

Building a Japan-related Career

Utilize Your Japanese Language/Cultural Skills in
the US or Japan



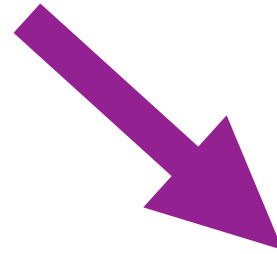
September 15, 2021 [Kasia Lynch, Founder - Ikigai Connections]

Agenda

- **Overview**
- **Top Recommendations For All Paths**
- **4 Main Career Paths**
 1. **Business**
 2. **Translation / Interpretation**
 3. **Teaching English / Higher Education**
 4. **Arts & Culture**
- **FAQ**



ikigaiconnections.com/bridging



Today's Links

Senpai Success Stories:

- [Anthony's](#) Tips on Living & Working in Japan
- Bilingual Executive [Jessica](#)
- [Ashlee](#), Bilingual Executive Assistant
- [Lauren](#), Bilingual Engineering Technician
- [Stacy](#) on the New Frontier of Interpreting
- [Graeme](#), Interpreter & Translator (and how a broken nose
- [Nicole](#), the Manga Freelance Translator
- The Online Japanese Teaching Entrepreneur, [Jess](#)
- [Kyle](#), the Shy Guy & Former JET Who Could
- Famous [Faye](#) Sensei in Michigan
- University Professor in Japan, [Monique](#) Sensei
- [Emily](#), the Offbeat, Quirky Career Counselor
- [Byron](#), Promoting Japan for Creatives
- Landscape Architecture and [Tom](#)
- Showbiz with [Charles](#)
- [Shannon](#), the Librarian for Manga, Anime & Dramas
- Check out all 32 of the Senpai Success Stories [here](#)

Other Resources:

- Register for the October Networking webinar, plus the oth
[recordings](#) of previous webinars for your viewing pleasure

Introduction

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



Overview

Overview

This presentation can be applied generically to working in the **US**, **Japan**, or any other country.



Japan, specifically:

- Visas
- Kinds of available jobs
- Language requirements
- 就職活動 *shuushoku katsudou*
“the job search”

Overview



- **Japan Resource page:** includes a guide for **7 specific routes** to get to Japan, plus a list of recruiters, language classes, volunteer opportunities, networking groups, etc.
- **Senpai Success Story:** Anthony's Tips on Living & Working in Japan

A graphic titled "Senpai Success Story" featuring a quote from Anthony Griffin. On the left, a purple circle with white quotation marks is positioned above a vertical purple line. The quote reads: "I, along with the business that I'm growing, am a work in progress—a tapestry of successes and failures woven with the thread of persistence." Below the quote, the name "Anthony Griffin" and his affiliation "Saga Consulting" are listed. At the bottom left, there is a circular logo for "IKIGAI CONNECTIONS" and the text "Senpai Success Story". On the right side of the graphic is a photograph of Anthony Griffin, a man with a beard and bald head, wearing a dark suit and tie, sitting with his hands clasped and smiling.

“

I, along with the business that I'm growing, am a work in progress—a tapestry of successes and failures woven with the thread of persistence.

Anthony Griffin
Saga Consulting

IKIGAI CONNECTIONS

Senpai Success Story

Top 4 Recommendations

Tip #1: Experiment



- Discover your *ikigai* via **action** (try the free “Discover Your Ikigai” course)
- Attain **internships** during high school & college
- **Research** (get on mailing lists, follow on social)
- Check out ikigaiconnections.com/online-resources
- **Volunteer** at Japan-related organizations



Photo by Brett Jordan on Unsplash

Tip #1: Experiment



 Senpai Success Story



“ When you are not sure what path to take, sometimes it is best to deviate from the “safe” path. Take a risk and try something you have not done before.
Jessica Kennett Cork, YKK Corporation of America

Senpai Success Story:

Jessica is a bilingual Executive at YKK Corporation of America, and she got that role because she volunteered and built long-lasting relationships.


