

WCU Japanese Program

January 2018, Vol. 6

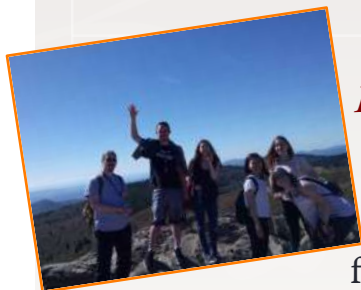


Dear students,

Thank you so much for your engagement in 2017.
Let's make 2018 wonderful again.

---WCU Japanese Program





Welcome to WCU! Ms. Ai Segawa

15 JPN international students are attending WCU and she is one of them.

Would you please introduce yourself including your major?

My name is Ai Segawa. I'm a Japanese international student from Osaka-Educational University. **My major is English education.**

In my free time, I like going out with my friends, watching movies, listening to music, and going shopping. I like traveling, too. **I want to visit a lot of places in America.**

Would you please tell us your motivation to study at WCU?

I've studied English before coming here, but my English skills are still poor. So I want to improve my English skills more. Also my university in Japan has only education classes, so I take other classes like marketing and communication here to expand my viewpoint. **I believe WCU is the best for me to improve not only English skills but also to enhance much knowledge.**



Would you please tell us about your study-abroad experience so far in WCU? Is there anything that surprised you?

I really worried about being able to make friends before coming here, but I made many friends who are very nice. Thanks to them, I'm having a lot of great experiences and enjoying my school life here.

Would you please tell us how you are planning to use your English fluency and American cultural literacy?

Please explain your future plan after WCU. I am going to search for a job after WCU. I want to utilize my great experience here and acquire more English skills.

What is the wildest dream related to your study-abroad experience in WCU?

The wildest dream is that I get opportunities to come to America again as a worker. I'm staying here as an exchange student for ten months. **It is true that this experience is great for me but I think that there are a lot of things which only workers experience.** It is more difficult to stay here as a worker than student, but I want to accomplish the dream.



Any crucial advice for the students in WCU JPN program?

I'm really glad that many students are interested in Japan at WCU. I think Japan is a very sweet country, so come to Japan if you have the chance. I want you to let me know if you need help with anything. I'd be happy to lend a hand in any way that I can.





Welcome to WCU! Ms. Julianna Wages

Would you please introduce yourself including your major and minor?

Hello, my name is Julianna Wages and I am a new freshman to WCU. I came to WCU with my **Associates in Arts**, so technically I am considered a junior. I am **majoring in professional writing and double minoring in Japanese and teaching**

English as a second language. I am originally from Ypsilanti, Michigan, but I consider **Wilkesboro, NC** to be my home since my family and I moved here around nine years ago. I am a member of the **Anime Club** here at Western and as **Honors student.**

You studied professional writing, Japanese, and teaching English as a second language. Why did you choose this combination?

I studied professional English for my major because reading is a big part of my life; I am rarely not reading during my free time or in between classes on my phone. I love to write creatively as well, and wish to publish my stories in the future. **I chose teaching English as a second language and Japanese to be my minors because I definitely want to teach abroad in Japan.** I enjoy learning about Japanese culture, language, technology, traditions, and so on. So, learning Japanese and receiving the credentials to teach properly will undoubtedly be helpful when I go to Japan after college and in search of a job. **Not only will I be prepared to read Japanese, but I will know how to properly respect their culture and enjoy my time there.**

What is the wildest dream related to your experience about Japanese language and its culture?

My wildest dream about Japan is the chance to visit all of the animal parks or special locations that are so famous in Japan. For instance, I would love to see **the Zao Kitsune Village** with the wild foxes, **Nara Park** with the deer people can feed by hand, or one of **the eleven cat islands** of Japan. Other than that, I would want to try out all of Japan's cuisine from Sushi to teriyaki to the ever-so-popular ramen noodles. Of course, as an anime fan, I would enjoy visiting **Akihabara** as well to buy easy-to-read manga in Japanese to get more

fluent reading Japanese. There is a never ending list of sights to see and places to go in Japan; I encourage anyone interested to study abroad there or just go travel there one day to see how amazing Japan really is.



