

Noah Lavin

Student Academic Showcase, Spring 2025

Mentor: Elaine DeBuhr

Abstract

As an Art major at Northwest College, in the summer of 2023 I applied for the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) program to study for a semester in Japan at their partner university, Prefectural University of Kumamoto (PUK). Northwest College is part of the college consortium that participates in student study abroad programs in East Asia to encourage language acquisition and global learning.

I was accepted into the program, admitted into PUK in the Faculty of Letters , Language, and Culture, and headed to Japan in March 2024. The experience was so fulfilling that I applied to stay for another semester and as a result, I remained in Japan for a full year. In addition, I was invited to teach conversational English part time while in Kumamoto.

My presentation will cover this journey, from inquiry to being accepted into the program and traveling to Japan, to my return to Powell one year later. I will present highlights of my year in Japan that include both challenges and rewarding moments, attaining basic fluency in Japanese language, and learning to live and study in another culture. I am excited to share this experience and encourage other students to do the same.