

Information for GET Volunteer Language Teacher Applicants

What is Peace Boat?

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organisation that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development, and respect for the environment.

Peace Boat seeks to create awareness and action based on affecting positive social and political change in the world. We pursue this through the organisation of global educational programs, responsible travel, cooperative projects and advocacy activities. These activities are carried out on a partnership basis with other civil society organisations and communities in Japan, Northeast Asia, and around the world.

- **Educational activities**
Peace Boat invites more than fifty guest educators on board each voyage. They come from diverse backgrounds and include university professors, artists, journalists, NGO and other civic group representatives. Each holds lectures and workshops on a wide variety of political, social, environmental and cultural issues. There are speakers from both Japan and the various countries the ship visits.
- **Overland Exposure Study Tours**
These small group tours, in conjunction with local partner NGOs, last between three days and two weeks. Participants develop a deeper understanding of a particular region or issue while building personal friendships with local cultures through co-habitation and cultural exchange.
- **On land educational and advocacy activities**
Independent of Peace Boat's voyages, a large number of seminars, lectures, workshops, sports and cultural exchanges are organised throughout the year in Japan.
- **Cultural exchanges around the world**
In each of the ports of call, Peace Boat organises various cultural exchanges with local communities. These activities not only foster international friendship and understanding, but help support local projects. These can range from tree planting, mural painting to sports exchanges and music festivals, as well as demonstrations and solidarity marches.

Who joins Peace Boat?

The majority of people who participate in Peace Boat voyages are Japanese. They come from all walks of life and represent all ages. There are approximately 800 people on each voyage. Their motivations for joining vary widely. Naturally, the chance to travel around the world by ship is a major reason for anyone to join Peace Boat, but beyond that people join for many reasons such as, to make friends, to study, to relax, to take time out to reconsider their careers and to learn English and Spanish and more about the world we live in.



GET: More than an on board teaching program

The GET Program is part of the Peace Boat group. It was established in the belief that the evolution of people's communication beyond borders will help to create peace. The GET Program trains people to utilise global communication tools for peace.

At this moment in world history, through globalisation, Internet and satellite broadcasts, English is developing a new role as the "global language." This dominance of English must not be allowed to benefit only native speakers of the language, or to continue the imperialism and oppression that the language has so often symbolized.

Rather, the GET Program believes that the new "global English" is a tool that belongs to all the world's people equally. It should be used as a communication tool to empower people across the world to work together to develop an equal and sustainable society, based on peace, justice and respect.

Recognising that English is not the only such communication tool, the GET Program will also explore the use of other languages and communication media, while respecting linguistic and cultural diversity. In this vein, we will also endeavour to develop methods of communication between peoples speaking different languages.

To these ends, we have the following main fields of work:

1. To establish and share global English as a "global people's language."
2. To establish and develop a training program to help students learn global English as a tool for confidence-building and mutual understanding beyond borders.
3. To establish and develop a training program for teachers, focusing on methods to teach global English as a tool for confidence-building and mutual understanding beyond borders.
4. To train interpreters for better multilingual and cultural communication in civil society activities in order to support the creation of a more just, equitable and sustainable society.

Points 1-3 above specifically relate to the Tokyo and on board teaching programs and can be further clarified into specific aims:

- To encourage students to see English as a tool for international communication

The GET Program aims to expose students to a wide variety of English both through the diversity of the teaching team and through the special tours and exchanges organised in port. Students are encouraged to think of language as a tool for communication with people throughout the world. In this sense, English is no longer something 'owned' by its native speakers but is a common globally-shared language.

GET students are encouraged to feel an ownership of the language. Many Japanese aspire to speak a certain variety of English, such as American English or British English. Many English language schools in Japan pride themselves on hiring only British or only American teachers. However, non-native speakers of English now vastly outnumber native speakers. The GET Program exposes students to a variety of native and non-native Englishes. This not only improves students' listening ability, but encourages them to appreciate the diversity of the spoken language, as well as to feel more comfortable with their own English.

- To build students' confidence in their communication ability

One of the greatest satisfactions in learning a language comes when real communication with another speaker is achieved. A unique aspect of the learning process of GET is that students have regular opportunities to put to use what they have been studying as the voyage unfolds, both on board and on land, in genuine contexts. This builds students' confidence in their own progress and ability and allows them to gain a real appreciation of the practical value of the language.

- To improve students' ability to use the language they have to express a wide range of ideas

Learning a language involves the usage of whatever a learner knows as effectively and widely as possible. This is often overlooked in English language courses in Japan, but in the



GET Program students are provided with the opportunity to practice these skills through a variety of activities. Such activities include explaining complicated ideas with limited vocabulary, summarizing cultural stories and developing presentations for international audiences.

