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# Teach Abroad Himeji Spring 2022 Participants



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**Marco Briceno** Born in Baltimore before settling in Phoenix, Marco was raised camping and backpacking all over the wilds of Arizona. His background is international, speaking Spanish and German at home and picking up bits and pieces of others on various travels in Europe and Latin America. He studied first at Scottsdale Community College, where he was able to intern at The Cannes Film Festival in 2011 before moving on to the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah Georgia for his Bachelor's degree. After spending some time in Hollywood, Marco's interests went international again, moving to Costa Rica to work on his grandfather's farm, then to The Palatine Rhineland in Germany, helping his Grandmother with property management. With a strong curiosity towards new cultures and a healthy appetite for language, he received his TEFL certificate in Barcelona where he spent one year snacking and surfing before moving to a small town in the Basque country where he taught English, ate Pintxos, cooked Txuleton, sipped on Sagardoa, surfed, and learned to speak the Basque language. Marco is excited to share his love of American culture and the English language with students, as well as learning their customs and culture in Himeji.



On any given day, **Anne Marie Chalmers** can be found watching Japanese dramas, studying Korean lyrics, or reading Spanglish poetry. She began college as a biochemistry student, but the fun she had as a teaching assistant for an honors literature course quickly swayed her to join English Literature, and she graduated from Arizona State University's Barrett, the Honors College in 2021. While pursuing her degree, she also began her studies of the Korean language and culture and later received the Freeman-Asia award and Gilman scholarship for study in South Korea, although the semester was cut short by COVID-19. During this time, she also discovered her passion for prison education and interned with the PEN Project, where she provided feedback on the creative writing of incarcerated individuals in Arizona and New Mexico via letter. This experience inspired her to join the team of volunteer teachers serving the Perryville Women's Correctional Facility in Goodyear, Arizona, where she designed and taught a course on creative nonfiction narrative writing.

In her senior year, Anne Marie finished her thesis project, a collection of nonfiction stories called *Moon Flower* where she sought to use stories from her childhood and emerging adulthood to comfort those who feel alone in their experiences. She's deeply passionate about both mental health and working with children and currently works as a behavior technician for children with maladaptive behaviors. Anne Marie is very excited to learn about the people, culture, and language of Japan in Himeji and hopes to build lasting friendships with the people she meets there.



Originally from Texas, **Sunny Jayswal** has spent much of his life travelling and living in many different parts of the world including India, the Pacific NW, East Asia, and Phoenix.

From a young age, Sunny gained a keen interest in other cultures through his family's trips to India and from watching shows like Jackie Chan Adventures, Anthony Bourdain, and many animes like Pokémon and Spirited Away. It was through anime and video games that he developed a strong interest in Japanese culture and grew to admire the similarities it shared with his own heritage as well as the unique aspects such as Shintoism, wabi-sabi aesthetics, and the Japanese culture of putting others before yourself. During his college years Sunny was involved in various international and multicultural student

organizations where he worked with international students to plan events and help them adjust to American college life. He also studied abroad a few times, notably to Japan and Taiwan, where he volunteered to teach English to middle schoolers. Growing up bilingual and then later studying Mandarin Chinese and Japanese in college - Sunny is very passionate about language education! He hopes to bring his passion for learning languages and cultural exchange to inspire his students to one day pursue opportunities abroad! As a cat lover, one of his dreams is to visit the many cat islands of Japan.