

Experience ✈ Experiment ✈ Exchange

LEX
YEAR-LONG
INTERNSHIP TO
JAPAN



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What is LEX?

The Institute for Language Experience, Experiment, and Exchange (LEX) was founded in 1981 by Yo Sakakibara, a Japanese educator who sought to nurture multilingualism and multiculturalism. With independent offices in Japan, Mexico, Korea, and the United States, LEX provides immersion-style multilingual language acquisition programs for individuals and families alike, as well as international exchanges and educational publishing.

We believe in providing a language-learning environment that is based on mutual exchange and cooperation, and strive to create a fun and supportive atmosphere in our programs. LEX currently produces language learning materials in 21 different languages, including Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish, and we are always looking to add more options to our repertoire.



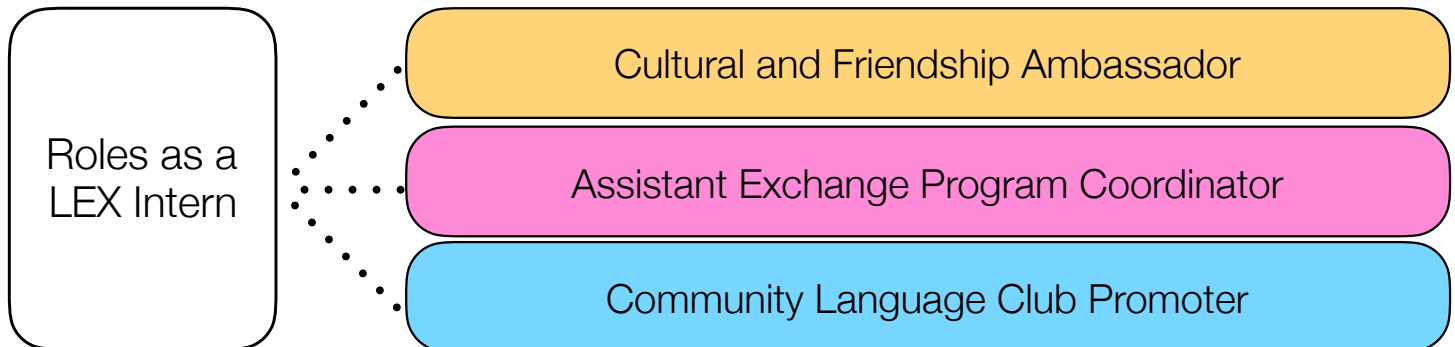
Experience • Experiment • Exchange

LEX takes a three-pronged approach with our mission: the first is creating a multilingual environment where anyone and everyone can experiment and play with different languages. Members listen to songs and stories recorded in various languages and take part in community clubs called families, where they can share their linguistic and cultural experiences. The second involves transnational exchange programs, where participants take part in overseas homestays or host international guests, thus building friendships around the world. The final component revolves around research activities – members have formed study groups to explore a variety of subjects, ranging from physics to history to child development, which they then relate to their personal experiences and language growth. With this approach, members are encouraged to open their minds and hearts to the world.



What is the LEX Internship in Japan?

The Year-Long Internship to Japan was started in 1999 as a means to facilitate cultural exchange between Japan and the US. Interns were not only a conduit of their own culture, but also invited to immerse themselves in the daily rhythms of Japanese life. Now, the internship has become a space for transnational understanding, where interns have the opportunity to work with and learn about cultures from all over the world, be it through interactions with fellow LEX members or with their team of international interns.



As an intern, duties may include:

- Helping collect and review exchange program delegate applications
- Giving English interviews to prospective delegates going overseas
- Sending off students to other countries
- Counseling international students in Japan
- Acting as communication liaison between Japan and other countries
- Participating in preparation meetings, workshops, and orientations
- Helping write and edit English language documents
- Giving educational presentations in elementary and junior high schools
- Visiting language clubs around Japan as an active participant
- Assisting club fellows with local events
- And more!

Intern Projects

On top of office duties, interns are in charge of certain special projects throughout the year. These projects encourage the use of various languages!