 United States ~ Japan
Bridging Foundation
Growing Global Leaders

How I Built a Business Career Related to Japan

October 6, 2021, 8-9 pm ET
October 7, 2021, 9-10 am JST

Tip #2: Connect


- **Networking** (online & in-person)
- Get active on at least 1 **social media** platform
- **Apply** to lots of companies (job-hunting is not easy)



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How to Network in the U.S. and Japan

October 20, 2021, 8-9 pm ET
October 21, 2021, 9-10 am JST



Tip #3: Utilize *Nihongo*



Photo by [Olga Serjantu](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- **Practice** (reading, writing, speaking, listening, and *keigo*)
- **On-the-job** improvement
- Understanding employer requirements: Certifications (**JLPT**, BJT, etc.) and “Do I Need to be **Fluent**?”



Tip #4: Develop Skill Sets


Develop skill sets in addition to *nihongo*!

- Study something else in addition to Japanese (i.e. major/minor)
- Computer skills
- **Soft skills:**
 - professional appearance & mannerisms
 - respectful communication (no ghosting)
 - problem-solving
 - think-outside-the-box mentality

日米交流財団 United States~Japan Bridging Foundation
Growing Global Leaders

Resume Recipe: How To Write A Resume That Sizzles

November 17, 2021, 8-9 pm ET
November 18, 2021, 10-11 am JST



Four Main Career Paths

Four Main* Career Paths

1. **Business**
2. **Translation / Interpretation**
3. **Teaching English / Higher Education**
4. **Arts & Culture**

Many other paths do exist; the sky is the limit!

#1: Business

A. Administration

B. Sales

C. Financial

D. Technical

#1: Business - Administration

Best way to get started with any company.

Need:

- computer & writing skills
- an organized personality
- a willingness to try anything

➔ Prep:

- internships/part-time jobs in high school and college
- improve your computer-related skills

