

Jenny Morgan
JALT 2025 Mid-Career Scholar Award (Teaching)

Letter 1

I am writing to recommend Jenny Morgan as a mid-career scholar in JALT. I first met Jenny through the Learner Development SIG, and it was because of her that I joined. Her genuine curiosity gave me the confidence to believe that the approach I had been taking to research and teaching had real value.

Jenny has a rare ability to champion others without ever positioning it as a way to get ahead herself. She has been central in providing young scholars from diverse backgrounds with a welcoming space in JALT. She has connected, supported, and affirmed so many people, helping them to see their own potential.

She brings people together, makes them feel welcome, and ensures their contributions are seen and valued. Jenny has been a strong advocate for members who are often underrepresented in our community, in particular gay, queer, non-white, and non-native-speaking colleagues whose invaluable scholarly contributions are too often marginalized.

Jenny's inclusivity is also evident in her teaching. Her research demonstrates how she draws out hidden diversity and creates a space where all students feel a sense of belonging. For example, see her co-authored chapter with Aiko Minematsu:

Minematsu, A., & Morgan, J. (2020). Insider/Outsider Perspectives: Utilizing Educator Funds of Knowledge to Explore "Hidden Diversity" in University English Courses in Japan. In Candlin & Mynard (Eds.), *Supporting Learners and Educators in Developing Language Education Autonomy*. Candlin & Mynard.
https://www.candlinandmynard.com/chapter9_minematsu_morgan.html

Jenny's generosity, encouragement, and ability to build community make her an outstanding colleague, teacher, and scholar.
-Cecilia Fujishima

Letter 2

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate Jenny Morgan for the Mid-Career Scholar (Teaching) Award.

Jenny is a passionate veteran educator in higher education currently teaching at Sophia University. Her integrity and compassion for her students and colleagues alike shine through in every contact, large or small. Jenny approaches others with a sense of humility and care that is both disarming and instructive, and I have had the privilege to learn from her stance to others in various settings; at conferences, supporting early career presenters who were strangers just seconds ago, and in her teaching context, developing a sense of mutual support and unity among her students. Jenny has, over a career spanning New Zealand, the UK, China, and many years in Japan, honed her ability to put people at ease, build a strong sense of community, and engage through creative and multimodal methods that allow students' strengths to shine.

As an educator, Jenny always encourages her students to delve critically into issues of identity and power to interrogate the dominant narrative of Japan as a monolingual and monocultural society. She often catalyzes such analysis through the sharing of her own experiences and artmaking as a transnational, transracial adoptee and transnational educator in the many countries in which she has lived and worked, embodying a pedagogy of vulnerability that pushes her students to dig deeper. This willingness to share deeply with her students to advance their reflection and learning is a great example of the lengths she will go to nurture their growth.

Jenny's commitment to solidarity building across diverse communities is also evidenced in the breadth of her research interests, where she has addressed "hidden diversity" in Japanese ELE, criticality and creativity in

global issues EMI, ELF in fieldwork experiences in Cambodia, engaging with educators through non-formal education in Myanmar, and the list goes on.

No matter the context, Jenny is a born educator guided by genuine positivity, empathy, and selflessness. It is Jenny's sense of integrity and her embodiment of a growth mindset that make her such an exemplary educator. For these reasons and more, I give Jenny Morgan my highest recommendation for the Mid-Career Scholar (Teaching) Award.

-Yaya Yao

Letter 3

I am honored to nominate Jenny Morgan for the JALT Mid-Career Scholar Award (Teaching). She is an exceptional educator and mentor whose dedication to teaching, commitment to her students, and leadership within the professional community make her a truly deserving candidate for this recognition.

Jenny is a highly dedicated teacher who demonstrates both excellence in the classroom and generosity beyond it. Her teaching practice is informed by a deep understanding of pedagogy and an ongoing commitment to professional development. She continuously seeks to learn from research and practice. Her ability to translate theory into practical, engaging learning experiences is awe-inspiring, and she consistently inspires learners to enjoy and succeed in their studies.

