

Hi! I'm Almera, one of the two Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) here under the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.

You might be wondering what the JET Programme is and what the role of an ALT entails. Don't worry—this letter will explain everything!

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme is a government-sponsored initiative that invites participants from around the world to work in Japan as Assistant Language Teachers

(ALTs) and international relations coordinators. Established in 1987, its main goals are to enhance foreign language education and foster cultural exchange between Japan and other countries. Through the program, participants are assigned to local government offices, as well as public and private elementary, junior high, and senior high schools.

The application process is quite challenging—at least in my experience! First, you submit an application to the embassy. Then, you wait for two to three months for the screening results. If you qualify, you proceed to the interview, written exam and teaching demonstration stage, and after another month, the final results are released. However, even after being accepted, it takes an additional three to four months before departure, as there are many documents to process.

Here at Ota Sakuradai High School, there are two JET ALTs: Tongan-born 'Ileini 'Ofahengaue from New Zealand and me, Almera Abenis from the Philippines. During our time here, we are expected to build strong relationships with the school community so that we can learn about each other's cultures through various language and cultural exchange activities. Our responsibilities include assisting in English classes, preparing teaching materials, and organizing international exchange activities, among others.

Please don't hesitate to approach us if you have any questions or concerns—we're more than happy to help in any way we can! Enjoy your time at Ota Sakuradai High School, and let's share and learn more about each other's cultures through various activities and, of course, by using the English language.

Looking forward to meeting you!



Ota Sakuradai High School