



PHOENIX
Sister Cities
Discovery Changes Everything.

presents

Teach Abroad Himeji 2021 Participants



Teach Abroad - Himeji 2020 Participants



Hannah Hanson was born and raised in Billings, Montana. She completed her bachelor's degree in bilingual education from Southwestern Assemblies of God University and taught students from elementary to adults in Texas, Arizona, Colorado, and Costa Rica. She moved to Phoenix in 2017 and completed her Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages degree from Arizona State University while working for the 4-H Youth Development Program with the University of Arizona.

During her graduate internship with Global Launch, she met and worked with students from all over the world, including Japan. She discovered her passion of helping students adapt to the new culture through a variety of activities and connecting them with the resources that will help them thrive in their education and their overall life experience. After experiencing life abroad in Costa Rica, she understands the value in learning language and culture through immersion, and she looks forward to implementing similar cross-cultural tactics during her time in Japan.

Hannah thrives in her environment by meeting people, trying different foods, and exploring new places. In her free time, she loves to stay active by hiking, playing volleyball, or basketball, going out to unique restaurants, and enjoying the company of friends and family. Her favorite foods are iced coffee, dark chocolate, and anything healthy. She is looking forward to exploring all the beauty Japan has to offer, growing in her intercultural communication skills, and developing lifelong connections as an ASE!



Sadiya Khan was raised in Tolleson, Arizona. Sadiya recently graduated in May 2021 from Arizona State University and Barrett, the Honors College with two bachelor's degrees in psychology and justice studies, and two minors in global health and family and human development. During her time at ASU, Sadiya was a Community Assistant, tutored refugee students through R.I.S.E. Tutoring, and helped lead the student organization Global Women's Health Initiative. She feels extremely honored to take part in the Teach Abroad program to expand her global involvement and is excited to start a new journey in Himeji.

Teach Abroad - Himeji 2021 Participants



Jacqueline Marquez was born and raised in Hermosillo, Sonora, and later moved to the Phoenix at the age of 14. During this cultural transition she developed a huge appreciation for multiculturalism, arts, and linguistics which inspired her into pursuing an education in the humanities field. Jacqueline recently graduated from Arizona State University with two bachelor's degrees in animation and art intermedia as well as a minor in Japanese language as a member of the Japanese National Honor Society.

During her time in university, Jacqueline worked with international departments such as Global Launch and programs such as COIL with Nanzan University where she got to collaborate with students from all over the world. Jacqueline also had the opportunity to work as an ALT for Upward Bound Trio where she helped teach Japanese to local Highschool students. Moreover, she participated in experimental educational research with Meteor Studio using virtual reality to propel learning immersion through the use of technology and is something she wishes to continue to explore in her lessons during her time in Japan.

While in Himeji, Jacqueline wants to use her abilities in digital arts, interactive systems, and linguistics as a way to reimagine the world of English education and community involvement. She hopes to spend her time in Japan doing research, being highly active in her community and hopefully, motivating those around her into embarking on an intercultural journey of their own.



Kiyoshi Sugiyama was born and raised in Tempe, Arizona and grew up with both Japanese and American cultures. Being exposed to both cultures throughout life gave them a unique perspective and ability to make connections between them. This became a passion for sharing their culture later on, and they graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Secondary Education focusing on Japanese Language.

They student taught at Central High School in Phoenix, Arizona and during that time they school hosted a group of students from their sister school, Kotogaoka High School, in Himeji. They are excited to continue teaching in Japan and become more intimately acquainted with daily life there.

An artist from a young age, Kiyoshi is passionate about sewing and music, and loves to share those interests with those around them; inside the classroom and out. In Japan they hope to improve their Japanese as well as pursue some traditional arts and share their own experiences while developing relationships with people from various backgrounds.



Monique Acedo was born and raised in Glendale, Arizona, and later moved to Litchfield Park, Arizona. After receiving the Lumberjack Scholarship, Monique decided to attend Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona for college. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish in 2019 and recently graduated with her Master of Arts degree in teaching English as a second language in 2021 from NAU.

During her undergraduate journey, Monique studied abroad in Costa Rica to learn Spanish and volunteered at the local elementary school as an English teacher's assistant. Monique also studied abroad in Mexico where she continued to study Spanish and volunteered at a small orphanage for teen boys. Growing up as a Mexican-American who felt disconnected from her heritage, these worldly language-learning and intercultural experiences made her feel more connected to her

Latinidad and also inspired Monique to pursue her master's degree.

Throughout her master's pursuit at NAU, Monique worked part-time as a Graduate Teaching Assistant with responsibilities as an Instructor of Record for two English courses and one English tutoring course. Monique taught one of these courses through NAU's Program in Intensive English for first-year students located in China. Monique also co-taught English Enhancement for NAU's Visiting Chinese Scholars, an English class dedicated to Chinese professionals.

While in Himeji, Monique looks forward to participating in the Teach Abroad program as an Assistant Language Teacher and continuing her passion for language-learning, language-teaching, and intercultural exchanges.