Congratulations Graduate! Ms. Aubree Payne

Would you please introduce yourself including your major and minor?



Hello! My name is **Aubree Payne**. My majors are **International Studies and History**, and I have a **minor in Japanese studies**. I was actually born in Florida, but I currently live in Raleigh, NC. I am a senior, and I am the **President of the International Studies Club**. I'm also a member of the **Mt. Fuji All Stars Japanese Club**, and I play on the intramural soccer and volleyball teams.

You studied International Studies and History in major and Japanese in minor. Why did you choose this combination?

I came to WCU specifically to study Japanese, and to eventually study **abroad**. Western seemed to have really good exchange programs with sister schools abroad. My International Studies major is also interdisciplinary, and in the beginning I planned to be a Special Studies, Japanese major. I was told however that I would not graduate in time, so I decided to make Japanese a minor instead.



Would you please tell us about your study experience in WCU Japanese program?



I have made all my best school memories and friends through the **Japanese program**. The program always throws the best events, like Japan Night or Japanese movie nights. Professors and upper classmen in the program also convinced me that I should study abroad in Japan, and I was able to fit it into my schedule before graduating this December.



Would you please tell us how you are planning to use your Japanese language fluency and its cultural literacy for your future after graduating from WCU, such as job and/or graduate study?

After I graduate, I have thought of working for the US' State Department in an embassy or being a part of a program that promotes studying abroad or learning about Asian cultures. **I would like to be able to use my Japanese language and my experience with their culture in my future work to help others abroad.**



What is the wildest dream related to your experience about Japanese language and its culture? Please explain your reasoning, too. My wildest dream as part of the Japanese program was to study abroad in Japan, and to become certified in Japanese. **I am so thankful to have been able to go abroad for one semester, and improve my Japanese fluency.** While I was in Japan, I was also able to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level 5, and I passed!

Any crucial advice for the students in JPN program?

Some advice for students currently in the Japanese Program is to just keep signing up for Japanese classes of all kinds. **All the classes I have taken whether language or culture based have been useful to me**, and I have made irreplaceable memories.

As your closing statement, what would you like to tell the students in WCU in general?

Overall, I would like to tell students at WCU to **never give up on your dreams!** I never expected to achieve my dreams of going to Japan and South Korea so soon. I think **anything is possible if you put your heart into it, and there will always be people to help you along the way.**

NEW! Mt. Fuji All-Stars Japanese Club

In this academic year, we have combined our two previous JPN program student organizations, *Japanese Language & Culture Table* and *Mt. Fuji All Stars*. Now, we have

“Mt. Fuji All-Stars Japanese Club”



President and vice president: **Danielle Averitt (right) and Brooke Palmer (left)**

WCU JPN program (Extra Curricular) Activities in 2017-2018 **Cultural Responsiveness, Leadership, Professionalism, and Team work**

Fall 2017

SEP. *Field Trip to Japan Festa in Atlanta: Close encounter with authentic Japan*

OCT. *JPN program Button Design Contest: We are a family. We support each other. Let's study in the JPN Program together.*

NOV. *Japan Night in International Education Week: Have you ever been a foreigner? When and Where? Let's share your experience as “a foreign.”*

Catamount School visit with Intensive English Program: What do you know about Japan besides Pokemon and Ramen?

DEC. *End of the Fall Semester Japanese Curry Party: Almost there! Wished everyone success in their final exams!*

Spring & Summer 2018

MAR. *Interdisciplinary collaborative 2-week workshop with visiting students from Chukyo University.*

MAR. *Japanese Community Course @ Biltmore campus*

MAR-APR. *Cherry Blossom viewing Party*

APR. *International Week*

JUL-AUG. *Summer Camp/workshop with visiting students from Chukyo University and its annexed high school (More details coming soon!)*

Please feel free to contact us.

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