

The Los Angeles-Nagoya, Japan Sister City Affiliation

ANNOUNCES A JOB OPPORTUNITY

LIMITED TO TEACHERS IN THE LAUSD

POSITION: Teacher of English for TWO YEARS at Meito Senior High School, Nagoya, as part of its special English program with international emphasis. Summer 2024 - Summer 2026.

LOCATION: Nagoya, the fourth largest city in Japan, which lies between Tokyo and Osaka. Nagoya and Los Angeles recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of their Sister City relationship.

SALARY: Approximately ¥6,045,000 a year, US tax-free in most cases, if the participant files forms with the IRS. (Please consult current conversion rates and the IRS website.) Paycheck deductions are made for Japanese taxes, health insurance and the Japanese pension system. (Pension payments are returned to participants who leave Japan at the end of their contract and file the required paperwork with the Japanese government.) The salary allows for a comfortable lifestyle in Japan.

HOUSING: Apartment near school, with some furnishings, for (approximately) \$700/month rent including utilities, paid by participating teacher. The apartment is small by US standards, but comfortable, and near bus lines and supermarkets. Pets are not allowed.

DUTIES: Teaching oral expression skills and some writing (in English); creating curricula appropriate for Japanese English students at the high school level; collaborating and coordinating with an American colleague; administering and scoring tests; maintaining records; attending regular department/faculty meetings; performing other (minor) administrative and supervisory duties; Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 5:00.

CONTRACT: Beginning on August 1, 2024, while on Leave of Absence from LAUSD, return rights to LAUSD at end of assignment on July 31, 2026, under contract with the Nagoya City Board of Education.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2024. Please contact us at LANSCAteacher@gmail.com if you are interested in submitting an application. Interviews will be held in late March or early April of 2024.

LANGUAGE: While helpful, no knowledge of Japanese is required.

COSTS: There are inevitable costs when setting up a new household, especially in a foreign country. We suggest that participants plan to spend from \$1500 - \$2000 for this purpose. Some of this amount can be recovered by selling household items on departure, possibly to the incoming LANSCA teacher.

LANSCA IS A NON-PROFIT, ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION. The information given herein is intended to provide a general understanding of the program; it may contain unintended inaccuracies, and is subject to change without notice.

REQUIREMENTS: APPLICANTS MUST...

- Have taught ELD/EFL, foreign language, English or have experience teaching in "sheltered" English at the secondary level (Middle or Senior High) for a minimum of three years.
- Have a current California teaching credential and permanent status with the LAUSD.
- Offer proof of a good teaching record and commitment to collegiality (in letters of recommendation.)
- Complete a telephone interview with a former program participant to receive application materials.
- Submit a completed application form, personal statement (including reason for applying) and references from current principal and one supervisor.
- Participate in an interview for finalists to be held in late March or early April, 2024.
- Submit proof of credential and a copy of college transcripts during the interview. If hired, a passport photo will also be required.
- Commit to a two-year stay in Japan.
- Be able to arrive in Japan for orientation by July 25, 2024. (Air ticket reimbursed after arrival.)

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPANYING FAMILY

MEMBERS: The Nagoya School Board reimburses participants for one economy air ticket from Los Angeles to Nagoya at the beginning of the contract, and one economy air ticket from Nagoya to Los Angeles at its end. Participants are responsible for the costs of transportation for family members to and from Nagoya. Once in Japan, children and legal spouses (according to Japanese law) are covered under the participant's health insurance. Visa regulations may not allow spouses to work in Japan. Prospective applicants with school-age children should be aware that it is difficult to place children in Japanese schools as they will arrive mid-school year, and proficiency in Japanese is expected. Moreover, Japanese schools do not have support systems in place for non Japanese-speaking parents and children in the way that LAUSD has for English Learners. All school communications and documents are in Japanese, adding additional difficulty. (While the staff at Meito High School provide LANSCA teachers with basic orientation and general assistance, they are not available to help with matters pertaining to the school enrollment of the children of program participants. Neither can they assist with finding employment for family members of program participants.) Nagoya International School, where English is the medium of instruction, is an excellent school, but quite distant and very expensive. There are other English schools in Nagoya as well.

