



PHOENIX
Sister Cities
Discovery Changes Everything.

presents

Teach Abroad Himeji 2020 Participants



Teach Abroad - Himeji 2020 Participants



Often found with their hands in the dirt at the Ro-Ho-En Japanese Friendship Garden, **Nic Alavi** moved to Phoenix to study design at Arizona State University. They focused on an interdisciplinary approach, discursively consuming a variety of seemingly unrelated topics—from environmental design to programming to social work.

No stranger to language learning, Nic was raised in a home with several vastly different languages spoken, later studying four more throughout school. From teaching swim lessons to all ages, to teaching sex ed to university students, to mentoring young brothers in their fraternity, their interdisciplinary background provides a Promethean foundation for propelling others toward their full potential.

Nic is interested in complete immersion into the local culture, language, lifestyle, and work while in Himeji. Beyond that, they look forward to discovering how physical spaces—especially syncretic and sacred spaces—are created, curated, and experienced in Japan.



Alana Gleghorn was born in Ft. Worth, Texas and raised in Illinois. Her family moved to Arizona before her junior year of high school. She attended Grand Canyon University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a minor in psychology. It was through her studies that she developed a love for other cultures and a passion for intercultural communication. Alana currently volunteers at Reigning Grace Ranch, mentoring children and teaching them to work with horses. She is excited for the opportunity to learn more about Japanese culture while sharing Arizona's culture with students and members of the Himeji community.

Teach Abroad - Himeji 2020 Participants



Megan Kelly was born and raised in Tempe, Arizona. She graduated from Arizona State University (ASU) in 2017 with a degree in Global Studies and a minor in Business. During her time at ASU, Megan served as a Global Guide for new international students, studied abroad in Spain, and participated in the McCain Institute in Washington D.C. As a research intern for the Asia Mediated Project, Megan assisted professors in researching new media technologies in Asia and how it restructured different aspects of society. She also completed her thesis on the

geopolitics of the South China Sea, researching how territory, territoriality, and sovereignty reflect China's ambitions.

Upon graduation Megan worked as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Vietnam and then returned to Phoenix to work as an immigration paralegal. Over the past 2 years, Megan was a part of the Obama Foundation's Community Leadership Core, helping develop and implement a project aimed at helping underserved youth explore, as well as develop, personal and professional interests. Her hobbies include baking, gardening, and hiking Arizona trails. Megan is excited to get back in the classroom, and for the opportunity to learn more about the people, culture, and language of Japan through the Teach Abroad program.



Born and raised in South Mississippi, Sean Peters has always had an affinity for language and exploration. After studying French for 3 semesters in high school, he jumped at the chance to learn Japanese in college – which he studied for 4 semesters. He first traveled overseas for a month-long course on architecture in northern and central Italy during his undergraduate studies at Mississippi State University. In the summer of 2012, he studied the socioecological impacts of invasive species at Clark University and established a number of lifelong friendships. Sean has always sought to build relationships with people on his quest to learn and explore.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Geoscience from Mississippi State University in 2013, he was accepted into the School of Earth and Space Exploration (SESE) at Arizona State University, where he earned a Master of Science in Geological Sciences. During that time, he studied volcanoes on Earth and Mars and rediscovered a love for teaching and mentorship. Sean is excited to become the first in his family to earn a PhD (in Geological Sciences) in the summer of 2020. During his graduate studies at ASU, he served as a mentor to undergraduate and graduate students as President of SESE Graduate Council, and participated in numerous outreach events dedicated to connecting K-12 students with scientists. Sean is excited to share his passion for learning with the people of Himeji and build a long-term relationship with Japan.