

# PERDUE JAYDEN JUNIUS

(Apr. 2026 - Aug. 2026)

Kennesaw State University



## 1. Why did you decide to come study in Japan and choose Chukyo University?

I had been self-studying Japanese for four years and wanted the opportunity to use it in Japan. I believed studying abroad would be the best way to improve my Japanese while connecting with local people. I chose Chukyo because it offered more than my other university options, and I preferred living in Nagoya over Tokyo. It felt like the perfect place to experience everyday life in Japan.

## 2. How do you think you have matured through your studies at Chukyo? Please share your experiences, events, or feelings while studying at Chukyo University.

Studying at Chukyo made me much more independent since I had to manage daily life on my own. I also became more confident talking to people from different backgrounds and much more comfortable traveling. I've planned trips across Japan and abroad, which gave me confidence to explore anywhere. My Japanese improved greatly, and living in Nagoya taught me cultural nuances I couldn't have learned in America while providing an authentic Japanese experience.

## 3. How do you hope to make use of this experience in the future?

I plan to continue improving my Japanese and use it alongside my accounting degree in my future career. This experience strengthened my communication skills, confidence, and ability to adapt to new environments. I hope to work with Japanese companies or international clients and continue building relationships across cultures. I also want to encourage other students to study abroad because of how valuable this experience has been.

## 4. Finally, please give a message to juniors who are considering studying at Chukyo University in the future.

To anyone considering Chukyo University, I couldn't recommend it more. The support for international students is outstanding, and the staff genuinely care about your success. The facilities and dorms are modern, comfortable, and close to campus. After visiting other universities in Japan, Chukyo is still my favorite. If you're thinking about studying abroad in Japan, choose Chukyo?you won't regret it.



# SIEWERT, SOPHIA MAE

(Sep. 2024 - Aug. 2025)

Kennesaw State University



## 1. Why did you decide to come study in Japan and choose Chukyo University?

I'd been wanting to study abroad in Japan the moment I started learning Japanese in High School, and Chukyo University's exchange program provided me with the perfect blend of language studies and cultural immersion. That, and I had some prior knowledge of Japanese culture due to my father's childhood upbringing in Tokyo and working with Japanese companies for several years, so I wanted to experience those things I'd heard about firsthand for myself. I was dedicated to Chukyo the moment I toured it in 2023 (yes, I came to Japan for the first time to tour Chukyo!), and fell in love with the campus environment, Nagoya, and Japan only after a few weeks. I feel studying at the other schools my university offered would not have enough class variety... that, and they were in Tokyo. While Tokyo is a good vacation spot, I didn't think I could see myself studying-- or living there. So, I appreciate Kennesaw State having their partnership with Chukyo University, and am very grateful for being accepted into their program!

I am very happy that I chose a year-long program as well, as one semester was not enough time to truly immerse myself. The time goes by so fast, it won't even feel like it's a year!

## 2. How do you think you have matured through your studies at Chukyo? Please share your experiences, events, or feelings while studying at Chukyo University.

While living abroad by myself has had its difficulties, I've learned to become fully independent and do things I would never imagine doing alone prior to coming to Chukyo. I rarely go out to restaurants by myself, let alone take whole weekend trips to Osaka and Yokohama by myself, so having done those things is a big feat for me. Of course, my language ability has increased by a lot since staying here, and my confidence in my speaking has definitely increased more. While it took me a bit to get adjusted to the teaching pace of Japanese college classes, I finally found my groove and began to enjoy learning every little bit of Japanese I could. I still make the occasional grammar mistakes and forget to use formal language (敬語) when I need to, but it's a huge improvement from when I started in September. I've also made a ton of friends during my time here, which for me is a huge self improvement due to my usually shy nature back in The United States. It's been easier for me to connect with others here, whether other exchange students, the VOICE members, or other Japanese students. Even communicating a little bit with the campus' Starbucks employees in the mornings makes my speaking confidence all the better. If I could study here longer, I would in a heartbeat-- I'm even considering returning for graduate school here!

## 3. How do you hope to make use of this experience in the future?

The language experience, cultural immersion, as well as my experiences being able to teach English at the Chukyo University High School I will put to use in my future career in Japan. I aspire to work as a midway translator between English-Speaking and Japanese-Speaking creatives (i.e. Manga, Film, Novels, etc), and everything from friendly conversations, difficult final exams, and even nightly combini trips will be a great experience to look back on when planning for my future. The English teaching experiences and Japanese language classes will most DEFINITELY be put to use in my application to the JET program-- my first stepping stone into my aspired career.