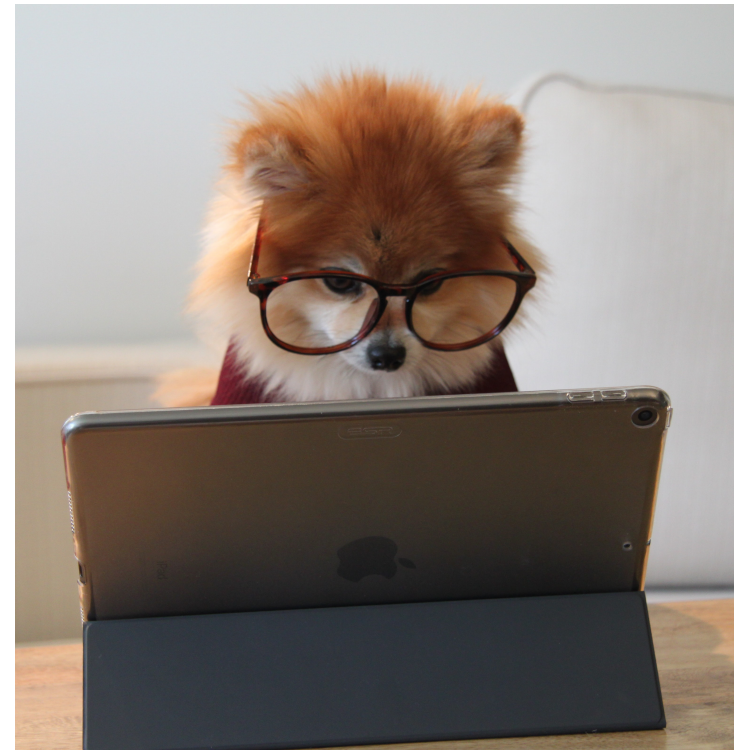
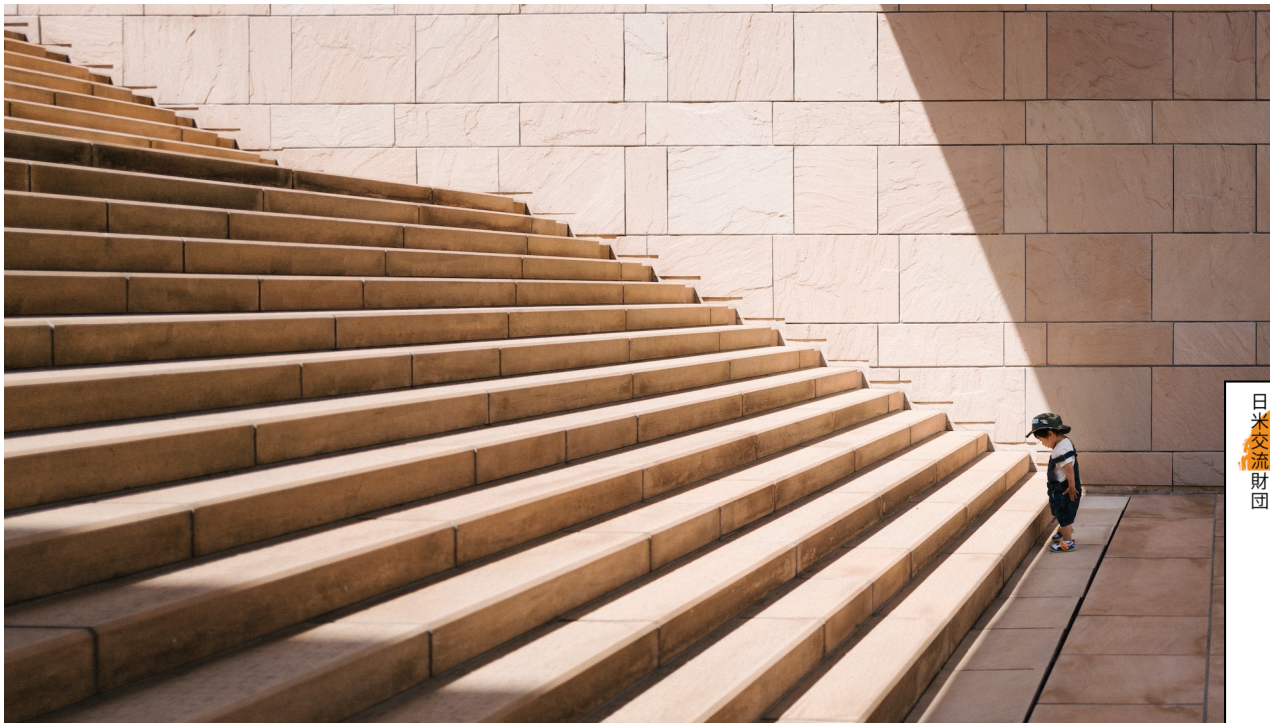


Photo by [Cookie the Pom](#) on [Unsplash](#)

#1: Business - Administration



Senpai Success Story: Ashlee, Bilingual Executive Assistant



An Introduction to Japan and U.S. Business Practices

December 15, 2021, 8-9 pm ET

December 16, 2021, 10-11 am JST

Photo by [Jukan Tateisi](#) on [Unsplash](#)

#1: Business - Sales

Need:

- top Japanese language skills to deal with customers
- outgoing and customer-service oriented personality

→ Prep:

- practice your business Japanese
- JLPT is typically requested



#1: Business - Financial

- Accounting / Tax / Legal / CPA
- Japanese language skills and certification highly recommended

➔ Prep:

- certification or degree programs
- starting early (college & high school) is key due to the competitive nature of the business

#1: Business - Technical

Japan-related manufacturing is **big in the US**, and all kinds of **engineering degrees** are looked at very highly.

If you have **Japanese** on top of it, it's a huge plus.

