

New JETs arriving with Non-JET Spouses

Prepared by Nelly Farnell

Some handy tips for incoming JETs!

Foreword: Please remember that all non-JET dependents are the responsibility of the JET participant. Also, this information is regarding quick tips, more detailed information can be found in the JET GIH (General Information Handbook) and in your Gifu Welcome Pack. Both will be referenced throughout.

1. Visa: If your spouse plans to work part-time while in Japan then you need to get an additional status added to the dependent visa. This can sometimes be done at the time when the visa is being issued. It can also be done in Japan by visiting the local office that deals with visas. **This must be done before your spouse can look for a part-time job.** If your spouse wishes to work full-time, they will need to find a company that is willing to sponsor their visa. **Please look in the GIH page 34 & 35 for a more detailed list of information regarding visas and at the end of page 37 for extensive information regarding working on a dependent visa.**
2. Money: **For during COVID-19 especially** - Plan extra money if your spouse is arriving with you. Or ensure that your spouse has an adequate amount of money to support themselves until you are both able to be reunited!
3. Inkan: For JETs your supervisor may already make an hanko/inkan for you, so that when you arrive you will be able to open a bank account, or they may take you to get one when you arrive. They may not do this for your spouse, so you can either ask for assistance or you can go to any local inkan/hanko shop and they can make one for your spouse quite easily and quickly. It is a very simple process if you have basic hiragana and katakana learned **(You can find information about this in the GIFU Welcome Pack under the section: *Studying Japanese*).** If in a rush, some shops offer 30-minute service. **Please, don't forget to register your inkan at your local government office.** Also, make sure that your inkan has your real name (or the name that is on your residence card). Side note: *My supervisor used my nickname when creating my inkan and so I could not register it. I created an additional one with my legal name to be able to buy a car and move apartments.*
4. Car: If your spouse is the main/only driver, make sure that you look into changing their license early. While the International Driving Permit will help for the first year, if you plan to stay more than 1 year and drive, then please look into converting your license at least 4

months before your International Driving Permit expires. You will need to check whether you are able to automatically change your license over, or whether you need to go to driving school and pass the Japanese driving test. **There is more information about this in the Gifu Welcome Pack under the section: *Vehicles* and in the GIH from page 125.**

5. Apartment: For JETs, most apartments are aimed at one person living alone. So, make sure that everyone is aware that your spouse is joining you early on. The appropriate parties will arrange for your accommodation to be suitable for your needs. While this accommodation may not be the newest built apartment or house, they are often very cheap to rent. If you are unhappy with the accommodation that has been provided or need to have a bigger space, **there are other options available, but you will need to be comfortable making your own arrangements. Please look in the GIH from page 117 for a more detailed list of information regarding housing**
6. Children: Childcare services may be very restricted in your local area. You as the JET participant are responsible for your dependents and will need to research local services and schools, as stated in the GIH. If you are struggling, you can reach out to the Gifu International Center, they offer multilingual support. For financial support with childcare, it is best to contact your local government office. **You can find more information and resources regarding support in the Gifu Welcome Pack under the section: *Gifu JET Resources*.**

I hope that you were able to find this a helpful short guide that can lead you to the appropriate information you require for your life in Japan and Gifu.

A link to the JET General Information Handbook

<http://jetprogramme.org/en/gih/>

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