As for the non-academic experiences, like my travels during the Winter Break, participating in the Manga Research Club (漫研会), late nights at karaoke with my friends, and the endless amount of Sanrio and other anime goods I have bought to participate in Oshi-Katsu... I'll carry them with me wherever I go.

#### 4. Finally, please give a message to juniors who are considering studying at Chukyo University in the future.

PLEASE come to Chukyo University! Everyone here is so kind, considerate, and will not hesitate to help you when you struggle-- whether with academics, homesickness, or trying to pay your health insurance. The classes may feel difficult due to the amount of work there is, but the difficulty helps you persevere and improve on your mistakes! There's a nice variety of non-language classes too, so if you're interested in Japanese History, Media Literacy from a Japanese Perspective, Linguistics (English or Japanese), or Global Communication-- this is the university for you! Even if you're just starting to learn Japanese, have been studying Japanese for years, or want the experience for your future career, Chukyo will help you along your journey!

(That, and living in Nagoya helps you really experience Japanese life. Plus, Nagoya specialty food is so good. PLEASE try Miso Katsu, Ogura Toast, and other specialties. Everything tastes delicious!)





# PURYEAR, RICHARD JUSTIN

(Sep. 2024 - Aug. 2025)

Kennesaw State University



## 1. Why did you decide to come study in Japan and choose Chukyo University?

I love a challenge, and I knew putting myself in such a foreign culture would be a great one. I studied in Japan not only to learn the language and culture, but to learn about myself. Chukyo was a great starting point for that, I was able to immerse myself not only in education but also the sports of Japan as well. I encountered talented people with extreme levels of discipline, but also relaxed students who were carefree and always down to party. I am grateful to Chukyo for allowing me to see another world. It has changed my life.

## 2. How do you think you have matured through your studies at Chukyo? Please share your experiences, events, or feelings while studying at Chukyo University.

I have become much more culturally aware. Unfortunately, I dealt with long-term illness during the winter months and had to navigate the medical world on my own. There were many things that I didn't know, and many things I was uncomfortable with. But I took them head-on and became a stronger man today.

## 3. How do you hope to make use of this experience in the future?

I will work abroad and continue this exploration. I only have one life, so I will ensure I make the most out of it. Chukyo has inspired me to continue my education in law and possibly study once again at a major university here in Japan.

## 4. Finally, please give a message to juniors who are considering studying at Chukyo University in the future.

I highly recommend it. Ogata-san and Chie-san, will be in charge of you, and they are some of the kindest people I have met. Study at Chukyo, and I can assure you, you will be taken care of.



# BLOMBERG, Grace Anne

(Apr. 2024 - Aug. 2024)

Kennesaw State University



## 1. Why did you decide to come study in Japan and choose Chukyo University?

I've wanted to travel abroad ever since being a kid and seeing my friends go to distant, beautiful places over summer vacation. The pictures they showed me of beautiful landscapes and once-in-a-lifetime experiences made me think I was somehow missing out. But my family neither had the time or money to travel overseas so I never gave much more thought to it. When I got to college, I started thinking about studying abroad. I thought it would be an even better experience than just taking a week-long trip to one or two random countries where I'd get to see all the big touristy spots, but not much more. This way I would get to spend a few months living in a place, getting to know people, seeing different outlooks and ways of life and exploring the city. I wanted to go somewhere different from home and the West, but not too unfamiliar so I chose Japan having an interest in the language and liking Japanese music, movies and TV shows. I chose Chukyo because my home university, Kennesaw State, has a partnership with them and I didn't want to live in as big of a city as Tokyo. I think I made a great decision as this experience was everything I hoped for and more.

## 2. How do you think you have matured through your studies at Chukyo? Please share your experiences, events, or feelings while studying at Chukyo University.

