

JET PROGRAM

Introduce Yourself

- Good afternoon! I am Alenna Castillo Pastrana, a 28-year-old teacher from Pandacan, Manila. I am a graduate of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila with a degree of Bachelor's in Secondary Education Major in English. I am currently finishing my graduate diploma for language and literacy education from the University of the Philippines Open University.
- For the past 7 years, I have been teaching English to students of various grade levels from grade school to high school. I also have experience teaching ESL students from Japan a few years ago. Right now, I am a teacher for 7th and 8th-grade students at Ignacio Villamor, a public school in Sta Ana, Manila
- When I am not grading papers, I spend my time reading books and creating digital art. I am an artist, and I have participated in various freelance work over the past decade, both local and international
- As an educator, my passion lies in inspiring others through meaningful classroom discussions. I am prepared to bring my dedication, creativity, and strong work ethic to make a lasting impact as an ALT and a goodwill ambassador between Japan and the Philippines

Why the JET Programme?

- Share experience in Masci
 - I want to be part of the JET programme because I have experienced an actual cultural exchange when I was a student. Back when I was still studying in Manila Science High School, my hs class was chosen to have nihongo classes at my school for the very first time. Later on, I found out that this was part of the Department of Education's initiative in developing its Special Program in Foreign Languages. This experience brought such a lasting impact on me that I also want to share my own culture to others as a form of giving back. I believe that joining the JET Programme will help me realize this aspiration.

What I felt as an ALternate

- I was disappointed that I was not upgraded to the shortlist, I mean, who wouldn't? I was a step closer to my dream. However, eventually, I realized there was no point for me to sulk about how my application last year had gone. If I really want to try again, I must prove myself once more that I am worthy of the position. And the fact that I am standing here today, that this is my 3rd time getting interviewed, surely, there must be something about my application. Applying for the 4th time made me realize maybe I might have been going for the whole applying to JET experience, I mean, I already experienced getting rejected both in the first and second screening, I even experienced being an alternate, so maybe, SURELY, I'll finally be an ALT this time.
- I'M JUST REALLY GRATEFUL THAT IM STANDING HERE AGAIN, AFTER ALL, NOT EVERYONE GETS THE CHANCE TO PASS THE 1ST SCREENING, LET ALONE, BE INTERVIEWED THRICE

Share your background in JP

- Again mention MaSci.
- Also mention Nihongo Center Foundation, I took their Basic Japanese 1 and 2 classes.

What did you do to strengthen your application?

- I had my TESOL/TEFL certificate and took the JLPT N5 when I applied last year. I wanted to try for the JLPT N4 but unfortunately I did not pass. I've been looking for opportunities to study Nihongo ever since but unfortunately I've been very busy with last semester right now at UPOU.
- Speaking of Nihongo, mention the Japanese collab at Villamor next month
 - Fujinami Junior High School, Super Global High School in Aichi
 - My supervisor was delighted to find out that I passed the JLPT in the past. He delegated me to join the collaboration next month.

What are the challenges I could face living alone

- Living really far away from family. Right now, I am living alone in Manila due to work. My parents are in Cavite and my siblings have their own family too. I might battle a different kind of homesickness since I already envision life can be isolating while abroad.
 - Mention Papa and Kuya being OFWs
- Language barrier, my Japanese isn't the best so I may struggle during my first few months. I also have to account that Filipino culture is very different from the Japanese, I have to practice mindfulness and sensitivity at all times.
- I plan to make routines to help myself adjust better

How can I promote Philippines culture

They say the way through a man's heart is through his stomach. So the easiest option is to talk about food. However, I beg to differ. I want to share about the similarities between the Philippines and Japan. I plan to share about the different and unique provinces in the Philippines. I want to talk about the fun Filipino festivals like the Ati-atihan in my hometown in the province of Aklan. There's just so many I could talk and share about the Philippines

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WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER THE JET PROGRAMME

- I WANT TO ADAPT BEST EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES IN JAPAN AND ADAPT THEM UPON MY RETURN IN THE PHILIPPINES. This will also broaden my understanding because this is also what I studied in UPOU. I want to know what worked well in Japan and how I can apply them to Filipino learners. I think such knowledge will benefit many students. I have been looking at the activities done by the JET Alumni Association and it fills my heart to see that so many children enjoy having a cultural exchange experience. I think allowing them to experience different cultures can inspire them to dream big and travel someday in the future. I know, because I also felt the same way when I was learning nihongo when I was in hs.

How can you be a goodwill ambassador of the Philippines to Japan

Through the JET Programme, I want to teach English and, at the same time, kindle a deeper understanding of cultures around the world to Japanese learners. I also hope to promote the Philippines as a country that shares many similarities with Japan. These similarities can foster strong cultural and economic ties between both countries.

In a global world, the English language plays an important role in linking countries together through effective communication. If every nation in the world can understand one another through language and culture, peace and goodwill can be achieved. ALTs have a role in steering people toward this goal. Hence, I strongly aspire to be in such a position.

Do you have any experience teaching international students?

Yes, I do. During my first few years of teaching, I was an English teacher at St Jude Catholic School in Malacañang, San Miguel Manila. It is a Filipino-Chinese school catering to students of various backgrounds. I've had students from China, Korea, and Thailand who spoke not a lick of English. It was my task back then to accommodate such learners so that they can keep up with students who were the same age as them.

How did you adjust your teaching style to students who are not natives to the English language?

I plan to scaffold as much as I can. In education, scaffolding means utilizing various techniques to help students understand lessons better. I also plan to motivate myself through various ways so that my students will find purpose in studying English.

SCHIZO DELUSION

- **Supportive half Japanese half Filipino boyfriend who lives in**

JP INTRODUCTION:

Hajimemashite! Arena Pasutorana desu. Firipin kara kimashita.

Niju-hassai de, kyoushi o shitemasu. Eigo o oshiete, nananen kurai ni narimasu.

Shumi wa e o kaku koto to dokusho desu.

Mada nihongo o benkyouchu nano de, jouzu ni naritai desu.

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!