

# How to set request encoding in Tomcat?

The `request.setCharacterEncoding("UTF-8");` only sets the encoding of the request body (which is been used by POST requests), not the encoding of the request URI (which is been used by GET requests).

You need to set the `URIEncoding` attribute to `UTF-8` in the `<Connector>` element of Tomcat's `/conf/server.xml` to get Tomcat to parse the request URI (and the query string) as UTF-8. This indeed defaults to ISO-8859-1. See also the [Tomcat HTTP Connector Documentation](#).

```
1 <Connector ... URIEncoding="UTF-8">
```

See also:

[Unicode - How to get the characters right? - JSP/Servlet request](#)

Please get rid of those scriptlets in your JSP. The `request.setCharacterEncoding("UTF-8");` is called at the wrong moment. It would be too late whenever you've properly used a Servlet to process the request. You'd rather like to use a [filter](#) for this. The `response.setCharacterEncoding("UTF-8");` part is already implicitly done by `pageEncoding="UTF-8"` in top of JSP.

I also [strongly recommend](#) to replace the old fashioned `<%= request.getParameter("q") %>` scriptlet by EL `${param.q}`, or with JSTL XML escaping `${fn:escapeXml(param.q)}` to prevent XSS attacks.