

Statement of Purpose

My name is Lauren Torres and I will be applying for the Exchange Program Okayama (EPOK) in Okayama, Japan. I am currently a junior at CSUMB and have a 3.85 GPA, I am also on the dean's list. I have had four semesters of Japanese language at CSUMB, in one of those I has a class where I was fully immersed in the language. I am involved in clubs on campus and am an officer in two of them. I have been the treasurer for Anime Club for two years and the secretary for Japan Club for one year. I chose to go to Japan since my major is Japanese Language and Cultures. When I am abroad I hope to take classes to improve both my language abilities and cultural knowledge. I want to go to Japan to improve my language, but I would also like to be immersed in the culture. I decided on Okayama University because it is in a more rural location compared to Tokyo and Kyoto, I like slower-paced environments. However, if I did want to visit more metropolitan areas I would be able to take the train to such places. Another reason I chose Exchange Program Okayama was because of the EPOK project. At the end of each semester the study abroad students have to write an essay. This sounded interesting since it seems like it would help me to prepare for my CSUMB capstone project, which is a 10 page essay in Japanese and a powerpoint, in Japanese and English, that I will be working on with a partner. I hope this project and the classes I take will help my written Japanese, while communicating with the Japanese students will assist my speaking skills. I also hope to be able to speak with people outside of school, that is why I chose classes that had field work, so I would be able to interact with different people not just students. This experience might also help me when applying for JET in the future. I hope to just be able to experience as much as I can about another culture while I am in Japan, then maybe go back in the future or make friends there that I would keep when I return.