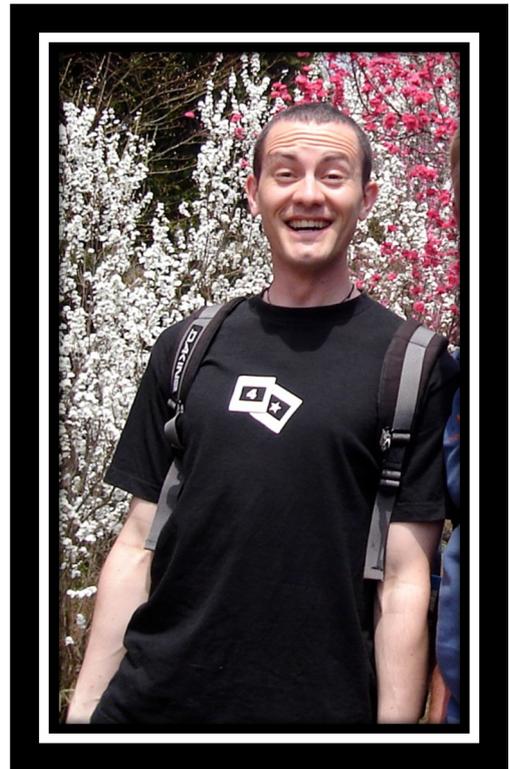


Jason Allan

Jason Allan planned a trip to USA in 1997 with three of his Japanese mates. One of his mates suggested that they make a stopover in Japan for Jason to experience their home country. At that stage, Jason had no knowledge of Japan and decided this would be a great way to experience other countries and cultures. Japan was such an exciting place that it sparked an interest for Jason to return. Jason's intention was to return to Japan on a work visa. But to Jason's surprise, it is very difficult to get a job without a degree. So in 2001, Jason decided



to study a Certificate Course in Japanese at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology in order to enter the degree program. The more Jason studied Japanese, the more he wanted to become fluent in the language and to become a freelance translator.

In 2005, Jason graduated at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology with a Certificate in Japanese, a BA Japanese degree and a CELTA (Cambridge English Language Teaching to Adults) certificate.

After graduating Jason was accepted into the JET programme teaching English. Japanese was not a requirement, but for Jason, it helped to build a rapport with his students, especially those who were shy or struggling.

After three years of teaching English, Jason decided it was time to move towards his goal so he accepted a job as a proof reader at a translation company in Tokyo. Most of the translators are Japanese so his job is to proof-read their Japanese to English translations. However, when the English does not make sense, Jason must read the Japanese version to make sense of the English. Therefore, Jason's Japanese is essential and valuable.

Jason's ambition from the moment he started studying Japanese was to become a freelance translator and this is a stepping stone towards his goal.

We wish Jason all the best for his future ambitions.

(Profiled by Rachel Smith)