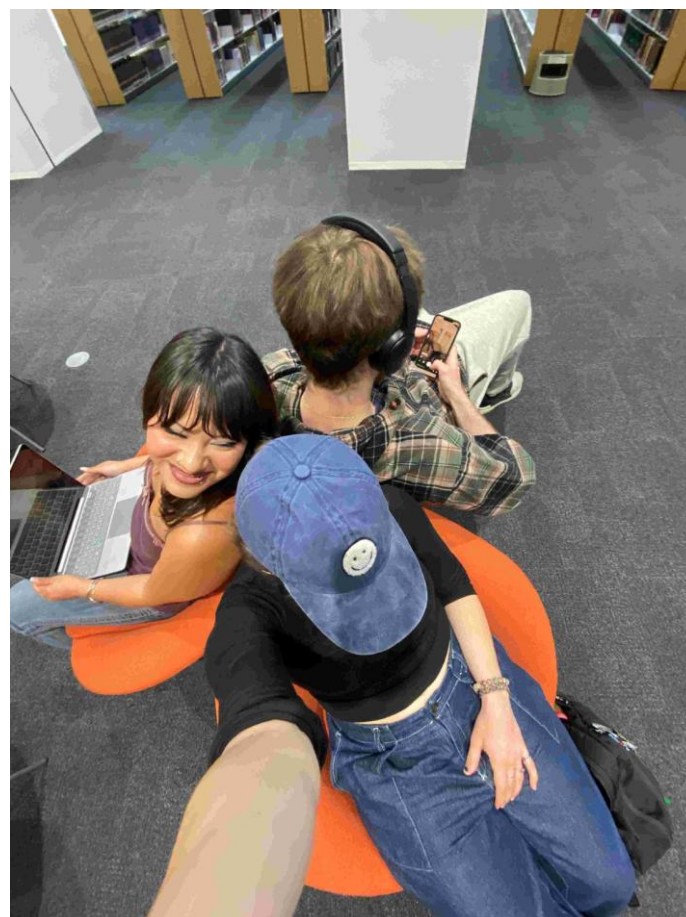
I think I've grown a lot honestly. I've gained a lot of confidence because I've gotten to meet and talk to a lot of new people every day. And in order to improve my Japanese, I've had to get over my fears of saying something wrong or stupid and just try. That attitude of just taking a leap and trying applies to a lot of things in life, so I think it will help me going forward. I've also made a lot of good friends. Despite my image of Japan as monolithic, I've been able to meet people of many different countries, backgrounds and outlooks. I've learned a lot from everyone, and I think it will stay with me for a long time.

## 3. How do you hope to make use of this experience in the future?

I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but I think no matter what I do, I've learned important skills and lessons from this experience. I learned the dedication it takes to learn a new language. I learned how to communicate with people when there's a language barrier whether big or small. I got to sit in on a high school English class and see the lessons they're taught and the thoughts and challenges that they have. I have an interest in geography and city planning as well, so I got to see a very different type of city planning than America's. So no matter what I choose to become, a teacher, a translator, a city planner, etc., I think I will use some lessons I gained here at Chukyo University.

## 4. Finally, please give a message to juniors who are considering studying at Chukyo University in the future.

Studying abroad was daunting to me. I never thought I would have this chance. But I'm very glad I took it. If you're considering studying abroad, I would say go for it. Chukyo University is very supportive, and you'll meet a lot of fun people. My advice would be to really think about what you want out of your experience because there's so many things that are possible when you explore a new country and it's easy to get overwhelmed. Nagoya and more broadly, Japan have a lot to offer. You can see beautiful nature and countryside. You can enjoy nightlife in the city. You can eat good food. You can see cultural festivals, temples and traditional art and music that you can't find anywhere else. You can meet people from lots of different places and different backgrounds. You can make friends with Japanese speakers and really improve your speaking skills. You can go off and explore on your own. You can make a tight-knit group of friends and spend your days with them. It's really up to you. I would say think about what's important to you and have an idea of a plan or bucket-list before you get here, but be flexible and open to what you find and what Nagoya has to offer!





# ANDERSON, AVERY JOSEPH

(Apr. 2024 - Feb. 2025)

Kennesaw State University



## 1. Why did you decide to come study in Japan and choose Chukyo University?

I love Japanese culture, and I wanted to fully embrace it. I saw that my school offered a study abroad program and decided to take a chance on it. I am so glad I did because it has been the greatest experience in my life!

## 2. How do you think you have matured through your studies at Chukyo? Please share your experiences, events, or feelings while studying at Chukyo University.

I feel that I have definitely grown as a person. I have met so many amazing people, done so many things, and had many memorable experiences! My only regret is that I can not stay at Chukyo longer.

## 3. How do you hope to make use of this experience in the future?

I plan to look for more opportunities to stay in Japan long term. Once I graduate, I will look for a job that allows me to live in Japan, and I hope to build a life here.

## 4. Finally, please give a message to juniors who are considering studying at Chukyo University in the future.

If you are considering Chukyo University, I highly recommend it! Chukyo is a great school and puts a lot of effort and dedication into making the exchange students feel welcome and comfortable. Nagoya is also a great place geographically, in between Tokyo and Osaka. Therefore, many places are accessible from Nagoya! It is also a good city to get immersed into Japanese life, as it is not a tourist heavy city. With all of these reasons, I highly recommend studying at Chukyo University!

