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Spring 2023 Applications

The U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation, in partnership with the American Association of Teachers of Japanese, is happy to announce that we received over 300 applications for the Spring 2023 study abroad period. Award finalists will be announced at the end of November, and we look forward to sharing this new class of scholars with our community.
Meet Fatima Luna!

Home Institution: Northern Arizona University
Study Abroad Institution: Yamaguchi University
Major / Minors: Biomedical Sciences (Chem Minor), Comparative Cultural Studies (JPN Emphasis) (Japanese Minor)

How did you first become interested in Japan, and why did you decide to study abroad in Japan while an undergrad?

As a young child, I was often introduced to different Japanese animations and movies because it was something my brothers often enjoyed seeing. So when I came to university, I saw that we had a language requirement, and I thought I would take something new. The program I am in at NAU also allows me to have a double degree in my STEM field and language with an opportunity to go abroad. I already knew English and Spanish, so I figured taking Japanese would be something new and exciting to try, and these past 3 years I have really grown fond of both the Japanese language and culture.

What was the impact of the Bridging Scholarship on your study abroad plans?

I found the Bridging Scholarship to be very beneficial in kind of giving me this support system while in Japan. I am truly grateful for the additional aid that I am also given, and that my parents do not have to feel financially burdened. With the aid of these scholarships, I feel as though I am not alone in my transition towards adjusting while being abroad because there are many people around me who are willing to offer a helping hand.

How do you anticipate or hope Japan will be a part of your future plans?

I am still trying to see what I can do before going to medical school. I want to gain some experience and am in between applying for the Peace Corps or JET/ALT program.

Enjoy some images and videos of Fatima's time in Japan here: Yamaguchi, Japan 2022-2023
Support the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation

As we enter our Fall Fundraising campaign, we hope you will consider a gift to the Bridging Foundation. Your support enables us to help American undergraduate students fulfill their dream of studying abroad in Japan -- for many, the first step in a long and meaningful career and life of U.S.-Japan relations. Every amount helps.

Community Announcement

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan is pleased to offer a special membership discount for Graduate Students.

Visit the ACCJ website for more information.

Of interest

Exhibition

**Kimono Style: The John C. Weber Collection**

Through February 20, 2023
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Performance

**9000 Paper Balloons**

October 28-30, 2022
Japan Society New York

Digital Library

**Japan Foundation Digital Library**

Join The Japan Foundation's free digital library to access hundreds of Japan-related titles
こんにちは、ダニエルと申します。今年の夏休みに受けた JLPT N1試験に合格しました。どうやって合格できたのか、JLPT の勉強におけるもっとも効率的な方法は何なのかについて話してみたいと思います。

僕が最初に勉強を始めた頃はほとんど教科書しか使ってませんでした。初めて受けた JLPT 試験は二年前の JLPT N4 でしたが、その時はあっさり不合格になりました。しかし、それからは教科書だけに頼らないで、どんどん日本ネイティブ向けのコンテンツも使うようになりました。例えば、字幕付き日本語字幕付きでアニメやユーチューブをたくさん見ることを始めました。次の年には JLPT N3 にも合格できました。

それから自信がついて N1 にも合格できる気がしたのですが、N1 練習試験は難しか לידでした。そこでだんだん着いた方法が読書です。本はアニメとかよりも語彙や文法がたくさん詰まっているので、個人的には最も効率的な勉強法だと考えています。

JLPT は言語知識、読解、聴解で三つのパートに分かれています。まず言語知識としては、語彙力と文法がテストされます。語彙を伸ばすためには以前に述べた通り、本を読むことをお勧めします。そこで知らない単語を「Anki」みたいアプリで復習すればもっと覚えやすいです。文法に関しては試験前に N1 文法リストと例文を一通り見ていたら問題なかったです。

読解は本を読む感覚で文を読んだら特に躓くところはなかったです。でもやっぱり時間制限があるため、ゆっくりしすぎるとわいにはいきませんでした。

個人的にもっとも苦労したのが聴解です。N1 は結構早口なので単語が分かっていても聞き取れなかったらおしまいです。これからは自分の足りない所を理解しつつ、聞き取りと会話能力の上達に集中したいと思います。
Advice from Senpai!

