

Hi everyone! My name is Molly and I come to work in this office every Wednesday afternoon. I have been an ALT at Tsu Nishi High school 4 days a week for the past year and a half, and I come to this office on Wednesdays. One big part of my job in this office is writing a journal about life as an ALT in Mie. When I first came to Japan, I only knew a little bit of Japanese and although I had visited Japan before, a lot of Japanese culture and customs were new to me. I was always making new discoveries and finding interesting differences from my life in America so I had many things to write about in my journal. Now I've been in Japan for a year and a half, and sometimes I forget what daily life is like at home! I'm worried that soon I might run out of things to write about. I've written a lot about taking tea ceremony lessons, learning to wear kimono, Japanese cooking and a lot of other things that I've tried since I came here. I will continue this job for another year and a half, so I hope that there are still many things to try!

I came to Japan in August of 2004, right after I graduated from university. My major in college was French and business, but I really liked foreign languages so I studied Spanish and a little bit of Japanese, too. I studied in France for one year in college, and I learned so much from living in a different place, that I decided to come to Japan to learn Japanese and live here for a few years too. When I first got here, I thought that I wanted to be a teacher. But now I think that I would like to be a counselor at a university for students who want to study abroad or for foreign students studying in America. For me, living in another country has changed my life in many good ways, so I like to work as an ALT to share some of my experiences with students in Japan and encourage them to go to other parts of the world, too.

I really like my job here because I have the opportunity to teach at Tsu Nishi as well as coming to this office and the kencho once a week. Having a variety of work to do with a many different people has made my experience in Japan much more interesting. I'm looking forward to meeting all the new people in this office, so feel free to talk to me anytime I'm at my desk. I'm studying Japanese so even if you don't speak English, don't hesitate to say hello! And if there is something about life in America or my life in Japan that you are wondering about, please let me know—I'm always thinking about the topic for next week's journal!