

FBI Identity History Summary Check



The information in this document is intended for U.S. citizens applying for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program.

Requesting an FBI Identity History Summary Check: Applicants can obtain this by applying directly to the FBI or by using an FBI-approved channeler. The check must be issued after September 1st, 2025 in order to be acceptable for the 2026 JET Program Application. Emailed/printed PDF's will not be accepted.

Applicants who have lived in another country other than Japan for at least 12 consecutive months during the preceding five years must submit a criminal record from that country as well.

Candidates for April Arrival (Early Placement) or those with a criminal background need to submit an FBI Identity History Summary Check, not by the application deadline, but by the date of their interview in late January or early February of 2026. As the process could take several weeks, applicants should get their fingerprints taken immediately after receiving successful first stage results in early January 2026. All other candidates (those applying for Summer 2026 departures to Japan) should wait until the 2026 Program's final notification results in April 2026 to begin requesting their Identity History Summary Checks.

★ **Due to the nature of the application window and timeline: the JET Program USA Office highly recommends making an [Electronic Request](#) and obtaining a digital copy of their Criminal Record over a hard-copy submission.**

FBI Identity History Summary Check			FBI-Approved Channelers
	<u>Electronic Request</u> <u>(recommended)</u>	<i>or</i>	<u>Request by Mail</u>
Website	<u>FBI Identity History Summary Checks</u>		<u>List of Approved FBI Channelers</u>
Processing	3-5 business days		2 days-3 weeks
Fee	\$18 (plus fingerprinting costs)		~\$40-\$100
How to Request	Applicants complete the Applicant Information Form on the FBI website. Submit fingerprints electronically via a third party or a hard-copy by mail. Submit payment online.	Applicants complete Form I-783, available on the FBI website, have fingerprints taken, and provide payment. Mail these documents together to the FBI.	The FBI website lists approved channelers, however not all are able to provide a criminal record for the purpose of overseas employment. The information provided below will vary by channeler. Applicants must contact the channeler(s) to see what options are available.
	<i>Note: If asked for the purpose of requesting the check, select “Live, work or travel in a foreign country.”</i>		
Fingerprints	Using the official fingerprint card , applicants can use either a rolled-ink or live scan method for fingerprints. Contact police stations or private companies in your area to see what options are available. Your local USPS may also have digital fingerprinting services (ensure the USPS location offers this service). Fingerprints are often a separate cost from the application fee indicated above. Send the fingerprints with your application (for mail requests) or email confirmation (for electronic requests) to the FBI.		Channelers may have in-house fingerprinting services or may require you to send a completed fingerprint card to them. Please contact the channelers for details. Fingerprinting may represent a separate cost from the application fee.
	<i>Note: The JET Program Office cannot submit live scan requests or provide ORI (employer) numbers.</i>		
Accepted Background Check Formats	• Unopened hard copies in the original envelopes; or • Electronic background checks (recommended) submitted by forwarding the e-mail from the FBI which gives access to download the background check from the FBI website directly (link and the pin). Electronic Background checks have limited viewing availability, so JET applicants choosing to submit via this option must plan accordingly. For early departure candidates, the background check must be accessible at the time of your interview. For regular departure candidates, background checks will not be accepted until after JET Program acceptance notifications. <i>Note: Hard copies that are already opened and PDFs that are emailed or printed will not be accepted.</i>		
Where to send results	For hard copies, applicants should have their results mailed to their personal mailing address. The JET Program Coordinator from your interview location will provide you further information about how to submit the unopened hardcopy results or electronic background checks (with their link and the pin).		