



# MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association  
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## Hi everyone!

Hi everyone. My name is Tom Williams one of the new JET ALTs working here in Miyakonojo. I was originally born in Chicago, Illinois but grew up in Southend on Sea, an hour away from London, at the mouth of the river Thames.

My first exposure to Japan was like a lot of people in the West, through Pokémon, Cowboy Bebop, and other anime along with old detective and samurai films from Japan. This visual medium led me to study cinematography at university, specifically comparing and contrasting the American Western genre with samurai films of the 1930s to the 80s.



However, as time grew closer to my departure from the UK, I came to discover my paternal grandfather had lived in Japan during the 1970s and my maternal grandfather was a carpenter, often carving netsuke out of old ivory billiard balls. I wasn't aware of this until my parents informed me when I had started planning to move to Japan, so it feels like fate in a way. I arrived in Miyakonojo on the 7th of August with it being

my first time in Japan as well as my first experience teaching. So, to say my nerves were getting to me would be an understatement.

However, that quickly melted away when I came into contact with the warm, relaxed atmosphere and attitudes of Miyakonojo.

While only teaching for a short while and living in Miyakonojo I've thoroughly enjoyed sharing British culture along with its misunderstood cuisine. I love to cook for others and I'll hopefully get the chance with new friends and co-workers.



I've also been soaking in the hot springs and taking in the mountainous views that are sorely lacking in Southend. Eventually, I'd love to start fishing at Lake Miike and hopefully, find other great spots to cast a line. I'm also making it a goal to participate in regular local Airsoft (Survival Games in Japan) events and will try to find a new location to explore each weekend. I'm looking forward to my life in Miyakonojo!

## Information & Notices

### ◆ Traditional Japanese Culture Workshop (Miyakonojo) "Let's make soba"

- \*Free, Registration Required
- Let's make the traditional Japanese food soba together!
- ◆ Dates&Time: December 16th (Sat) 10:00am - 1:00pm
- ◆ Venue: Miyakonojo City Mallmall, Machinaka Exchange Center 1st floor Machinaka Kitchen
- ◆ Spaces Available: 10 (first come, first served)
- ◆ Target : Foreign Residents of Miyazaki
- ◆ Fee: Free
- ◆ To apply: <https://forms.gle/DtDX8c1UTszLRP4P6>
- ◆ Deadline: November 29th (Wed)
- ◆ Inquiries & Application: Miyazaki international Foundation



### ◆ International Exchange Night! Let's mingle! (Intended for people over 20)

- Enjoy a meal while engaging with American, UK, China, Denmark, Philippines, Mongolia, and Vietnam born people who are living in Miyakonojo!
- Date and Time: 11/18(Saturday) 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Location: Naka-machi Food Hall (Miyakonojo Naka-machi 17-9 Cine-port Building 1F)
- Content: The main purpose of this event is to exchange with local residents of the region. There might also be quizzes and games.
- Target Audience: Over 20 years old
- Attendance Limit: 20
- Participation Fee: MIA members: 2,500 yen General 3,500 yen
- Hors d'oeuvres and a 2 hour all you can drink are included. There will also be 2 kinds of foreign beers.
- No reservations in advance. Please buy a ticket beforehand.
- As the seating is pre-determined, please purchase a ticket ASAP. There are no same day tickets.
- Ticket Acquisition: By phone, FAX, or email, contact the Miyakonojo International Association (MIA) in order to purchase a ticket.



## Movies info C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571) 17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540\*55

- I want to return to twenty years old. 二十歳に還りたい。
- Forbidden Game 禁じられた遊び
- Haunted Mansion ホーンテッドマンション
- Gran Turismo グランツーリスモ
- Allice and Tere's Illusion Factory アリスとテレスのまぼろし工場
- Kingdom: The Flame of Fate キングダム 運命の炎
- MEG: The Monster 2 MEG ザ・モンスター2
- How do you live? 君たちはどう生きるか