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM AN ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN UTLA'S "UNITED TEACHER"

LAUSD TEACHER IN JAPAN FOUND CHALLENGES AND REWARDS

by Randy Grant, Retired Teacher of ELD, Fairfax HS

After eight years as a classroom teacher of ELD, I needed some kind of break, something to freshen my perspectives and challenge me in new ways. I needed something that would appeal to my interest in other cultures and languages while at the same time giving me credit for my professional experience. And I didn't want to sacrifice a regular full paycheck. Fortunately, I was actually able to find just the thing: The Los Angeles/Nagoya Sister City Affiliation (LANSCA) Teacher in Japan Program. This small program under the joint auspices of our district and LANSCA, sends one LAUSD teacher each year to a public high school in Japan's fourth largest city for a two-year stint. The challenges and the rewards I met with were both greater than I had anticipated, but so was the personal and professional growth they stimulated. In short, participation in this program was probably the best experience in my life. Exchange teachers are sent to Meito (meaning "East Nagoya") Senior High School. Opened in 1984, it is something similar to one of our magnet schools in that it is dedicated to the teaching of English and International Relations, along with the standard required Japanese curriculum for high school. The school has about 1100 students in grades 10-12. Virtually all of my students had studied several years of English, yet most, despite their enthusiasm, were unable to carry on even a basic conversation. Thus, my job as one of the American teachers was to provide classroom experiences for developing fluency and oral expression skills. Teaching about American culture and values was another important task, one which I particularly enjoyed as my daily contacts with Japanese culture challenged many of my notions about America. Moreover, since most Japanese have had little or no personal experience with foreigners, the mere contact with Americans on a day-in, day-out basis is very gratifying for both the students and the staff. (I had never felt myself to be so exotic and special!) I have to note though, that this situation has its occasional downside too: it is tiring to be in a fishbowl, to constantly be "an ambassador."

LAUSD teachers who join this program are hired by the Nagoya City Board of Education and take a two year leave (one year at a time) from LAUSD. Teachers with "permanent" status have return rights to the district. Meito High School maintains two American teachers on the staff during any year. One teacher is currently sought for the next two-year cycle. The school finds a nearby Japanese-style (i.e. small) apartment with a reasonable rent for each teacher and provides some of the furnishings. The school also offers complete medical and dental benefits as well as reimbursement for the first flight to Nagoya and the final one home at the end of the two years. The salary, at slightly over six million yen annually (possibly tax-free depending on papers filed with the IRS), is comparable to

most teacher salaries here. The cost of living in Japan is higher in some ways (some foods, for example,) but lower in others. The salary is certainly more than enough to maintain a comfortable lifestyle in Japan. Participating LAUSD teachers are granted two one-year leaves of absence from the district. As such, they do not advance on the LAUSD salary scale during their time in Nagoya. Similarly, participants do not contribute to CALSTRS during their two years in Japan and should consult CALSTRS regarding the purchase of "service credit" (if available) for those two years, if desired.

Teachers must be at the school from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. There are also a few (very rare) weekend activities. American teachers teach a wide variety of English classes, but the high number of preps is balanced by lots of extra time for planning, grading and conferencing. My teaching load was 17 hours a week. There are other responsibilities such as joining in supervision of the daily school clean-up. (There are no custodians in Japanese schools; the students do the cleaning!) The American teachers develop their own curricula, and choose textbooks and materials, so experience in building a curriculum is important. Incoming exchange teachers arrive with the safety net of being able to pick up where their predecessors left off and, once they gain experience, the chance to make their own additions to the curriculum. Individual English classes are split between two American teachers, which necessitates a high level of teamwork on their part. Working constantly and intimately with another American teacher at the same time as both experience the joys and frustrations of adjusting to another culture is, to say the least, intense. Therefore, along with a solid teaching background (preferably in ESL/ELD,) one of the main requirements for the position is the ability to compromise and work with others while under pressure.

My two years at Meito High School changed my ideas about Japan and the Japanese, taught me a new language and culture, improved my teaching, challenged my notions about US culture and what it means to be an American, and won me many new friends. Permanent LAUSD secondary teachers with experience in ESL/ELD, foreign language or "sheltering," who are interested in the kind of opportunities provided by this unique position and can present excellent recommendations regarding teaching experience and collegiality should contact our program at LANSCATEACHER@gmail.com for an application or to receive further information.

