

WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?

As our world becomes increasingly connected and interdependent, it has become necessary for students to learn the skills to effectively communicate with others around the world.

Learning a language benefits students in the following ways:

Academic and Intellectual Achievement

- Students have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics
- Students score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence
- Students are better in divergent thinking tasks and in memory ability and attention span

Post-Secondary Admission

- Language courses may be used to meet the Alberta High School Diploma requirements. Up to 25 credits of the 100 credits required for a high school diploma can be earned in one or more second language
- A 30-level language course is accepted for university entrance and is a requirement for some faculties and programs. It may also help students meet the requirements for the Rutherford scholarship.
- Students can continue to study Japanese in many post-secondary institutions

Enhanced First Language Skills

- Students' first language skills are strengthened in areas of reading, vocabulary development, grammar and communication skills

Cultural Understanding

- Students display enhanced cultural sensitivity, gain cross-cultural skills, and are better able to adapt to varying cultural contexts

Greater Career Opportunities

- There is a growing need for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce

EDUCATOR SUPPORT

Alberta school authorities benefit from the expertise and assistance of the Special Language Advisor for Japanese Language and Culture through an agreement between **Alberta Education** and the **Japan Foundation**.

The Japanese Language Advisor:

- Leads professional development sessions with Japanese language teachers
- Helps develop and maintain strong relationships with Alberta schools that offer Japanese language and culture programs
- Provides support to Alberta's Japanese language teachers
- Supports Japanese language and culture education across Canada

For more information, please contact the Japanese Language Advisor at:
www.education.alberta.ca/japanese



For more information about International Education in Alberta Education please visit:
www.intled.alberta.ca

Phone: 780-427-2035

Learn Japanese



2017

DID YOU KNOW?



- Approximately 13,500 Albertans are of Japanese descent
- Several Alberta municipalities are twinned with Japanese counterparts
- Japan is a key overseas economic partner for Alberta, accounting for 15% of non-US exports
- Alberta enjoys a multifaceted relationship with Japan that includes strong business ties, cultural and sports exchanges, educational initiatives, municipal twinning, and a sister province relationship with the Prefecture of Hokkaido
- Each year approximately 20–30 Albertans are employed by the Japanese government's Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program

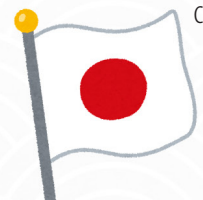
PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Japanese language programming consists of language and culture courses where Japanese is studied to develop communication skills, intercultural and strategic competence and an appreciation of Japanese culture.

For more information on programs of study for international languages, visit www.education.alberta.ca/programs-of-study.

WHERE CAN YOU LEARN JAPANESE?

A number of school authorities offer Japanese language and culture programming. Contact your local school authority for more information, at: www.education.alberta.ca/alberta-education/school-authority-index/



STUDENT, EDUCATOR, AND SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Exchanges & Funding

- Alberta Education offers two exchange programs: the Alberta-Hokkaido Student Exchange and the Yamate Exchange Program www.ieep.ca
- Various scholarships and bursaries are available www.studentaid.alberta.ca

School Partnerships

- School twinings or partnerships between Alberta schools and schools abroad bring an international experience into the classroom and enable students to interact with others from around the world www.education.alberta.ca/international-education/school-partnerships/



LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAMS

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

- Measures and certifies proficiency of those whose native language is not Japanese
- Administered through a partnership between the Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchanges and Services

Students interested in learning more about the JLPT can visit www.ptjc.ualberta.ca/en/Students/JLPT.aspx or www.jftor.org.



PROGRAM RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The **Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary** provides support programs for students, teachers, and librarians. The Consulate also provides information on Japan and available programs and scholarships, such as the JET Program and MEXT/Monbukagakusho Scholarships. www.calgary.ca.emb-japan.go.jp

The **Japan Foundation Toronto** provides information about Japanese language education in Canada, supports programs for Japanese-language teaching institutions, Japan art and cultural programs, and the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. www.jftor.org

The **Edmonton Japanese Community Association** supports the *Explore Japan* and *Japan Today* student programs. www.ejca.org

