



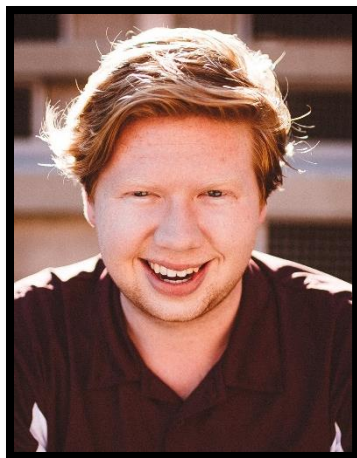
PHOENIX
Sister Cities
Discovery Changes Everything.

presents

Teach Abroad Himeji 2018 Participants



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After spending his early childhood in France, **Andrew Ahearne** moved to Phoenix when he was 8 years old. The experience growing up in multiple countries helped him realize the importance of multilingualism and the richness of mixing different cultures. Wanting to share these values with others, Andrew studied Secondary Education and French at Arizona State University ('16). At ASU, he was fortunate to have incredible opportunities, including studying abroad in Paris, being a campus tour guide (shout out to the Devils' Advocates!), working for the undergraduate student government, and completing his Barrett thesis tracing the history of LGBT rights in Arizona. However, it was the opportunity to teach English for a summer in South Korea that really resonated with him the most, as it sparked his passion

for TESOL. Although he initially wanted to return to Asia right after graduating, he put this desire on hold when he was awarded a Fulbright grant to be an English Teaching Assistant in Luxembourg. This experience reaffirmed his love of teaching English and encouraged him to apply for Teach Abroad. After Teach Abroad, he plans on bringing together his experience in Japan with his previous experiences of teaching in Europe and student teaching French at Red Mountain High School. Andrew's goal is to pursue a Master's degree in International and Comparative Education, to be able to understand how different cultures across the globe value language learning and how multilingualism can benefit societies.



Born in Reno, Nevada and raised in Half Moon Bay, California, **Nicole Collins** moved to Arizona four years ago to attend Arizona State University. Nicole has received a Bachelor's of Arts in English Literature, with minors both in French, as well as Women and Gender Studies. Though it was originally inspired by a love of foreign language, her minor in French also sparked a love for travel, and she has travelled across North America, Europe, and Asia. Furthermore, being raised in an Asian immigrant family, Nicole knows the value and power of education and knowledge; as a result, she has worked as a teacher and tutor for the past four years, connecting with students through Barrett Summer Scholars, South Mountain Community College, and The Princeton Review. As an educator,

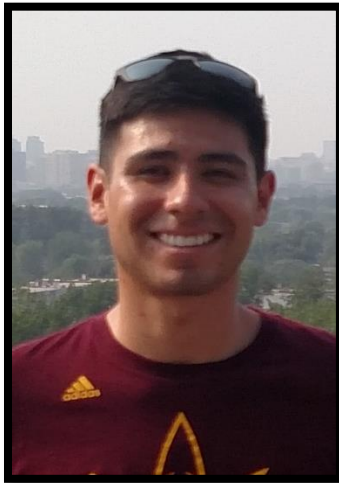
Nicole believes that trust, mutual respect, and fun are the most important characteristics of a classroom, and she looks forward to applying this mantra to students in Japan through Phoenix Sister Cities. In her spare time, Nicole is the stereotypical creative humanities major: she loves reading, drawing, comic making, and creative writing, though she is also known to watch a game of hockey from time to time. She is looking forward to connecting with students in Japan, and experiencing the culture of Himeji for herself.

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Adam Holland was born in Chicago but moved to Phoenix, Arizona, after six months of cold Illinois weather. He is half-Japanese and grew up eating way too much mochi, udon, Hello Panda cookies, and sushi for his own good. As a kid he had an obsession with Dragonball Z and samurai movies and started to fall in love with traveling after his family stayed in a Buddhist monastery one summer. He continued his adventures by studying abroad in Spain during high school and Italy in college. Adam earned his Bachelor's degree in English and Creative Writing from the University of Arizona, after which he moved to South Korea to teach English as a Second Language at a small academy for thirteen months. Upon returning to America, he earned his Masters of Education and then worked as a 9th grade English teacher, team leader, and cross country coach for four years. Adam reads a lot of comic books and poetry, eats many different kinds of food, watches a great many

movies, and travels as often as he can. He also gets very happy around cats and dogs. He is excited to share his passion for traveling and English with Himeji.



