

# Osaka, Japan

## Carol White



**Program:** Intensive Japanese Language, Summer 2018

**Major:** Japanese

### Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



Studying in Japan really taught me a lot about Japanese and the culture. Classes were all taught in English and were a lot rougher than an American class. This required me to learn quickly or be left behind. Besides that I learned most of my knowledge from interacting with the students at the university I was staying at.

The students were friendly and tried their best to communicate. If I made mistakes they helped teach me how to properly say what I meant. In addition, the text book I was using taught polite speech. In a casual environment, this was too formal. Talking to the students helped me learn to speak in the casual style. In addition, I learned slang that a textbook wouldn't teach.

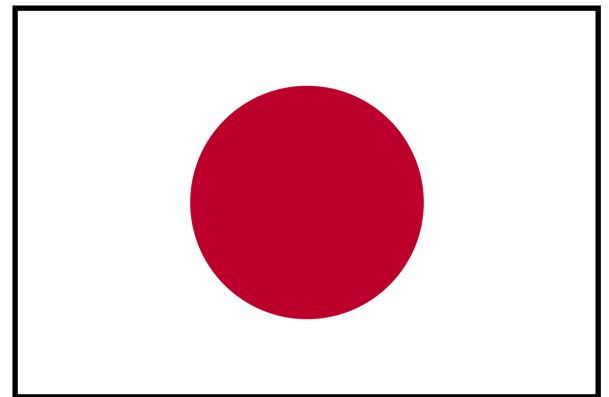
Then there was exploring. When we first got to Japan I couldn't, or was too nervous to speak and was pointing at things to get my point across. By the end I was able to order food, ask directions, and more with confidence. I could even use the train system by myself without worry. There's a lot more I can still learn in order to understand better but I can now understand the general idea when someone speaks to me. All together it was a very fulfilling trip.

### Transferable Skills:



The biggest thing I gained was the studying. American language classes are like elementary classes in comparison to Japanese ones. I had to study every day in order to keep up! This habit followed me back to the states though and I've been on top of my school work. Also they had some different tricks in order to study. Some of

these have been very useful to implement when studying a language. The last thing I gained was knowledge on translating jobs. I now know what I have to do in order to get hired for most translation jobs and can focus on that.



***"I went to Japan to improve my Japanese, but I also improved my cultural knowledge and the friends I made helped me more than just the studying. My experience has also positively impacted my education since returning."***