

How to Market Your Japanese Language/Cultural Skills in the US Job Search

To-do's for every part of your job search and varying language levels



January 29, 2022 [Kasia Lynch, Founder - Ikigai Connections]

Introduction

- Kasia Lynch, Founder of IkigaiConnections.com
- Job board for Japanese jobs in the US:
NihongoJobs.com



Agenda

- **The Basics**
- **Resumes**
- **LinkedIn**
- **Applications & Cover Letters**
- **Interviews**
- **Conclusion / Q&A**



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The Basics



Who is this for?

- Anyone interested in Japan, Japanese language, Japanese culture, and related jobs
- Students: high school or college
- Those with or without study abroad experience
- Prospective JETs or MEXT* participants (esp. those whose programs were cancelled/postponed)
- JET/MEXT or other Japan program alumni
- Entry level & mid-career individuals

* Monbusho scholarship recipients

Plethora of Resources



Learn about Japanese jobs, networking, career ideas, interpreting/translating, actual job opportunities, language learning, and other resources:

- Japan-Related Careers Webinar Series, inc. networking (Bridging Foundation)
- Careers Using Japanese for JETs (USJETAA)
- Launch Your Japan-Related Career - with a panel discussion of powerhouse speakers (Laurasian Institute)
- How to Succeed After Japan (Inside Japan Podcast)
- Japanese Jobs in America (Japanese With Friends Podcast)
- Post-JET: Using Your Bilingual/Bicultural Skills (JETwit)

Resumes



Resumes: Language

- Add your Japanese level
 - basic, intermediate, advanced, native
 - speaking, listening, reading, writing, honorifics
- Describe JLPT, N1-N5, BJT abbreviations
- Using *nihongo* in an English resume vs. Japanese resumes

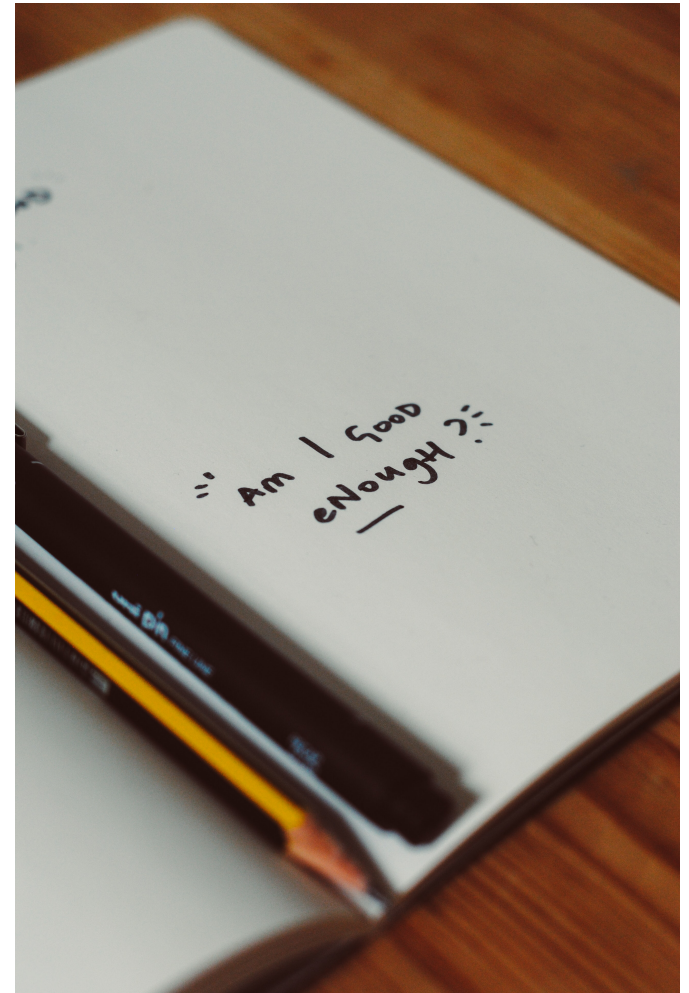


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Resumes: Language

If you used Japanese somewhere, add it!

- “Completed level x coursework and mastered...”
- “Supported Japanese employees to get acclimated to the US via my cultural understanding...”
- “Functioned as bilingual liaison for ...”
- “Translated correspondence for... about...”
- “Provided linguistic and administrative support for...”

Resumes: Cultural

- Japan clubs (inc. leadership roles), language/cultural courses, volunteering
- Study abroad, JET or MEXT programs
- Cultural knowledge and your life in Japan
 - Include facts (stories → cover letter & interview).
 - Think: if your friend with zero knowledge of Japan will soon go for one year, what would you teach them about life and work before they go? Succeeding in a foreign country, business cards and relationships, business meetings, etc.
- Get a friend who doesn't know Japan to review your resume

LinkedIn



LinkedIn

- Add the Japanese language component to your profile (i.e. certification)
 - About, Experience, Licenses & Certification, Languages
- Create a Japanese version (optional)
- Comment, like, and share Japanese language posts
- Join groups that are involved with Japan or Japanese

Applications & Cover Letters



Applications & Cover Letters

Your Japanese language and/or cultural skills set you apart!

- Highlight your other technical, professional, administrative skills
- Be confident
- ... and humble



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Convince them...

**DO I NEED TO
BE "FLUENT"?**

... why they should consider you even if you're not "fluent."

- Read: "Creating Bilingual Careers For Those Not Yet 'Fluent'"
- The HR representative might not fully understand what the JLPT is or covers.
- There may be a blank assumption that only N1 works.
- They may not know the JLPT was cancelled last year.



Convince them...

... why your cultural skills are applicable.

- Perhaps the recipient may not have studied and/or lived abroad.
- Perhaps they don't realize how intricate learning Japanese is.
- Promote your hero journey of moving to a foreign country.

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Convince them...

... of your potential to learn anything!

- Blurry line between meeting none vs. all requirements.
- Convince them that you need x days/weeks time to learn the terminology in Japanese.

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Interviews



Interviews

- Everything from the last section! You may need to educate/convince the interviewer how you can absolutely do the skills required.
- Follow up!



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Conclusion / Q&A

Conclusion

- Anything is possible
- Check out resources that exist
- Respect the job search struggle
- Be your best advocate



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Q&A & Thank you!

ご静聴、ありがとうございます。



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