Joshua Maldonado is 26 years old and was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He is also a military veteran, having served four years honorably in the US Air Force. During his time in the military he was stationed in Little Rock, Arkansas for four years and had the opportunity of being deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Doha, Qatar. Being stationed in a foreign country for six months was an eye-opening experience that would eventually lead to several more travels in Joshua's upcoming years. Upon completing his military service, he enrolled in the Spring 2016 semester at Arizona State University in pursuit of completing his Bachelor's Degree in Global Studies. During the summer of 2016, he had the opportunity to study Abroad in Sevilla, Spain which is when he discovered his passion for traveling. Since then, Joshua has had the opportunity of exploring multiple countries throughout Europe and Asia, as well as also having

the chance to visit the wonderful country of Japan. To Joshua, this position is "an opportunity of a lifetime to work and live in one of the more technologically advanced and most modern country I've visited thus far. I am thrilled for the upcoming years to come."

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Caren Robinson was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa. She attended Arizona State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree. Caren taught for Scottsdale Unified Schools until her retirement, including a few years for Westside Community Schools in Omaha, Nebraska. She has designed curriculum for a variety of student learning levels and styles. She has also taught gifted as well as special needs students. And has three sons. Max, Mark, and Jacob. They are all adults and living independently. Max had the opportunity to participate in the Phoenix Sisters Cities Teach Abroad Program back in 2009. He loved it! As a family we traveled to visit him in Japan. While touring, including Himeji, she was so amazed with all of the sites, the beautiful countryside, delicious foods and kind people. Caren knew then that she wanted to come back again! She has traveled

to three of the ten Phoenix Sister Cities partnerships. The remaining cities are now included in her bucket list of places to travel to. Caren likes to read, cook, quilt and work out. She hopes to share some of these interests with the community in Himeji and learn from them as well!



An Tran, while born in Vietnam, grew up in Tempe. She graduated from Arizona State University with her Bachelor of Science in Engineering in biomedical engineering. Growing up, she spent much of her time traveling with her grandmother to countries such as Holland, France, China, and England. Thus, a sense of adventure and curiosity was instilled in her at a young age. Academically, she pursued various disciplines alongside her engineering degree by taking classes relating to law, electrical engineering, Air Force ROTC and Chinese language, ultimately with the goal to challenge herself and to find a passion to pursue for the rest of her life. She graduated with honors from Barrett, the Honors College, and she plans to further her education at a professional school (either MD or MD/JD) after her teach abroad experience.

English was An's third-learned language, but she is determined for it not to be her last. Thus, she is determined to create and sustain long-term, international partnerships with whomever she meets while being abroad. She hopes to immerse herself in the culture at Himeji, and from the experience, to develop herself as a better and more culturally competent leader, teacher, and mentor.

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Diana Tran, a Baltimore native, has resided in Arizona for nearly 13 years. She is currently a senior at Arizona State University, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Non-Profit Leadership and Management. In her professional life, she has held numerous positions, both locally and nationally, with several non-profits – including an internship with Phoenix Sister Cities – and most recently served as President of Delta Chi Lambda, Arizona State University's first Asian-interest sorority. Diana is a first-generation Vietnamese-American college student with strong passion for the access to higher education, equity in educational quality for all students, international affairs, youth leadership development, and community building. Her interest in teaching in Japan stems from a love for history, a natural sense of curiosity,

and an insatiable hunger for adventure, knowledge, and multicultural perspectives. A tidbit and a tiddly wink about her: Diana is a lover of tea, bread, babies, peonies, oceans, and the word "perennial;" She is committed to a life of service and learning, and she plans to continue her education in International Relations and Sociology upon returning to the United States; and she was voted most likely to change the world by her peers.