MULTILINGUAL FRIENDS PARK

Held once a month, Multilingual Friends Park (MFP) creates a space for participants to speak in multiple languages! Interns are encouraged to speak in their native tongue and to share their personal language experiences.



MUNAIMMER KIDS

Short for **M**ultilingual **N**atural **I**mmersion, MuNalmmmer Kids targets children from 0-4 years of age and their parents. The weekly sessions aim to expose participants to various languages through games, songs, and books.



ONLINE HIPPO

Broadcast live from the Shibuya office, Online Hippo allows viewers from all over the world to get a taste of LEX Hippo activities! Viewers are also encouraged to interact in the comments for a truly inclusive experience.



INTERN KONDANKAI

The *kondankai* is a monthly presentation where interns speak about their recent experiences with language and culture. It is an opportunity to discuss one's progress and to learn from fellow interns about their own acquisition process.

Have a project you'd like to start? We welcome new ideas and are more than happy to discuss any suggestions you have!

LEX Seasons

Each season brings its own adventures to the LEX Hippo Office! Here are some of the main events interns can expect to be a part of.



Cultural Presentations

To kick off the internship, interns will likely find themselves giving presentations about their home country, be it in schools or at local events.

fall



LEX Multilingual Presentation

The LMP, a multilingual speech competition in the style of TED talks, is held in Tokyo and draws youth from all over the world.

winter



Multilingual Snow Camp

In the month of March, we bundle up and head over to Snow Country in Japan for a week of fun with over 600 youth from 15 countries!

spring



Nature Camp

When August rolls round, we make for the lush greenery of Nagano to enjoy a multilingual nature camp targeted at people of all ages!

summer

The Intern Experience

The first steps you take as a LEX intern will be with your host family — all interns have 3-5 long-term host families, allowing them to truly immerse themselves in the culture and language. Furthermore, interns may be invited to different parts of Japan, where they can experience short-term stays across the country and pick up on interesting regional differences! As members of LEX, host families play a key role in familiarizing interns to the various activities and events in the organization, while providing a warm and welcoming place for interns to return to after a long day at the office.



HOST FAMILIES

LANGUAGE FAMILIES

At the very heart of LEX are the language clubs: immersive language sessions that are the product of our founder Yo Sakakibara's vision. Known as 'families' in Japan, they combine community language learning with songs, dances, and activities in order to enhance the language acquisition process. There are no teachers or structured lessons — rather, members focus on learning from one another with the help of a facilitator, tapping into our shared knowledge and engaging with a variety of languages in a fun and supportive environment. Just like a real family, these communities encourage participants to open their heart to the sounds & people around them, and to acquire language in a holistic manner.



The Intern Experience

The LEX office is always bustling with life and filled with a myriad of different languages: you may be speaking Spanish at one moment, Japanese at another, before rounding it off with some Korean. However, don't let the multilingual environment intimidate you — our focus is on exchanging our knowledge through our shared experiences, and everyone at LEX is actively engaging in both learning from and sharing with one another. With interns from all over the world — including Mexico, Korea, Vietnam, and Singapore — you can be sure to form connections that span the globe.

OFFICE LIFE



IMMERSION



When you join LEX, you become part of a family — one that spans all of Japan. The year-long internship does not confine you to the skyscrapers of Tokyo, but might find you on a little farm in Nagoya or a suburb in Sendai. With members all over, interns may have the opportunity to experience the unique regional cultures scattered across the country, giving them a truly immersive experience. After all, one of the aims of the internship is to provide participants with a deep understanding of Japanese culture in all its various facets. Regardless of where you end up, you can be sure that you will be welcomed with open arms and open hearts.

How to Apply

Requirements

- Applicants must be between the ages of 18-25 at the time of application.
- They should have a strong interest in language acquisition, international exchange, Japanese culture and world cultures, working with people of all ages, and living with host families.
- Prior knowledge of Japanese is not required, but applicants must be willing to immerse themselves in Japanese and other languages.
- Previous participation in LEX activities and homestay programs is encouraged, but not required for this position.