➔ Prep:

- internships in high school and college
- join STEM-related programs (high school, college, community)

#1: Business - Technical



Senpai Success Story:

Lauren, Bilingual Engineering Technician

“

It is possible for anyone, with any background, to thrive in an engineering career if you really want to.

Lauren



Senpai Success Story

Four Main Career Paths

1. **Business**
2. **Translation / Interpretation**
3. **Teaching English / Higher Education**
4. **Arts & Culture**

#2: Translation / Interpretation

Definition:

- translation 翻訳
- interpretation 通訳

Types:

- A. “informal” translator/interpreter
- B. freelance
- C. in-house
- D. project management



Photo by Hannah Wright on Unsplash

#2: Translation / Interpretation

A) “Informal” Interpreter / Translator:

Typically begins with an **admin role** that organically turns into a translating/ interpreting role.

These people have learned the company-specific terminology due to everyday **on-the-job communication** and help people and departments work together seamlessly. (*not an official title*)

➔ Prep:

- start with an admin role
- show how you can help the company with your *nihongo* expertise

#2: Translation / Interpretation



B) Freelance:

Work with **agencies** and/or promote your **freelance** services on various websites like proz.com and freelancer.com.

Being a freelancer is **tough at first** because you start with low rates, but once you accumulate customer reviews and a reputation it becomes easier.

It also helps to (eventually) have a particular **area of focus**.

➔ Prep:

- start slowly
- gain reviews from clients
- keep applying to various projects to gain experience

#2: Translation / Interpretation

C) In-house:

- Work for one company as their go-to interpreter/translator.
- Should be well-versed and/or have a degree in at least one **subject matter** to be considered (i.e. accounting, engineering, business) - *just knowing the language will cause extra struggle.*

➔ Prep:

- a degree and/or certification are helpful but not always required
- typically experienced hires

#2: Translation / Interpretation

D) Project Management:

- language skills will help with correspondence between the customer and the translator/interpreter
- **organizational** and customer service skills = must
- should be a very **thorough** person to ensure projects run on time

➔ Prep:

- gain some admin or project management experience to understand how projects/people work

#2: Translation / Interpretation



Senpai Success Stories:

- **Stacy** on the New Frontier of Interpreting
- **Graeme**, the Interpreter and Translator
- **Nicole**, the Manga Freelance Translator



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How I Built My Career as an Translator

December 1, 2021, 8-9 pm ET
December 2, 2021, 10-11 am JST



Photo by [Hello I'm Nik](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Four Main Career Paths

1. Business
2. Translation / Interpretation
3. Teaching English / Higher Education
4. Arts & Culture

#3: Teaching

Teach English in Japan:

- easiest way to get to Japan
- visas are typically more supported

➔ Prep:

- apply for the **JET** program (jetprogramusa.org)
- look into English-teaching schools in Japan (***eikaiwa***)
- **MEXT** is another option (visit your consulate's website for this graduate program)



Photo by JJ Ying on [Unsplash](#)

#3: Teaching



Senpai Success Stories:

- Former JET **Jess** and her Japanese teaching business
- Former JET **Kyle** and his great networking story



Photo by [the blowup](#) on [Unsplash](#)



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How to Land a Job Teaching English in Japan

September 29, 2021, 8-9 pm ET
September 30, 2021, 9-10 am JST

#3: Teaching



Academics/Higher Education:

- teach about Japanese language, history, politics, culture, etc.
- location: Japan, US, or other countries

➔ Prep:

- Start a conversation with your college professors or career counselors for advice.
- If your school doesn't have a Japan-related course, search online at other schools, too.
- Great resource: shinpaideshou.com

#3: Teaching



Senpai Success Stories:

- **Faye**, the Nihongo Sensei in Michigan
- **Monique**, University Professor in Japan
- **Emily**, the Offbeat, Quirky Career Counselor

