

Q&A Some common questions...

Q1 Who can apply ?

A 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 In which language is the LGOTP conducted ?

A The official LGOTP languages are English and Japanese. You must be able to communicate in at least one of these languages.

Q3 How long will I stay in Japan ?

A The program runs for between 6 and 12 months, including the initial orientation and training program.

Q4 What can I study ?

A There is no restriction on your topic of study. However, positions are limited by the number of host governments that can support training in a specific field. Past trainees have studied the following topics: Administration, Environmental Protection, Health Care and Medicine, Welfare, Trade Promotion, Economics, Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries, Public Works, Construction, Information Technology, International Relations, Culture, Education, City Planning, Animal Management, Fire-fighting, Policing.

Q5 Who runs the Program ?

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

Q6 What is involved in the orientation and 'initial training' ?

A A three-day orientation program in Tokyo will help you settle into life in Japan. You will also be provided with several weeks of intensive Japanese language training. Additional lectures will focus upon Japan's local government system.

Q7 What are the application procedures ?

A Places will become available based upon the ability of a host local government to accept a trainee in a specific field. Calls for applicants will be advertised through our 7 overseas offices (See below).

Q8 How much does it cost ?

A The program is entirely free of charge. Acceptance on the program entitles you to a return international ticket to Japan, a daily stipend, domestic transfers within Japan, and free accommodation. Please note that the daily stipend is not a salary, nor is it extremely generous. The stipend is calculated by each host government to be sufficient to cover daily expenses such as food and transport.

Q9 What is the overall timeline for the LGOTP ?

A	Sep-Oct	Expressions of interest in hosting a trainee
	Nov-Feb	Recruitment Selection of applicants
	Late May	Arrive in Japan
	Jun	Initial Training
	Early Jul	Go to host local government to commence training
	Late Nov-Mar	Trainees return to home country

Q10 Do I have to quit my job to participate ?

A No. In fact, it is a prerequisite that you receive permission from your employer to participate on the program, and that you are guaranteed your old job upon returning to your home country. You will need to discuss with your employer if you can take a leave of absence, or participate on the program as part of your professional development. Some trainees continue to receive their home salary, while others do not. Please negotiate these details well in advance.

Q11 Can I bring my family to Japan ?

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

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

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Council of Local Authorities for International Relations



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 between 6 and 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 to get directly involved in a specific aspect of public policy development. You will also have a chance to be a part of international exchange projects in your host community.



Past training topics include:

Technology Transfer	Tourism Promotion	Social Policy
<h3>Sharing Cutting-Edge Agricultural Techniques</h3> <p>Three trainees from Kota Bharu, Malaysia came to study agriculture at their Sister-City of Kasaoka, Okayama Prefecture. After studying agricultural mechanisation, product development and low-impact farming, they returned home to promote these techniques in their home city in order to improve the agricultural productivity of local farmers.</p>  <p>Studying agriculture in Kasaoka. (Three 2009 trainees from Malaysia)</p>	<h3>Promoting Regional Development Through Tourism</h3> <p>As a major spa-resort that aims to put itself on the international tourist map, Noboribetsu is trying hard to appeal to international visitors. A Chinese trainee became part of the team that is formulating a strategy to attract Chinese tourists. She is now a 'Goodwill Ambassador' for Noboribetsu and continues to assist the promotion of the city in China.</p>  <p>Getting into the spirit at a Noboribetsu festival. (Ms. Zhang, 2010 trainee)</p>	<h3>Social Work Within Brazilian Immigrant Communities</h3> <p>Gunma Prefecture is home to a large population of Brazilian immigrant workers who were disproportionately affected by the global financial crisis. Gunma has implemented programs to support disadvantaged Brazilian kids at school, focusing upon counselling. A Brazilian trainee studied these issues and analysed Gunma's efforts to create a harmonious multicultural society.</p>  <p>Parent and child group counselling. (Ms. Grando, 2010 trainee)</p>

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 • You are matched to a suitable host government • CLAIR provides orientation and initial training