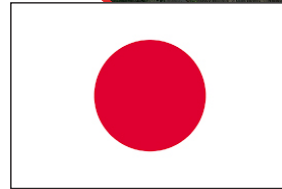


# Osaka, Japan

## Jade Williamson

**Program:** Intensive Japanese Language & Culture, Summer 2019

**Major:** Film and Media Arts



### Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



On my program, I earned the Language Immersion Badge. I took intensive Japanese classes at a school in suburban Osaka. The vast majority of people in this area didn't have much experience speaking English, so it really forced me to speak Japanese and not rely too much on

my native language. I found this to be incredibly helpful with improving my speaking and listening skills as I was in an environment where people understand that I'm not fluent in the language and are willing to help correct any mistakes I might make. I used Japanese every day of my study abroad, both in and out of class. This also helped show me the difference between the proper Japanese I was taught in class, and the more casual Japanese used when college students speak to each other. Another part of my study abroad that really stood out to me was all of the cultural events prepared for us in order to become more familiar with Japanese culture. These events included a tea ceremony, visiting a Buddhist temple, visiting temples in Kyoto and Nara, visiting a Japanese middle school, and visiting the classrooms at Shitennoji University and helping the students there practice their English. These events really helped me feel closer to both the culture and people there.

### Transferable Skills:



After studying abroad, I feel more prepared for my Japanese classes at the U. I've gotten used to being in an environment where I have to constantly read, listen, write, speak the language that, while I am learning, am still not fluent in. I also feel I learned a lot of how schools not in America work. This will be very helpful in the future as post-graduation, I plan to work abroad and teach English. Already having experience with being at a non-American school will help lessen the culture shock I'll experience in the future. It also helped show me the various teaching styles teachers use to teach languages.

**“Studying Abroad has really opened me up to a new way of life. After learning abroad, I feel much more comfortable interacting with people from other cultures that I previously might not have had the confidence to do.”**