

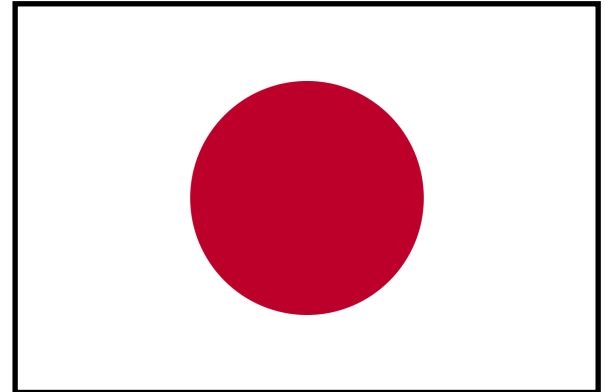


# Osaka, Japan

## Alessandro Easthope

**Program:** Intensive Japanese Language, Summer 2017

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



### Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



This summer in Osaka, I was able to achieve a dream of mine to learn a language through friendship. While the daily courses provided an impetus to study and wake up every morning, it was truly the connections I made that boosted and got me excited to learn the language. Reading signs together while driving, going out to eat, and trying to have fun

in another language rapidly boosted my ability to use Japanese conversationally. The memories connected with the development of the language skills has made everything I learned have more staying power and turned me into an effective tutor, both while I was in Japan and since coming back.

I found that I was able to become truly immersed by being accepted into a new friend group and often being the only non-native speaker in a group. Although this was at times stressful and traumatic, it is precisely through the stress and blunders that I was able to learn so effectively. The struggle of simple everyday things like buying food at a convenience store all of a sudden became like a classroom exercise. I found myself learning everywhere and connecting it to my newfound knowledge of the culture and my newfound connections.

### Transferable Skills:



As a student entering graduate school, learning Japanese will be extremely valuable for conducting historical research in the language. This is compatible with my long-term goal of becoming a professor at a university and teaching others. I don't want to be a researcher who is detached and has no lived experience with what they research,

going to Osaka enabled me to take a step further and develop my skills through lived experience. I am confident the skills I developed abroad will be immediately useful in my career as a graduate student and will continue to be useful as I begin to embark on my career as an educator and academic in the future.



***“I was surprised to find out the cliché was true; you really do learn more outside of the classroom. This summer, I learned the power friendship has for learning a new language.”***