



# Career Guide for Japan Studies Students

## Overview

The academic training in the Japan Studies Program at LaGuardia Community College can support a wide range of career paths. Students who develop Japanese-language ability, intercultural communication skills, and a clear transfer or career plan can use those strengths in education, media, business, public programs, and international work. This guide introduces several common directions and suggests ways to prepare for them early.

## 1 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program

- The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program is a government-sponsored initiative that invites young professionals from around the world to live and work in Japan. Participants serve as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs), or Sports Exchange Advisors (SEAs) in local authorities and schools.
- Roles and Responsibilities
  - **Assistant Language Teacher (ALT):** Work alongside Japanese teachers to facilitate English language education in elementary, junior high, and high schools.
  - **Coordinator for International Relations (CIR):** Engage in international exchange activities at the local government level, requiring a higher proficiency in Japanese.
  - **Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA):** Promote international exchange through sports.
- Application Tips
  - **Bachelor's degree:** A Bachelor's degree is required to apply for the JET. Therefore, those who are interested in the JET must have a solid transfer plan to a 4-year institution.
  - **Japanese Language Proficiency:** While not mandatory for ALTs, basic knowledge of Japanese is beneficial. CIR positions require advanced proficiency.
  - **Cultural Interest:** Demonstrate genuine interest in Japanese culture and international exchange.
  - **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Show readiness to adapt to new environments and challenges.
- More information
  - <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2021/07/learning-more-about-the-jet-japan-exchange-and-teaching-program/>

## 2 Anime and Manga Industry

- Japan's anime and manga industry is globally renowned and offers career paths both in Japan and internationally. Opportunities exist in translation, localization, publishing, marketing, community management, licensing, and creative production.
- **Translation and Localization Specialist:**
  - Translate manga, anime scripts, and related media from Japanese to English.
  - Adapt content culturally for international audiences.
- **Content Creator and Artist:**
  - Work as an illustrator, animator, or writer in producing original content.
- **Marketing and Distribution:**
  - Promote anime and manga content through various channels.
  - Organize events, conventions, and fan engagement activities.
- **Publishing and Editing:**
  - Edit manga manuscripts and coordinate with authors and artists.
  - Manage publication timelines and quality control.
- **Community, Events, and Licensing:**
  - Support fan communities, convention programming, merchandising, and licensing partnerships.
  - Help connect creators, publishers, distributors, and audiences across languages and markets.
- Getting Started
  - **Build a Portfolio:** Create samples of translation work or art to showcase your skills.



- **Networking:** Attend anime and manga conventions, join related organizations, and connect with industry professionals.
- **Internships:** Seek internship opportunities with publishing houses, animation studios, or distribution companies.
- More information
  - <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2021/02/the-japan-foundations-virtual-speakers-series-on-anime-and-manga-studies/>






### 3 Import and Export Industry

- The trade relationship between the United States and Japan is robust, creating demand for professionals skilled in both Japanese language and cultural understanding. Careers in import and export involve facilitating the trade of goods and services between the two countries.
- **Import/Export Coordinator:**
  - Manage logistics, documentation, and compliance for international shipments.
- **Trade Analyst:**
  - Analyze market trends, trade policies, and economic data to inform business decisions.
- **Business Development Manager:**
  - Identify opportunities for market expansion and build partnerships with Japanese companies.
- **Customs Brokerage Specialist:**
  - Navigate customs regulations to ensure smooth import/export processes.
- Skills Required
  - **Language Proficiency:** Strong command of both English and Japanese.
  - **Cultural Competence:** Understanding of business etiquette and practices in Japan.
  - **Technical Knowledge:** Familiarity with international trade laws, tariffs, and logistics.

### 4 Japanese Corporations in New York City

- New York City hosts numerous Japanese corporations across sectors such as finance, technology, retail, logistics, and media. These companies often seek bilingual professionals who can bridge communication, customer relations, and workplace expectations across cultures. Major Japanese corporations in New York City include Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Mizuho Bank, Sony, Panasonic, Itochu International, Sumitomo Corporation of Americas, and Dentsu. Major retailers such as Uniqlo and Muji are also important employers.
- Potential Roles
  - Business Analyst, Marketing Coordinator, Human Resources Specialist, Client Relations Manager, Translator, Interpreter, and Administrative Coordinator.
- Advancement Tips
  - **Tailored Resume:** Highlight language skills and cross-cultural competencies.
  - **Professional Etiquette:** Understand Japanese business manners and corporate culture.
  - **Continuous Learning:** Stay updated on industry trends and language proficiency.
- <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2021/01/a-list-of-japanese-companies-in-new-york-city/>

#### Links

- Japanese Option webpage: <https://t-nagano.com/projects/JapaneseProgram/> 
- Japanese Option Blog: <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu> 
- Japanese Option Discord: Contact [tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu) for the invitation link 
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