

J-NET Winter Workshop & AGM 2026

Please come and join us for this year's Winter Workshop & AGM in London!

The Winter Workshop features a fascinating talk by Sam Rosen, who has successfully transitioned his career from translator/interpreter to consultant. We have also invited our fellow member Sakurako Tanaka, who is active in performing arts Noh space, to share her story and performance. In addition, there will be a session to talk about the joy of translating and interpreting, along with an introduction to Making Tax Digital. Then, during the afternoon J-Net AGM, we will be discussing revising the rules for the translation competition, where ChatGPT exceeded our expectations.

The venue is on the UCL campus, just a short walk from Euston Station in London. While AI technology is threatening our industry and we all wonder what the best move could be, we hope that the session by Sam and networking with peers will spark some inspiration. We warmly encourage everyone to participate, including the Zenyasai dinner the night before and Uchiage drinks just after the workshop.



20 Bedford way building, UCL Institute of Education

Venue and Date

Venue:	Room 739, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL Google Maps link What Three Words location
Date and Time:	Saturday, 31 January 2026
Registration opens:	9:30 AM

Workshops:	10:00 AM to 2:45 PM
AGM:	3:00 PM–5:00 PM (J-Net members only)

Morning

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

10:00 – 10:30 Session 1: The Joy of Translating & Interpreting

10:30 – 11:00 Session 2: Which Accounting Software is Suitable for Digital Tax

Returns?

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:15 Session 3: What Careers Lie Beyond Translation/Interpreting?

12:15 – 13:45 Lunch (at the venue)

Afternoon

13:45 – 14:45 Session 4: Building Bridges Between Japan and the UK Through Noh, Japan's Traditional Performing Art (Including a Noh performance)

14:45 – 15:00 Break

15:00 – 17:00 J-Net AGM (Including discussion on revision of translation competition rules)

17:00 Event concludes

Speakers and Presentation Topics

Session 1: " The Joy of Translating & Interpreting"



Moderator: Aoi Matsushima (J-Net Member. Freelance Translator (English -Japanese), and Language specific Tutor for the MA in Translation at UCL, and the University of Leeds)

Overview: This is a warm-up session! Whether you are a student new to the skills or a veteran, you are all here because of your love of translation and interpreting. Put aside any worries or anxieties, and get to the core of the matter: What you enjoy about the process. Let's share a sense of achievement in 2025, meeting new people, making new discoveries, our aspirations for learning....and our hopes for 2026.

Session 2: "Which Accounting Softwares are Suitable for Digital Tax Return?"



Presenter: Reiko Inder (J-Net Member, Translator, Interpreter, and Official Tourist Guide, AITI)

Overview: With the digitisation of tax submissions starting in 2026, this is an important matter for J-Net as many of our members work as sole traders or are self-employed. To ensure we share a common understanding, I would like to briefly explain what MTD (Making Tax Digital) is, what changes it will bring, and what measures we can take—while also incorporating your thoughts and perspectives. Please note that I am not a tax expert, so I will be sharing knowledge gained from webinars hosted by HMRC and ITI.

LinkedIn: [Click Here](#)

Session 3: " What Careers Lie Beyond Translation/Interpreting?"

Speaker: *Sam Rosen*



Samuel is the Managing Director of JTBC Services Co, Ltd. which is a consultancy that helps international companies engage with Japanese and Asian markets. He has over 15 years of experience dealing with Japanese companies, government and non-government organisations. Since graduating from the London University School of Oriental and African Studies (S.O.A.S.) he has lived and worked in Tokyo, Osaka, Takamatsu, Shanghai, Wuxi and Singapore. He is currently Chair of JETAA North West and the Japan Society North West.

Overview:

As professional linguists all of you here have already mastered a unique and valuable skill set: facilitating smooth communication across different languages and cultures. In particular, those of you who focus on interpreting will often find that you have to do this on-the-fly and in high-pressure, high-stakes situations.