Cameron Hochberg
(graduate of the class 2022)

皆さん、こんにちは。I hope you are all doing well. I’m a graduate of the class of 2022 in Computer Science with a strong interest in video games and foreign languages. Right now I can speak at least conversationally 6 languages and going for my 7th. Any advice I have for you would be to first listen to anything in the language you want to learn: be it TV shows, the news, music anything even if you don’t understand. Just spend a few hours a day listening. Turn on subtitles if you can and you will see that in just a few months you will be able to pick up a few words very fast.

If you guys need any advice in computer science be it for security or computer games, feel free to contact me. I also recommend you go and play Dofus (my company’s main game) a very fun turn by turn MMO and if you like anime I recommend the French show Wakfu which is inspired by the universe of the game and made by our fantastic animators ^^.

Good luck with your studies and don’t hesitate to ask for help when you need it (the つながり Japan Discord is a great resource and full of people that can help you. Extra credit also available at time)
On October 7, the internationally popular group One Ok Rock (OOR) performed at Cleveland’s House of Blues. The band currently consists of lead guitarist and leader Toru Yamashita, lead vocalist Takahiro (Taka) Moriuchi, drummer Tomoya Kanki, and bass guitarist Ryota Kohama.

One Ok Rock, ワンオクロック, was formed in Japan in 2005 and would typically practice at 1 o’clock in the morning, resulting in the naming of the group... one o’clock sounds very similar to one ok rock. When OOR formed their own management company in 2021, they made 10969 Inc., which uses the English and Japanese pronunciation of numbers to create one-oh-ku-ro-ku.

Over many years, OOR has become widely known and very popular within Japan. The group has released 10 studio albums, with songs in both English and Japanese, building a large fanbase across the world. The group had their first overseas tour in 2012 and their first worldwide tour in 2013. In 2016, OOR opened for 5 Seconds of Summer on part of their tour, and later released a collaboration, “Take What You Want” in 2017. In 2019, OOR opened for part of Ed Sheeran’s tour, followed by the release of the “Renegades” single in 2019.

With the pandemic shutting down travel and postponing in-person concerts, One Ok Rock held an online concert in October of 2020 that was viewed by around 110,000 people worldwide. They filmed a documentary about this process “ONE OK ROCK: Flip a Coin,” which was released in October of 2021 on Netflix.

Throughout the rest of the pandemic, the group had some time to return to their rock roots and put together a new album. After working with Ed Sheeran on “Renegades” and Brendon Urie on “Neon,” OOR released their newest album, Luxury Disease, in September of 2022 with the title track “Save Yourself.” This album was special for international fans, as One Ok Rock released two versions - a Japanese and an English version.
To celebrate this release, OOR announced the North American 2022 tour, with over 15 sold out venues before the tour even began.

The concert I went to was on October 7 at Cleveland’s House of Blues, with a sold-out audience of only 1,000 people. Despite the relatively low number of people attending, the line outside of the venue began to form in the early AM of the day of the concert even though doors wouldn’t open until 6:30 PM. I arrived at around 5 PM, and the line had already wrapped around the corner of the building. As more people began to show up, I could tell the fans of One Ok Rock are incredibly varied, with many other college-aged people, along with older adults and even some young kids excited to see the group perform.

With a general admission ticket, I was able to reach center-stage and only a handful of rows back from the front of the crowd. There were two openers, You Me at Six and Fame on Fire, during which the crowd was pretty excited and supportive, despite the majority not knowing all of the songs being performed.

When OOR came on stage at around 9:30 PM, the energy increased exponentially and everyone in the building was ready for an amazing performance. Despite touring in America, the band chose to perform many of the Japanese versions of their songs.