Equally significant is Jenny's role as a mentor and advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). She not only speaks about these values but actively puts them into practice, ensuring that others are uplifted and empowered. Her influence reaches well beyond her own classrooms, shaping the broader field of English language teaching and inspiring both students and colleagues alike. Whether by sharing resources, offering feedback, or helping peers find professional opportunities, she embodies the spirit of collaboration and generosity. Many, myself included, have benefitted from her encouragement and her ability to nurture confidence in others.

Jenny has also made substantial contributions to the wider ELT community. As an active member of JALT and a committee member of the Learner Development SIG, she has played a key role in fostering networks of support among educators and researchers. Her leadership has helped create spaces where teachers can learn from one another, develop professionally, and engage more fully in academic discussions.

In all her work, Jenny demonstrates a rare combination of academic and teaching excellence, generosity, and integrity. She is not only a great teacher and researcher but also a role model who exemplifies the values of collaboration, inclusivity, and lifelong learning.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly nominate Jenny Morgan for the JALT Mid-Career Scholar Award (Teaching). She is a highly deserving candidate whose impact on English language teaching and professional development has been both profound and far-reaching.

-Lasni Buddhishika Jayasooriya

Letter 5

I am honoured to nominate Jenny Morgan for the JALT Mid-Career Scholar (Teaching) Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to language teaching in Japan. I first met Jenny at my very first JALT conference after moving to Japan, feeling uncertain and alone. Jenny kindly brought me under her wing and introduced me to a community of critical, equity-minded educators that profoundly changed my teaching philosophy and career path.

Jenny has been teaching English in Japan for over 15 years, consistently demonstrating her dedication not only through her classroom excellence but also by generously sharing her teaching tips and strategies at conferences and workshops. She extends her expertise beyond the classroom through numerous publications, offering valuable insights that have influenced educators across the country.

Her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is evident in every aspect of her work. Jenny thoughtfully integrates global and local issues that resonate deeply with her students' lives, enriching their learning experience and fostering critical thinking and empathy. Moreover, she prioritizes her students' learning and wellbeing, creating a supportive and dynamic environment where all students feel valued and engaged in her classroom.

Jenny's example has personally inspired me to become a more welcoming, open-minded, and compassionate educator. Her impact reaches far beyond her own classroom, making her a deserving recipient of this award and a true asset to the JALT community.

-Shawna Carroll

Letter 6

I am truly honored to nominate Jenny Morgan for the Mid-Career Scholar (Teaching) Award. In the relatively short time I have known Jenny, I have been deeply inspired by her teaching and her ability to navigate issues of identity while fostering inclusivity in every aspect of her classroom.

Although we both taught at Meisei University, our time there did not overlap. My appointment began after Jenny's contract had ended. Yet, her influence was still present. The knowledge she shared, the resources she left behind, and the professional standards she modelled continued to shape the community I entered. Colleagues who had the privilege of working directly with her consistently praise her work ethic, dedication, and passion for teaching. I, too, was inspired by the way she strengthened cross-faculty collaboration to improve teaching quality and enhance the student learning experience.

What began as a personal connection later grew into a professional relationship, where I quickly realised that the praise Jenny received was more than well-deserved. She is remarkably supportive, not only of newer teachers but also of experienced colleagues. I recall struggling to balance the amount of feedback I wanted to provide students with the limited time available. Jenny took the time to guide me through strategies for managing feedback, explaining how to tailor responses at different stages and how to avoid overwhelming both myself and my students. On other occasions, when I faced challenges in implementing new ideas into my lessons, she was always willing to share thoughtful and practical suggestions.

In more formal contexts, I have had the privilege of attending Jenny's conference presentations. Each time, I was struck by her ability to navigate both her own and her students' identities in ways that create a supportive, inclusive, and empowering learning environment.

I believe that Jenny's contributions to JALT, and the wider ELT community is beyond deserving of this award. I truly hope that her efforts towards teaching excellence is finally officially recognised.

-Bladimie Germain