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Teach Abroad Himeji 2020 Participants



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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.

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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.



Camela Kiernan grew up in Connecticut and then moved to New York for college. She attended Rochester Institute of Technology, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with a minor in Communications and an immersion in American Sign Language (ASL). She chose Communications and ASL because she loves learning about the integral role communication plays in a culture's history and traditions. Camela has worked on many different research projects in her career as a chemist, but her favorite was when she got the opportunity to work with the University of Georgia's College of Education in conjunction with the National Science Foundation. There, she was able to spend her time studying science education and teachers' understandings and beliefs about science practices. This is where she found her

passion for education and decided to teach science to younger students.

Camela relocated to Phoenix, Arizona to teach 6th and 7th grade chemistry with BASIS Charter Schools in 2018. At her school, she is an advisor for the Student Leadership Society - a group that empowers high school students to take charge of the culture of their school through holding meaningful community events. She is also a Mentor Teacher for new teachers who are just joining the profession or are new to the school. She loves that she is able to help guide developing teachers as they grow and learn to be the best educator they can be. Camela looks forward to share her passion and excitement with her students in Japan!

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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.



Kristopher Stout has worked in the education field throughout his career as a teacher, a tutor, a counselor, and an advisor. After earning an undergraduate degree in Film and Theater, he attended Arizona State University and earned a master's degree in Social Work so he could work with students in the public school system, helping them resolve personal conflicts inside and outside the classroom. This experience has proven valuable in subsequent teaching endeavors as it has helped him to understand and empathize with students who struggle. Kristopher has taught children and adults of all ages, most recently focusing on the areas of Sociology and Cinema at the community college level. He has been known to make jokes in class that seem to amuse no one. He enjoys water sports, tennis,

card games, and the Oxford Comma. Meeting and learning about new people comes with the territory in the teaching profession, so Kristopher's excited about the opportunity to get to know and learn about a new group of people in Himeji.