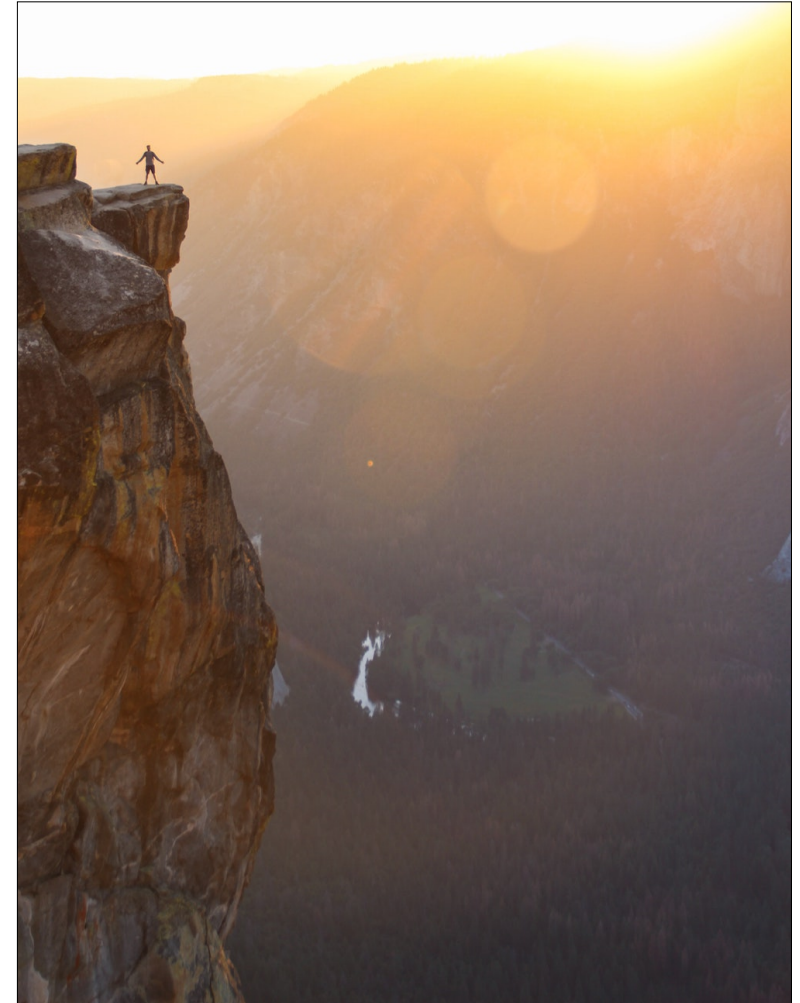


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Four Main Career Paths

1. **Business**
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3. **Teaching English / Higher Education**
4. **Arts & Culture**

#4: Arts & Culture



- **Japan America Societies/Japanese Business Societies**
- **Art-related NPOs, NGOs, museums, art galleries** (i.e. japanhousela.com, japansociety.org, mirviss.com)
- **Manga/Anime:** translation, publishing, promotion.
- **Other:** work at a *ryokan* in Japan (e-oyu.com/en/), support a kimono shop in NYC (thekimonohouse.com), help organize Japan Festivals (ii.umich.edu/cjs/news-events/events/ann-arbor-japan-week.html), and more.

➔ Prep:

- get creative in your research
- search online in Japanese
- volunteering, intern, or work until you get an “in”

#4: Arts & Culture



Photo by [Jason Leung](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Senpai Success Stories:

- **Byron**, Promoting Japan for Creatives
- **Tom** & Landscape Architecture
- Showbiz with **Charles**
- **Shannon**, the Librarian for Manga, Anime & Dramas



United States~Japan
Bridging Foundation
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How I Built My Career Related to Japan as an Artist and Educator

November 3, 2021, 8-9 pm ET
November 4, 2021, 9-10 am JST

Conclusion

Conclusion

- **Nothing is impossible!**
- **If it doesn't exist, create it.**
- **Be patient & take action.**



Photo by [Martin Wyal](#) on [Unsplash](#)

FAQ & Thank you!

ご静聴、ありがとうございます。

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