

BARTON MAXWELL TODD

(Apr. 2026 - Aug. 2026)

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse



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

It was my dream to study in Japan since I was child. I had a family friend that lived in Japan for 20 years and growing up he would always tell stories about Japan. I was so inspired to come here and see everything for myself. I chose Chukyo University because it was partnered with my University from back home but was very happy with everything here.

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 grown so much during my time at Chukyo University. When I first arrived, I knew very little about Japanese culture or the language. Through VOICE events and traveling across this beautiful country, I learned so much about both. The people have been incredibly kind and welcoming, making my experience even more meaningful. I now have a much broader understanding of different cultures and have gained valuable lessons that simply cannot be learned in a classroom.

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

I plan to use this experience as a stepping stone into my future. As I am studying international business I plan to use this experience as a way to show that I can live abroad and thrive as I do it. I am so happy with this experience and hope it can open doors to new opportunities after.

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

Have fun and make lots of friends. Be open to talking to everyone and work hard to speak Japanese with others as much as you can. This experience goes by so fast so make the most out of it. Say yes to events, try new things, and go out and explore I know it will be scary at first but you will do great.



FERNANDO TORRES, NARCISO

(Sep. 2024 - Aug. 2025)

University of Wisconsin- La Crosse



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

I've spent most of my life in the same environment, living in a countryside town it always made me wonder what living a different life would be like. I didn't just want it to be some city in the US but rather a new country. This meant a new culture, language, people, and social norms. I wanted to challenge myself when choosing my study abroad experience.

This is when I came across Chukyo university, a university located in central Japan. Perfectly situated for someone who wanted to explore the country more. Months before my departure I would often think of not going. I had my steady life at home but that's exactly why I chose to leave home. My cousin would often say that there were people living their lives that I would eventually come to meet and become close to. That thought gave me courage to stick to my decision.

Despite it being easy to travel to other cities every single time I went out to explore other cities I always found myself thinking about Nagoya. That's when I realized that Nagoya is the city I find most meaningful to me.

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.

Being a student at Chukyo has allowed me to meet people from different backgrounds. It's because of this that I have learned to connect more deeply with people. Even if I'm not able to communicate smoothly because of language barriers. Despite not having any previous knowledge of Japanese when I first got here I tried my best to connect. Now that I've spent some time here it is much easier to connect with the local people here. It also helped me build lasting relationships. My time as a student here has made me more aware of other cultures not just Japanese and because of that I've become more patient and understanding.

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

I hope to use this experience to keep pursuing the language and to actually learn more languages, so that I can keep connecting with people that I never thought I would be able to. This doesn't just apply to personal connections but to my career path that I am following

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

If you have any doubts of coming to this university or Japan in general... that uncertainty makes the experience even more worthwhile. Not knowing what to expect shouldn't be avoided because it can lead to many unexpected opportunities and relationships.

