



Overview

MINIMUM AGE: 17
DEPARTS: Mar / Sep
LENGTH: 6 months
ROLE AVAILABLE: Caring Assistant

Why Japan?

Japan consists of several thousand islands, of which Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku are the four largest. Japan is a highly advanced culture technologically while still retaining a strong sense of traditional ways. It is full of history, wonderful temples and beautiful countryside and volunteers will be sure to find Japan an incredibly clean and organised country.

Where are the placements?

Placements are located across the country from Hokkaido in the North to Kyushu in the south. Towns include Kumamoto, Wakayama, Nagoya, Ashikaga, Kitami, Nagasaki and Hiroshima; also Nishio close to Nagoya, as well as in Tochigi Prefecture and close to Osaka.

Is it for me?

Volunteers will need to be patient, mature and respectful of cultural differences. The Japanese work ethic is strong, standards are high and a commitment to the work and organisation is required. It is best for volunteers to read up on Japanese culture before they go and take some basic Japanese language lessons. Japan is a fascinating country and an exciting time awaits!

Placement Locations



Placements are available at Red Cross Hospitals as well as with other organisations. Volunteers will work in a range of wards, departments, facilities and services and will have a great deal of contact with patients. Japanese lessons are usually provided, however the exact nature of the lessons vary. Volunteers may be asked to teach English to the staff.

Placements are also available in Leonard Cheshire Homes, residential homes for elderly people, a community centre and a mixed environmental and caring placement. The work is challenging and extremely rewarding. Volunteers form strong relationships with the people they help and their assistance is greatly valued by both staff and residents. Volunteers will help with daily care and living activities for the residents. At the community care centre, volunteers help staff look after children in the nursery, the after-school club, and summer camps for young children. The volunteers are always warmly welcomed and valued.

Accommodation and Food

Volunteer accommodation is of a high standard; usually your own studio apartment with utilities included. Provision of meals vary from placement to placement. Please note that there are no host family living arrangements. If you are a strict vegetarian you might want to think twice about volunteering in Japan as although the diet is very healthy, there are few vegetarian options when eating out.

Travel

Volunteers will have an opportunity to travel at the conclusion of their placement and during holidays.

Need to know

- Pre departure briefing: All volunteers will be invited to a group briefing prior to departure.
- Language requirements: Some basic Japanese is helpful.
- On arrival: All volunteers participate in a two day orientation program in Tokyo before moving to their placements.

What's included

- Interview (face to face or by phone)
- Pre-departure briefing
- Airport pickup
- Accom, food and pocket money
- In-country orientation & support
- 24/7 emergency support

Costs

The costs shown are for Lattitude placements departing in 2011. (Please note that these prices may change for placements departing in 2012.)

Lattitude Fees (these are exact costs)

Lattitude application fee	\$125
Lattitude contribution fee	\$2900
Lattitude teaching skills course	\$NA
Lattitude in-country orientation	\$330

You will also need to budget for the following (these are approx costs)

Travel insurance (6 months)	\$500
Return airfares (approx cost of group flight)	\$2000
VISA	\$NA
Police check	\$43
Total Cost (approx)	\$5898



"I am having an amazing time working at a care home for physically and mentally disabled people. The residents here are very varied in their capabilities but I get to work closely with each of them and have got to know all their unique personalities. I have learned all kinds of skills during my time here and had all kinds of incredible and valuable life experiences. Being a volunteer is great. By living and working in a country you get to understand the culture in much more depth than you ever could as a tourist and you always know you are doing something valuable so it is really rewarding and uplifting".

Aliya Vasylenko, Caring Assistant, Leonard Cheshire Home, Takarazuka