, with surf beaches and forest, the Yarra Valley, dotted with wineries and vineyards, and Healesville Sanctuary, home to unique Australian animals, are among the wonderful attractions Victoria has to offer. You'll get a strong sense of community and experience a very special sort of life in country Victoria.

Now you have the opportunity to experience Victoria for yourself.

School Placement and Homestay

You will be placed at a Victorian school to assist a teacher of Japanese and support the teaching of Japanese language and culture to the students. The school may be located close to Melbourne or within a regional area of Victoria.

You will live with one to two homestay families. Homestay families are carefully selected from within your host school community and look forward to hosting you as part of their family. Time will be available in the evenings and on weekends to experience your local area and Victoria's many attractions.

Your role as a teaching assistant includes:

- assisting a teacher of Japanese in a Victorian Primary or Secondary school
- teaching Japanese to school children
- educating others and fostering an understanding of the Japanese language and culture

In undertaking these roles you will:

- experience homestay with one to two local Australian families
- learn about the Victorian education system and the teaching of Japanese
- improve your spoken English
- experience life in Victoria

Homestay includes all meals and accommodation. You will receive a pre-departure guide to help you prepare.

Program Options

The TJFL Program runs in February and August each year. Dates are determined by the Japanese academic calendar.

All program costs include:

- School placement and homestay
- Assistant position at a Victorian school
- Airport reception and transfers
- All accommodation and meals

Fees:

1. Three-week School placement	AU $2590
2. Four-week School placement	AU $2920

Note: Minimum numbers apply and fees may be subject to change.
Costs exclude air fares and travel insurance, please contact your university about making these arrangements.

Program Eligibility

It is recommended that applicants:

- study at a participating university
- have sufficient skills to successfully and confidently communicate in English at a level equivalent to:
  - » EIKEN-equivalent-2 and above; or
  - » TOEIC-equivalent-450 and above for Listening and Reading and 160 and above for Speaking and Writing; or
  - » IELTS-equivalent-4 and above, with at least 4.5 in Speaking.
- provide a Japanese Police Clearance Certificate confirming you have no prior or pending criminal convictions or charges (required).

As you will need to communicate in English with school staff, students and your hosts, we encourage those with low confidence in spoken English to undertake an English course pre-departure.

Program Structure

You will be greeted upon arrival in Melbourne by a representative of your host school or host family.

During your school placement, you will report to your supervising teacher and assist in delivering the school's Japanese language and culture program. You will accompany teachers to classes and help them to prepare materials and resources.

You may be given the opportunity to prepare and deliver a lesson to students, with your supervisor's support. You will gain excellent classroom experience in a world leading education system.
In the evenings and on weekends, you will have time to explore your local area as well as the many attractions of Victoria. Your host family will invite you to join family activities and offer to take you sightseeing. Some schools arrange two homestay families, changing halfway through the placement. This is a great opportunity to meet two unique families and experience different environments.

Great care is taken to ensure all participants enjoy their experiences in Victoria.

Upon completion of the program, your host family or school will assist you in transferring to the airport or other onward travel.

How to Apply

To apply for the TJFL Program, or for more information, please contact the coordinator at your university or the TJFL Program Manager:
Kylie Farmer
kyliefiona@gmail.com

Facts about Victorian Government Schools

- There are over 1500 Victorian Government schools
- Approximately 170 Primary schools and 90 Secondary schools offer a Japanese language program
- All Victorian Government school teachers are university trained and qualified
- Teaching methods are designed to cater for all student learning needs
- Average 21.4 students per secondary class and student / teacher ratio of 11.8: 1

Victoria - The Education State

- High quality schools and universities
- Home to 3 of the top 10 universities in Australia
- Tradition of academic excellence
- Strong career and higher education pathways
- Active and dynamic learning environments
- Internationally recognised qualifications
- Education system closely linked to industry