

Name	Richa Ogra
Type of position	ALT
Period and duration of assignment	August2006- July2008
Name of Prefecture you were dispatched to	Osaka Prefecture
Name of School/Municipal Government you worked for	Osaka City Board of Education
<u>Being a JET in Osaka Shi</u>	
<p>I was an ALT with OSAKA City Board of Education(BOE) based out of Osaka Shi from August2006 to July2008. It was a wonderful experience. It provided me a chance to work with JETs from across the world.</p> <p>As a new JET, I received a detailed orientation in Tokyo where I was introduced to the roles and responsibilities, nature of Japanese Education and matters related to living in Japan.</p> <p>Once in Osaka the board of Education, my supervisor Ms. Youshi and older JETs provided a very strong support system to help me adjust to the new culture and perform my duties. Infact, my Supervisor had connected with me a few weeks before I was to leave for Japan and stayed in continuous touch and answered all my queries regarding the stay, safety, food, what all to carry and work etc. this helped me prepare better for my stay in Japan.</p> <p>Japanese people are very helpful, though a bit reserved initially. Thanks to the orientation at BOE, I was introduced to the general do's and don'ts of the Japanese culture and it helped me fit in easily. My homestay with Hiroko San and her family was another place where I learned a lot about Japanese people and Culture.</p> <p>Indian ALT's are very respected as there are a lot similarities in our cultures.</p> <p>Being a trained English Teacher, working in Japanese Schools was a great learning experience. I worked with various Junior High and High Schools across Osaka. As an ALT I was invited to summer camps and various school events. Students were interested in Indian Culture and would always come up</p>	

with questions about schools and student life in India.

The Japanese teachers, that I worked with, worked as a team and allowed me to help in designing and delivery of the session rather than just assist. They were open to new ideas that would help them achieve the session objectives more effectively and made the class more interesting.

I also helped some of my schools start a Pen pal program with an Indian School. The program ran successfully for a year and the students and teachers from both the countries appreciated it.

Being the first Indian ALT in my prefecture, I got a lot of opportunities to talk about Indian culture and education system across schools and many other platforms.

An ALT enjoys a good work life balance and is paid well to live a comfortable life. I travelled across Japan and to other countries like China. Japan is a very safe country for women to live or travel alone. The strong public transport system makes it easy to move across the country.

JETs in the area organize a lot of get togethers over the weekends. Activities like Football matches, Skiing expeditions, Hiking Trips etc. are some of the things I was involved in during my stay in Osaka. These are wonderful opportunities to bond with other JETs. An experience that helps you learn about other cultures as well as build a strong network for yourself. The best part is that some of these friendships last you a lifetime.

A lot of JETs like me spent time on learning Japanese. Although living in a big city like Osaka, I did not face much problem in getting around without knowing the language.

But it is a good skill to have for those living in smaller cities and in general in Japan.

I was not only an English teacher but also an Ambassador of Indian Culture. I used to arrange a lot of presentations on Indian Culture and my Japanese friends loved wearing Saree and eating homecooked Indian food.

It was a life changing experience where I learnt a new culture, language and

built lifelong relationships. This program will help you develop an empathetic attitude and an open mind towards different opinions and points of view. The cross-cultural experience and learnings from my life as a JET has also helped me in my work as a Corporate Trainer in India.



At an English Language event at a high school



With Homestay family at NARA