AYP in Japan

Experience ✈ Experiment ✈ Exchange

Academic Yearlong Program in Japan

What is LEX?

The Institute for Language Experience, Experiment, and Exchange (LEX) was founded in 1981 by Yo Sakakibara, a Japanese educator, with the mission of promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism. LEX provides immersion-style multilingual language learning clubs for individuals and families, as well as international exchanges and educational publishing. The language clubs, known as Hippo Family Club in Japan, offer a language-learning environment that is based on the way we learned our first language(s) and a philosophy of openness toward all languages and all people.

What is AYP?

The LEX Academic Yearlong Program (AYP) is an exchange program that provides participants with the opportunity to attend high school for one year in Japan while living with a host family and immersing themselves in the rhythms of daily life. Participants will play an active role in language clubs and to act as cultural ambassadors during this transformational year.

I have an amazing host family as well as a beautiful school. I also have a lot of supportive Hippo friends who together with my host family have created an environment where I can try to speak Japanese and where no one minds if it's not perfect. Which is amazing and allows me to try my best without having to worry about failing. I have really enjoyed my exchange year so far, everything from exploring the country to meting new people it's all been wonderful. I would definitely recommend coming to Japan for an exchange year. - Viggo

Part of the Global hippo Family

An Academic Year in Japan

Who Should Choose AYP?

Any flexible, positive person with sincere interest in LEX, natural language acquisition, multilingualism, cross-cultural understanding, and Japan. Please be interested in other languages and cultures in addition to Japan. In addition, you must be a student between the ages of 15 and 18, not graduated from high school before the start of the program, and not turn 19 during the program.

What Will I Gain?

A LEX year abroad is a life-changing experience where you gain new family members and friends; acquire Japanese language and a first-hand understanding of Japanese culture. You also have the unique opportunity to become familiar with other languages and cultures through the friendships formed with yearlong students from around the world and through LEX / Hippo Family Club activities. Enjoy each step of the journey, face the challenges and feel the joys of attending school and living overseas; grow and understand yourself better; and gain new appreciation for your home culture and family. This experience will be what you make it!

Where Will I Live?

You will have a carefully selected and oriented host family who are members of LEX / Hippo Family Club. Host families are located all over Japan, generally in urban or suburban areas.

Who Will Support Me?

In addition to your host family, you will have three levels of support: a support fellow who is a local language club facilitator and will help support you in daily life; a LEX staff person in Japan; and a LEX staff person in the United States who has experience living and working in Japan. You will receive orientation before departure and after arrival in Japan; ongoing support in Japan; and a final debriefing after you return home.

What Will I Do?

You will become a member of a Japanese family, talking, playing, sharing daily life together. You will attend public high school, making friends among your classmates, and having the opportunity to join in sports, school clubs, festivals, etc. You will attend LEX / Hippo Family Club language activities regularly with your host family where you will be able to use your Japanese and other languages in a positive, supportive environment.

When Can I Start?

This academic yearlong program runs from mid-August through the end of July. Preliminary applications are due the preceding December 15, and complete applications are due January 15. Please check our website at www.lexlrf.org for program details including fees, and contact us at info@lexlrf.org to request application materials.

Everyone and especially the Hippo members have been really kind to me… School life is really fun, it's very interesting to see all the differences there are between Japan and your home country. The best thing about the yearlong program is the bond you are creating with your host family, they won't be just people who welcome you in their home, they will become your family at some point. - Mélanie

lex! LEX Language Project

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