- To provide students with the opportunity to discuss Peace Boat related topics in English

The GET Program encourages students to consider and discuss, through the medium of English, the wide variety of contemporary domestic and international issues that are discussed onboard by the guest speakers who join us at different ports.

- To enable students to learn the English necessary to discuss areas of personal interest.

The GET Program provides the opportunity for students to personalize their study so that they can focus on issues and topics that interest them. This is achieved through a task-based system of study where students repeatedly test and evaluate themselves using newly acquired language. Apart from standard class lessons, students actively participate in workshops, evaluate lectures, make videos, put on performances, give English speeches and so on.

How is the GET Program structured on board?

There are two coordinators for the GET Program on each voyage. One is mainly responsible for overseeing the teachers while the other is mainly responsible for overseeing the students.

There are between 8 and 18 teachers depending on the number of student applications. Although the majority of the teachers are English teachers most voyages employ up to 3 Spanish teachers depending on demand from passengers.

On an average Peace Boat global voyage, close to a quarter of the participants take part in the paid GET Program. Students are divided into level-based groups according to how they perform in a spoken and a written evaluation.

- **Intensive Classes**

- ✧ There are between 24 and 36 classes in the Program, depending on the number of students.
- ✧ Each class has on average 6 students.
- ✧ Each English lesson is 80 minutes in duration.
Each Spanish lesson is 60 minutes in duration.
- ✧ Each English teacher is responsible for teaching 2 intensive class groups a day (total 160 mins).
Each Spanish teacher is responsible for teaching up to 3 intensive class groups a day (total 180 mins).
Teachers will stay with the same groups throughout the voyage.
- ✧ Teachers develop their own curriculum with the support of the GET teaching framework.
- ✧ There is a resource database of previous teachers' lessons as well as an extensive library of textbooks.
- ✧ Teachers will establish specific objectives with each of his/her students and implement a course of study to help them achieve these targets. Both teachers and students are accountable for achieving these targets over the course of studies.

- **Open Classes**

- ✧ Besides the main program, GET also organises English and Spanish Open Classes which can be taken by anyone on board free of charge. These classes are held most days the ship is at sea in the largest public spaces on board.
- ✧ There are three English Open Classes: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. There is also a Beginner level Spanish Open Class.
- ✧ Each class is around 40 minutes long, and is team-taught by a teacher and a CC (Communication Coordinator/ Interpreter). The number of people who attend fluctuates



from day to day, and can reach as many as 200, especially at the beginning of the voyage.

- ✧ The Open Classes focus on communicative ability and conversational language, especially language that students can use on board with non-Japanese speakers and in port with the people they meet.

- **Challenge Programs**

There are between 4-8 English GET Challenge Programs on each voyage. These are special programs in port that allow the GET students to apply their English to real situations. They can be one-day cultural exchanges with local students or overnight home-stays with local families. Students are set tasks beforehand that ensure they use as much English as possible; such tasks might include finding out from their hosts certain information about the country in question or introducing different aspects of Japanese culture to local people. Teachers are required to assist with these programs.

- **Additional Duties**

- ✧ Teachers organise a series of English language events. Past examples include:
 - Speech competition
 - Language Olympics
 - English Karaoke
 - Global Culture festival
 - 'English only' day
- ✧ Teachers run a series of language-related workshops. Past examples include:
 - Survival English
 - Poetry
 - Public Speaking
 - Letter writing
 - Mnemonics
- ✧ Teachers will organise specific English-based student-centred projects. Past examples include:
 - Video documentary / drama
 - Year book
 - Journal Project
 - Performance
 - Radio Show
- ✧ Teachers are also strongly encouraged to take an active role in organizing other events on board and to interact as much as possible with their students and with other Peace Boat participants. Past examples organised by teachers have included:
 - Political/ Cultural/ Environmental themed video nights with discussion forums.
 - Salsa dancing classes
 - International DJ nights
 - Halloween and Christmas events
 - Drumming workshops
 - Sweatshop Fashion Show
 - Slide Shows of personal NGO involvement
- ✧ Teachers are required to attend a daily GET meeting and occasionally a ship-wide staff meeting.
- ✧ Teachers prepare Port Orientation information for English-speaking staff for at least one of the ports of call.
- ✧ Teachers may be required to help tour groups disembark and embark in ports of call.
- ✧ There may be additional responsibilities depending on the voyage.

- **Materials and equipment on board**

- ✧ There is a good selection of textbooks and workbooks on board, as well as records of lesson plans and events from previous voyages.
- ✧ In each of the classrooms is a computer with speakers. These computers are networked to a printer/photocopier.
- ✧ CD/MD players are also available, and there is a good stock of basic stationery items.

- **Compensation**

- ✧ The language teaching positions on board are on a volunteer basis, so there is no salary. However, the participation fee for the voyage, meals and accommodation on board, port taxes, plus travel insurance for the period of the voyage, are covered by GET Universal Co. Ltd.
- ✧ The cost of vaccination against yellow fever (required for voyages travelling to Papua New Guinea, Kenya or Brazil) is the responsibility of the language teacher.



