

The Japanese Studies Program offers Japanese majoring students to study at a Japanese University at one's own level. It enabled me to understand Japan and its' people in depth, including the aesthetics of the Japanese culture.

I had many opportunities to experience traditional Japanese art such as *Ikebana* (flower arrangement) and *Sado* (tea ceremony). Moreover, the Japanese Studies students from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), where I attended went on a field trip to do traditional Japanese glass art, *Edo Kiriko*. I must also mention the day I went to see the Grand Sumo, which was very fascinating.

The Japanese Government was very supportive both financially and academically and in result, I was able to focus on my studies effectively with no anxiety.

After returning to New Zealand, I entered the Graduate School of Education at the University of Auckland, majoring in Japanese, and Teaching English in School to Speakers of Other Languages (TESSOL) at a secondary level. The Japanese Studies Program will broaden your career options in so many ways whether you would like to pursue your career in hospitality, business, or education. I will continue to study Japanese and I wish to go back to Japan for a long term in the future.

If you would like to enrich your life and pursue a new challenge, please do not miss this lifetime opportunity! Once you are in Japan, it will be crystal clear why the cherry blossoms represent Japan. Experience it for yourself!