The band opened with the Japanese version of their new single “Save Yourself,” coming on to the stage amid strobing lights, screams from the crowd, and a voice over the loudspeaker saying “ONE OK ROCK IS BACK.” They followed this song with “Taking Off,” a popular song from their 2017 album “Ambitions.” They then played another new song, “Wonder” where they ask listeners “‘Cause life is beautiful / Don’t you ever wonder?”

[Live video short clip]
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LjAnrQqvwojGn6jXLSxQxUYXtPQ6B2Z/view?usp=share_link
Have you heard of the term “Shokuyoku no Aki (Autumn Appetite)”? This phrase means that when autumn arrives, one’s appetite increases. There are multiple theories on where this idiom came from. One says that people’s appetite naturally increases in the fall as various food become in season during this time such as chestnuts and sweet potatoes, and it is best to enjoy them at their peak flavors.
アメリカの食文化は日本のとかなり異なっていま
すが、秋の定番と考えられる食べ物がいくつかあ
ります。例えば、ハロウィーンと言えば、かぼちゃの
イメージが思い浮かびます。感謝祭と言えば、ター
キーの丸焼きやクランベリーソースを思い付くでし
よう。

クリーブランドはリンゴがおいしくて、リンゴ園もた
くさんあります。今年初めてリンゴ狩りを体験し、
新鮮なリンゴの香りを楽しむことができました。リ
ンゴ園のアップルサイダーも人気そうです。みな
さんも食べものでクリーブランドの秋を満喫しし
よう。

The US and Japan are quite different when it
comes to food cultures, but the US also has many
recipes associated with fall. For example,
pumpkin is the symbol of Halloween, and a whole
roasted turkey and cranberry sauce come to mind
for Thanksgiving.

In Cleveland, there are many apple orchards that
grow delicious apples. I went apple-picking for
the first time this year, at which I got to enjoy
fresh apples picked off from the trees. The freshly
squeezed apple cider is also very popular. I hope
everyone can taste the fall in Cleveland.

References: https://monteroza.net/archives/7647
https://azukichi.net/season/autumn/autumn0159.html
Proverb of This Month

こんげつ ことわざ

★ Reading: とらのいをかるきつね (tora no i o karu kitsune)

★ Translation:
“A fox that borrows the authority of a tiger.”

★ Vocabulary:
威 – authority, power, might
借る – to borrow

★ Meaning:
A weak person acts big by relying on a strong one.

★ Note:
When a fox was caught by a tiger, it said to the tiger, “Hey, I am a servant of the God. If you eat me, the God will punish you. If you don’t believe what I say, please follow me from behind. You’ll see other animals scared of me and run away.” The tiger followed the fox to see if it was true. Animals ran away, but the tiger didn’t notice that the reason why animals ran away is because they are scared of the tiger, not the fox.

References: https://eikaiwa.dmm.com/uknow/questions/32779/
Would you like to write your own article to share your love of Japan, its culture and society? Do you want to share your favorite anime, manga, video games, novels, movies, sports, etc.? Or share student activities, events, and other interesting information? Please do!

How to Submit Your Article

1. Submit an article as a Microsoft Word document. Each article should be at least 100 words (either in Japanese or English).
2. Pictures for your article can be either e-mailed separately or inserted into the article.
3. Include a heading and subheading (if applicable)
4. Include your name and the course(s) in which you are/were enrolled (if applicable)
5. Send your article to Kosuke Ogaki at kxo159@case.edu

The theme for the November issue is “Winter Break”

12月号のテーマは「冬休み」です！

Of course, you can submit something different from this theme!
* Your article can also be held for use in future issues.
** If your article requires excessive editing, you will be asked to rework it.
*** If you are currently taking a course in the Japanese Studies Program, you might be able to earn extra credit(s) for the course(s) you are in!
Contact your instructor for more information.

12月号の締め切りは2022年11月25日です。

Deadline for the December Issue: November 25, 2022

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