

**JAPN 420:**  
**Maximizing Study Abroad Experience**  
**Final Presentation**

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# University Choice and Reasons

## Okayama University

- National University
- Okayama Prefecture



OKAYAMA UNIV.

## Reasons

- Offer JASSO (according to their website)
- Less expensive
- EPOK project sounds interesting
- Flat so can use bike easily
- Climate similar at times, but can change

# Prospective Courses (EPOK Program)

## Language Classes

- Japanese Language
- Intermediate Kanji
- Vocabulary
- Grammar

## Culture Classes

- Study of Okayama
- Japanese Agriculture and Rural Society
- Japan's Culture Heritage
- Aging Society in Japan

# Things I want to Accomplish

## Short Term Goals:

- Travel places such as Disneyland, Hiroshima, Kyoto
- Eat Japanese food I can't get easily in America such as natto, takoyaki, taiyaki
- Join clubs that interest me
- See cherry blossoms and go on a viewing trip
- Go to local festivals

## Long Term Goals:

- Get better at Japanese language and cultural understanding
- Make long-lasting friends
- Get into the JET program

# Links

## Journal Link

- <http://laurenmajorportfolio.weebly.com/study-abroad-blog>

## LESCANT Link

- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tags/torr1297>



Non-Verbal

# Context



# Learning Strategies

## Language

- Imitate the way native speakers talk
- Listen for key words that seem to carry the bulk of the meaning
- Try to understand what has been heard or read without translating it word for word

## Cultural

- Refrain from disagreeing right away so I have a chance to listen to what others are trying to communicate
- Think about different cross-cultural perspectives to examine situations in which I may offend someone
- Try to stay connected with friends I made while studying abroad



# Before Leaving

## To do:

- Study the language more
- Look up information on my university and area
- Get a job over summer to save up money for Japan
- Get my VISA