

Japan in Translation Initiative (JTI)

Support and Education to Empower Future Translators of Manga and Literature

[JP-EN Translator Training Course]

Rules and Guidelines

The Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture's (JPIC) goal is to help spread Japan's rich publishing culture to the world, all while promoting lifelong learning through reading. In order to achieve this goal, JPIC has developed a brand-new project with that aims to support and empower translators of Japanese media.

The Japan in Translation Initiative (JTI) is a commissioned project under the Japan Creator Support Fund established by the Japan Arts Council through subsidies provided by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

The project is divided into two separate programs, the [A. JP-EN Translator Training Course] and [B. Career Building Course]. Through these programs it is our hope that we will be able to find talented and motivated individuals who can help Japan spread its literary wings and show the world the charm and diversity of what Japan has to offer.

In addition to launching an online application for eligible candidates, JPIC has also put together a special kick-off seminar that will be hosted by two veteran translators in the fields of manga and literature. We encourage all interested applicants to attend the seminar. (Participation is open to everyone and there are no special requirements. However, in the event that interest exceeds capacity, JTI will use a lottery system to determine attendees. Details below.)

The following project overview guidelines are for the [A. JP-EN Translator Training Course] only.

Project Overview:

Project Name:

(English) Japan in Translation Initiative: Support and Education to Empower Future Translators of Manga and Literature (JTI)

(Japanese) マンガ分野等における翻訳者育成・確保プロジェクト

Goals:

- To facilitate the creation of translation courses to support and empower talented translators of Japanese manga and literature (A. JP-EN Translator Training Course).
- To facilitate more opportunities for exchange between translators and publishers (B. Career Building Course).
- Both courses aim to expand Japan's literary culture to even broader audiences around the world.

Organizers:

Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Japan Arts Council, and Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture (JPIC)

Secretariat:

Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture (JPIC) (Website: <https://www.jp-pic.or.jp/>)

Japan Creator Support Fund:

<https://creator.ntj.jac.go.jp/>

JTI Official Website:

Tentative January 2027 Open

A. JP-EN TRANSLATOR TRAINING COURSE

Eligible Candidates:

Individuals with strong language skills who are interested in translating manga and Japanese literature.

Course Contents:

The Translator Training Course aims to help individuals gain a deeper understanding of Japanese publishing culture and teach them the ins and outs of manga, literature, and children's book translation. This course is for individuals who are looking to brush up their skills or would like to expand their knowledge and try new fields of translation. The course includes on the job training (OJT) and practical training opportunities to help participants gain real world and industry experience with experts who are current professionals in the field. Throughout the duration of the project, there will be 3 separate terms.

Program Duration:

Each term will be approximately 6 months in length.

Winter 2027 Term: January 2027–June 2027

Summer 2027 Term: July 2027–December 2027

Summer 2028 Term : July 2028–December 2028

Curriculum:

An overview of the curriculum and schedule can be found [HERE](#)

Number of Applicants:

For the Winter 2027 Term, 20 participants will be selected.

*JTI estimates around 20 participants for the other terms as well.

Application Period:

The application page will open on October 14, 2026.

The application page will close on November 2, 2026 at noon JST.

Applications for the Summer 2027 term and Summer 2028 terms are set to open between April-May of 2027 and April-May 2028. Once dates have been finalized, applications will open on the official website.

Course Fee:

Participants are not responsible for any school or course fees. However, internet fees for online classes are the sole responsibility of the participant.

Application Requirements:

Applicants must fulfill all of the following requirements:

1. Possess a high level of English language proficiency (A TOEIC score of 800 or higher is recommended)
2. Possess a high level of Japanese language proficiency (A JLPT score of N2 or higher is recommended)
3. Applicants must be willing to participate in the course's mandatory classes (Japanese-to-English Manga Translation Training, Manga Translation Practical Training (OJT), Literary & Children's Book Translation Training) and understand that participation will be a roughly 5-month commitment. (Participation in the additional seminars will push it a 6-month commitment.)

*Participation in the [Skill Up Seminars] and [Pitching-to-Publishers Seminars] is optional.

Candidate Selection:

Candidates will be selected after a thorough review of the submitted application as well as an interview.

※Please understand that we cannot offer feedback or give reasons as to why a certain candidate was not chosen.

*Interviews for successful candidates are scheduled to start around the end of November, 2026 via ZOOM.

Selection Announcement:

Successful candidates will be notified by mid-December 2026.

※Applicants who were not successful in applying for the first term are welcome to apply for the second.

Program Benefits:

1. Participants will receive free education from an accredited school in the fields of JP-EN manga, literature, and children's book translation.
2. Participants can attend various seminars and take part in OJT, which will give them the skills they need to advance their translation activities in the future.
3. Participants will be put in an environment where like-minded, hardworking individuals can come together to create connections in the field of translation.

[A. JP-EN Translator Training Course] Online Application

URL: [HERE](#)

SEMINAR FOR TRANSLATORS by Japan in Translation Initiative (JTI)

Kick-Off Seminar

Date: November 18, 2026 (Wed.) 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

*Online or Watch-at-a-later-date options are not available for this seminar

Venue: Tokyo Dome, Prism Hall B Side

Guest Speakers:

(1st Speaker): Jocelyne Allen (JP-EN Manga Translator / Canada)

(2nd Speaker): Sam Bett (JP-EN Literary Translator/ USA)

Theme: Learn from active manga and literary translators as they talk about what it's like to work in the industry, how they got there, and the latest trends from overseas publishers.

Participants: Translators and Domestic/Overseas Publishers

Capacity: 100 people (If interest exceeds capacity, a lottery system will be used)

Language: Japanese

Admission Fee: Free

Registration: The option to register for the seminar is included in the application form for the [A. JP-EN Translator Training Course]

Flyer: [HERE](#)

Contact

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Organizers:

Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

Japan Arts Council

Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture (JPIC)