- ✧ Visa fees and applications are covered by GET Universal Co. Ltd, although transport to and from visa offices is covered by the teacher.
- ✧ The cost of transportation to and from interviews and to and from the points of departure and arrival of the ship in Japan are also the responsibility of the teachers.
- ✧ The cost of accommodation during the orientation period is covered by GET Universal. Accommodation required before and/or after the orientation is covered by the teacher.
- ✧ The cost of shipping luggage to (required) and from the ship is borne by the teacher.

Becoming a GET teacher

- **Who should apply?**

We seek applications from experienced language teachers with a specific interest in improving their skills in the areas of global and peace education. Candidates must have at least 18 months of full-time English or Spanish language teaching experience by the application deadline, and preferably a teaching qualification. We are an equal opportunities employer and do not discriminate on the grounds of age, sex, nationality or background.

We do not require our teachers to be native speakers of English or Spanish. We see English and Spanish as global languages equally accessible to everyone, and so recruit teachers from a variety of linguistic backgrounds.

As the language of communication within the GET team is English, Spanish teachers should also have fluency in English. Conversational Japanese is an advantage but not a requirement.

- **Interviews**

Interviews are conducted at the GET Offices in Takadanobaba, Tokyo, after an initial screening of candidates. Candidates invited to interview will be asked to give a short demonstration lesson to a small class comprised of volunteer students. This lesson will be monitored by the interviewers and constitutes a major component of the interview process. This will be followed by a panel interview.

For international applicants - interviews can be conducted by telephone after initial screening process. International candidates invited to interview will also be required to submit a video/DVD of a demonstration lesson and profile. More information on this will be provided to those candidates who pass the initial screening. Both telephone interviews and face-to-face interviews carry the same weight.

- **Orientation and Training**

Once selected to join a voyage team, the process of becoming a GET teacher requires a significant amount of information exchange between the coordinators and teachers prior to embarking on the voyage itself.

Teachers are responsible for meeting a series of deadlines for the receipt of forms related to visas, health checks and personal information. Teachers receive a pre-orientation study pack about 4-6 weeks prior to departure and need to dedicate adequate study time to this material in order to come prepared for the pre-voyage orientation in Tokyo, which is held 1-2 weeks prior to departure. At this orientation teachers meet their coordinators and the other staff who will be on board.

Teachers are also required to attend a number of study sessions during the pre-voyage orientation. Teaching tools and methods specific to the GET program are introduced during these sessions.

The pre-voyage orientation is compulsory for all GET teachers. Candidates unable to attend will not be accepted for the GET teacher position.



How to Apply

Please send the following documents to the address below by post (applications are not accepted by e-mail or fax):

1. Applicants Personal Form (see following page). Please ensure this sheet is the top page of your application.
2. Current Resume (no more than 2 sides of A4-sized paper)
3. A cover letter explaining both why you would like to join Peace Boat as a language teacher and how you can contribute to the program (no more than one side of A4-sized paper)
4. Three brief, original lesson plans (each lesson plan should be no longer than one side of A4-sized paper. When including handouts, please print them on the reverse of the lesson plan, reducing them to fit on one side if necessary.)
 - English applicants
 - 40 minute lesson for an open class (beginner level) – 80 students
 - 80 minute lesson (beginner level) – 6 students
 - 80 minute lesson (advanced level) – 6 students
 - Spanish applicants
 - 40 minute lesson for an open class (beginner level) – 80 students
 - 60 minute lesson (beginner level) – 6 students
 - 60 minute lesson (intermediate level) – 6 students
5. A description of a non-language related activity you would like to organise onboard Peace Boat (no more than one side of A4 sized paper)

NOTE:

- Only applications sent by post are accepted.
- All application materials submitted will be kept on file at the GET Offices for one year after the application deadline.
- Spanish applicants should write their applications in English although this can be accompanied by a Spanish version.

Contact Details:

Postal address

Language Teacher Coordinator

GET Universal Co. Ltd

1-32-13-4F Takadanobaba, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0075, JAPAN

TEL: 03-5287-3192

FAX: 03-5287-3193

Email enquiries via: www.peaceboat.org/english/submit_et.html



Applicant's Personal Data

Please fill out in block letters and submit this sheet as the top page of your application.