But when you are sitting in those meetings, have you ever thought of leveraging that expertise and skill set more fully; moving from simply facilitating the communication to actually guiding the decisions being made?

In this session I will draw on my own experiences and explain my own transition from interpreting and translating to business consulting. It can be demanding, with significant responsibility and pressure to produce tangible results. It certainly is not a career for everyone, however I will outline the two primary pathways you can take, should you be considering it. The first is the organic path, where you strategically use your translation and interpreting projects as a platform to deepen your industry knowledge, learn how to solve potential clients' problems, and gradually shift from providing linguistic services to becoming a strategic advisor. The second, more structured path that I will also touch on is through targeted learning, such as MBA courses, which provides both the formal business framework and credentials to immediately reposition yourself in the market.

I considered both of these and took the scenic route; studying Japanese at university going on the JET Programme as a CIR, doing a short stint in government and then moving into the private sector where I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to build up the relevant additional skills on the job and to realise that having the unique perspective you can gain as a translator and interpreter can serve as a great base for becoming a consultant.

LinkedIn: [Click Here](#)

Website: [Click Here](#)

Session 4:

"Building Bridges Between Japan and the UK Through Noh, Japan's Traditional Performing Art"



Speaker: Tanaka Sakurako (J-Net Member)

Sakurako graduated from the Department of Drama at Royal Holloway, University of London, and earned multiple solo ballroom titles in under three years. Combining the elegance of ballroom dance with the refined beauty of Noh, she has performed at major UK cultural venues such as Japan Matsuri, Japan House London, and SOAS. She now works internationally as a “cultural diplomatic officer,” creating new forms of entertainment that connect people across borders.

Overview:

What comes to mind when you hear the term “cultural diplomatic officer”?

In this talk, I will share my experiences working across borders through a wide range of artistic activities—performing in two completely different genres, ballroom dance and Noh, while also stepping beyond the traditional role of an interpreter.

From the perspective of both performer and interpreter, I will explore how the interpreting and translation fields can adapt to the rapid development of AI technologies and what new possibilities may emerge in the future. A live performance will also be presented, and I hope you enjoy it.

Instagram: [Click Here](#)

YouTube: [Click Here](#)

LinkedIn: [Click Here](#)

Session 5:

"J-Net Annual General Meeting"

We will follow the standard annual general meeting procedures. In addition to reports from each officer for the 2025 fiscal year and new officer appointments, discussions regarding amendments to the rules of the translation competition – where Chat GPT attracted our attention – is also scheduled. We look forward to your active participation.

Fees

J-Net Member Early Bird: £25 (until 9:00 BST, 20 December 2025)

J-Net Members: £35

Non-members: £50

Students: £0

Registration closes on 24 January 2026

Zenyasai pre-event

19:00 - 21:00 Friday 30th January, at [Eat Tokyo Holborn](#) (50 Red Lion Street, High Holborn, London WC1R 4PF)

[Google Map Link](#)

[What3words Link](#)

- The cost of the Zenyasai dinner is not included in the workshop fee. We will not be collecting money for meals; please order and settle your own bill.
- Please review the menu in advance so the ordering process on the day can be smooth and efficient. For reference, the restaurant's [takeout menu is available on Uber Eats](#), though please note that dine-in prices may differ.

Uchiage drink

17:30 - Saturday 31st January, at [The Marquis Cornwallis](#) (31 Marchmont Street, London, WC1N 1AP)

[Google Map Link](#)

[What3words Link](#)

- The cost of Uchiage drink is not included in the workshop fee. We will not be collecting money for meals; please order and settle your own bill.

Other

- The participation fee includes lunch, coffee, tea, and biscuits on the day. If you have dietary restrictions, please indicate this on the registration form.
- The cost of the pre-event Zenyasai dinner and Uchiage drink are not included in the workshop fee. We will not be collecting money for meals; please order and settle your own bill.

To attend, please register via the link below.

[Click here](#)

We look forward to seeing you all!