What We Look For

Essential qualities in an applicant include strong communication skills, maturity, flexibility, enthusiasm, and an openness toward all languages and all people. For previous work experience, we look for strong office skills, organizational skills, public speaking skills, writing skills, and experience or potential in counseling and orienting exchange students. The intern experience is closer to an exchange program, with emphasis on human relationships and learning through discovery, rather than a professional work experience in the traditional sense.

Application Instructions

1. Download and complete application form from www.lexlrf.org
2. Send your completed application, including your medical form, signed code of conduct, and photo to the LEX office **by Dec 15th, 11.59 pm.**
3. Give Confidential Reference Form to three references – non-relatives – to fill out and return directly to the LEX office in Boston.
4. If you are a member of LEX, 4-H, ERDT, PIE, P2P, or TGE, one of your references must be your LEX fellow or local or state coordinator or leader.

Timeline

Feb 15th	Interns notified if they have been selected for interview
Late Feb	Interviews conducted via video conference or in Boston office
Late Mar	Decisions announced
May	Interns submit necessary documents for visa
Summer	Orientation & visa application
Sep	Depart for 11-12 months in Japan

Responsibilities & Remuneration

Work Week

The normal work week is Monday to Friday 10:00 to 5:00. Interns are expected to participate in Hippo Family Club activities at least once a week (in the evenings or on the weekend). Some flexibility of schedule will be required for special events, such as evening workshops and weekend conferences, camps or orientations. When unusual nights or weekends are worked, comp time may be taken during the week.

Monthly Report

Interns will write a monthly report at the end of each month that will include their duties in the office that month, new things tried, host family information, and any other relevant experiences. The report will be shared with Hippo Family Club members and LEX staff, and 4-H, ERDT, PIE, P2P, or TGE, if relevant.

Host Families

Interns will stay with 3-5 host families in the Tokyo area throughout the year. These families are carefully selected by the LEX office, and information about the first family will be sent to the interns prior to departure. Interns can also expect to have several short-term stays with families outside of Tokyo.

Cultural Project

As interns will be entering Japan on a cultural visa, they will study an aspect of traditional Japanese Culture. LEX will arrange lessons and allow time during the work week for the intern to attend them.

LEX will provide:

- A monthly stipend of 50,000yen
- Host family expenses
- Roundtrip airfare to Japan
- Work related travel expenses
- Cost of obtaining a visa
- Approximately two weeks vacation (to be taken during New Year's and Golden Week in May) plus Japanese National holidays
- Medical and accident insurance

Interns are responsible for:

- Meals taken away from the host family (including lunches)
- Obtaining a passport
- Personal expenses (clothing, personal travel, entertainment, etc.)
- Shipping of personal items (if necessary)
- Expenses, including travel, related to your study project

Testimonials



This year has pushed me in ways I would never expect, and because of that, I have grown all the more!

Madison, Wisconsin

As my time progressed here, my family gradually grew. Not only my host family, but all my friends in LEX, all the LEX members gradually became part of my family as well.

Omar, Michigan



Everyone in the office is really amazing. They are kind, helpful, and caring, and they are especially impressive in their knowledge of language and culture.

Michael, Wisconsin



Testimonials



My work at the LEX office was varied and interesting. Sometimes I would be making posters and preparing for presentations, while other times I would be reading applications for the year-long exchange programs or counseling one of the high school students from Germany, Slovakia, or Mexico. Each day was a new adventure!

Amber, Wisconsin



Knowing that we both could speak in each other's mother tongue – even if only a little – made it all the more easier for us to launch into all sorts of different conversations. It was as if a barrier had been lifted, and was a simple yet deep reminder of the power that language possesses of bringing people together.

Joy, Singapore



Being a part of LEX was one of the most memorable moments in my life and has shaped who I am today.

Whitney, Wyoming

Contact Us

你好！

¡Hola!

Bonjour!

안녕하세요!

здравствуйте!

こんにちは!

Guten Tag!