

Osaka, Japan

Nicholas Cartwright



Program: Intensive Japanese Language, Summer 2018

Major: Japanese and History

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



Being immersed in the Japanese language has changed my life. I have come to understand the way I learn language, that communicating with real people can help the words stick in my head. While there were portions of the program that required me to write in Japanese, I was far more skilled in

interacting and engaging with other students. While I could not read street signs as quickly as my fellow students, I could make myself understood by local students. My willingness to make mistakes in front of total strangers allowed me to be confident in my skills. I had the courage to walk the streets alone without the fear that I would become lost, or that I could not communicate my needs. This was beyond learning in a standard University classroom. This program allowed me to find my skills in Japanese, which helps define my education experience. Going to various historical sites while earning this badge was a large aspect of earning this badge. While being immersed in the language, I was immersed in the culture. The history of Japan is part of both my majors. Being in these places connected me to the history of Osaka, experiencing the past I had spent many hours studying.

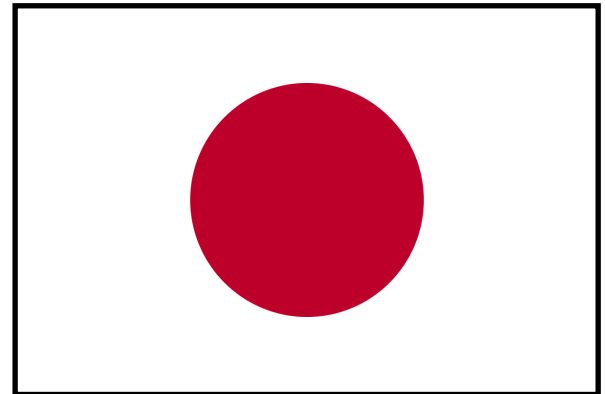
Transferable Skill:



I approach assignments differently now that I have returned from Japan. Many times, I will try to talk to other peers in the class to better understand the subject being taught. This creates a network, allowing me help when I am stuck or there is something that needs better clarification. I also attend extracurricular activities that I know will

help me with my Japanese. I help other people in my classes when they have questions about Japanese culture, helping them understand what we may encounter in a particular

assignment.



“The Learning Abroad experience helped me learn Japanese beyond the traditional classroom. I learned to communicate on a different level, gaining opportunities to use my language skilled every day. I found more of myself within this program.”