VOYAGE: _____

Teaching post applied for: **English Spanish**

Circle one or both as appropriate

<p style="text-align: center;">Name <i>as it appears on your passport</i> <i>as you prefer to be called</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sex</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nationality</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Current Address</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Current Phone Number</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Current Mobile Phone Number</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Permanent Address <i>(if different from above)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>phone</i> <i>fax</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Total Full-Time Language Teaching Experience <i>(by application deadline)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">_____ year(s) _____ month(s)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Teaching Certification</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes If yes, what type:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Computer Proficiency</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> basic <input type="checkbox"/> intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> advanced</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Interview Day Preference <small>(please rate from 1-3 in order of preference, 1=most preferred OR check 'International' if you intend conducting your interview from overseas)</small></p>	<p>__ Friday __ Saturday __ Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Any</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Have you applied to be a volunteer teacher before?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, which voyage: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How did you find out about Peace Boat?</p>	<p>- GET teacher (name: _____)</p> <p>- Organisation (name: _____)</p> <p>- Internet (site: _____)</p> <p>- Poster/magazine (name: _____)</p> <p>- Other (_____)</p>



FAQs

1. What kind of people apply for GET?

We accept a wide variety of applications from both within Japan and internationally. The only requirement is that the applicant has relevant full-time language teaching experience for more than 18 months by the application deadline.

2. Do I need a Japanese Working Visa to travel on Peace Boat?

Because the boat travels in international waters you do not need a Japanese Working Visa. However upon returning to Japan after the voyage you will need to show Immigration Services proof of onward travel (e.g. An airline ticket). Also, in order to enter Japan before embarking on the Peace Boat and when disembarking from Peace Boat it may be necessary, depending on your nationality, to apply in advance for an appropriate visa. Check with a Japanese embassy or consulate if you are unsure.

3. What vaccinations would I need if I am accepted on the program?

At the time of writing, if the voyage travels to Papua New Guinea, Kenya or Brazil teachers are required to get a Yellow Fever vaccination, at their own expense.

Other vaccinations are left to the discretion of the teacher. However please consult a physician or check the World Health Organization website for more information about travel vaccinations (<http://www.who.int/ith/>)

If the Peace Boat travels to malaria affected regions the on board physician will distribute, free of charge, mefloquine (Lariam) tablets to all staff members, including volunteer staff. If you have any concerns about this anti-malarial medicine it would be best to discuss options with your physician. In order to participate on a voyage travelling to a malaria affected region it is a requirement to take an appropriate anti-malarial medicine.

4. What I should do in order to be accepted as a GET teacher?

It is very difficult to answer this question as a variety of qualities can add up to make a good GET teacher. We aim to make teaching teams that are diverse, professional, experienced, energetic, can adapt to different environments and work well in a team environment as well as individually. It is, however, a requirement that you have relevant foreign language teaching experience, preferably in a Japanese teaching environment, for more than 18 months by the application deadline.

5. Regarding the lessons section of the application form exactly what level is 'beginner' and 'advanced'?

These terms have been left purposely ambiguous. We are interested in how you interpret these levels and apply an appropriate lesson plan to them.

6. Is it possible to have an interview early for a later voyage?

No. As the GET Coordinators change from voyage to voyage it is important that they are involved in the interview and selection processes for their specific voyage. Therefore, we cannot accept applicants for interviews that are not part of the current application round.

7. Do I have to be fluent in Japanese?

No. While Japanese ability is an advantage for general life on the boat it is not necessary for the teacher position.

8. Can I back-date my application documents?

No. We accept only applications that arrive at our Tokyo offices on or before the application deadline, so please be sure to allow enough time, especially if posting from overseas.



9. Is there an age limit for applying for the GET Teacher position?

No. There are no age restrictions to applying to become a GET teacher.

10. Is it possible to have an interview outside of Japan?

Yes. While we prefer to interview teachers in Tokyo we can organise a phone interview for those living outside of Japan. For any applicants who are in or near Tokyo at the time of initial application but plan to be absent during the interview time period, please contact us so we can arrange an informal chat and have the opportunity to meet face to face.

11. How much will the voyage cost me?

Although the cost of accommodation and food onboard is covered by GET Universal there are additional costs that must be borne by the teacher. These include but are not necessarily limited to:

- pre-voyage vaccinations (if necessary)
- costs of travel to Tokyo for the pre-voyage orientation.
- costs of couriering luggage to and from the ship.
- cost of accommodation and food before and after the orientation period (if necessary).
- in-port costs. While the ship is in port teachers will generally have free time and costs of travelling, food and accommodation in port will be borne by the teacher.
- luxury items on the ship, including alcohol and snacks bought from the onboard store and bars.
- laundry onboard (approximately ¥500 per load).

12. How many hours will I be expected to teach everyday?

Teaching hours vary from day to day. On a busy day an English teacher may teach 2x 80 minute classes (3x60 minute classes for Spanish teacher) in a classroom, and 1x 40 minute Open Class attended by around 100 people, as well as up to an hour of one-to-one conversation and an hour of staff language classes. However responsibilities also include lesson/curriculum planning, marking, student evaluation, event planning, GET Program development, preparing information for upcoming ports, and attending GET meetings.

