

Osaka, Japan

Alessandro Easthope



Program: Intensive Japanese Language, Summer 2018

Majors: Asian Studies, History Teaching, and
Pre-Computer Science

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



I took two classes in Japanese over the course of six weeks. In addition to that, I studied everyday for an additional three hours to meet FLAS requirements and was able to take the JLPT N1 at the end of the program. The JLPT N1 is the highest level proficiency test for Japanese, and I was glad that the test wasn't completely overwhelming for me. I would then

go out and have fun with Japanese students every night and wind down watching Japanese television or reading novels in Japanese. I was almost nonstop immersed in the language.

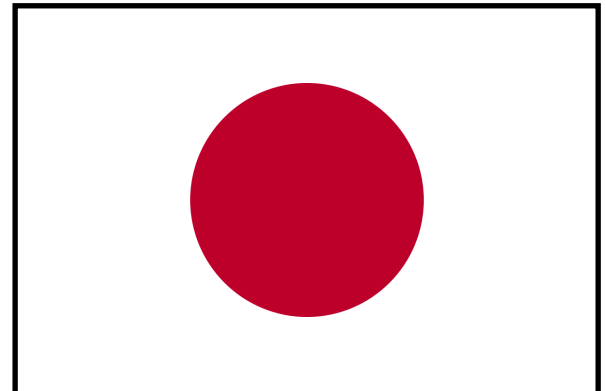
One fun memory I have is trying to watch the World Cup in Japanese with my friends and trying to follow along with what the announcer was saying. It was very difficult but very good practice. Another fun memory I have was trying to read the information boards with my friends at the various temples we visited. Even my Japanese friends struggled with reading the Chinese characters at the temples. Lastly, I enjoyed learning how to crack jokes and have interesting conversations about society and the world we live in. The kind of conversations that are difficult to get started but that I got plenty of chances to engage in while in Osaka.

Transferable Skills:



Next year, I am hoping to find a job with the JET Program as an assistant English teacher or working in their international exchange office. I hope that by employing my Japanese skills there, I am better able to perform my job, be comfortable in my new surroundings, and most importantly, to have fun. I also hope to immediately use my Japanese language skills in

my M.A. thesis that I will begin to draft this fall. I believe the skills I learned on this trip will not only immediately benefit me but also provide the foundation for my future academic and professional endeavors.



"I think the most important part of learning a language is not how to read, write, speak, or listen in the language, but learning how to have fun in a language."