

David Bath - Personal Statement

I have been captivated by foreign cultures and languages since my childhood. I had watched many Japanese films and cartoons (especially Ghibli) for as long as I can remember. I was very intrigued by these films because there was always something different to them, some sort of atmosphere and setting that I had never seen in America. I had eventually found this to be culture, Japanese culture in particular that had captivated me. I wanted to dig deeper, see why and how this country was different than ours. However, I heard that the best way to learn about a country's culture was through it's own language.

Therefore I decided to try and discover this Japanese language and culture that I had always been so mysterious. After starting college I realised the immense difficulty that comes with learning a foreign language, especially one so drastically different than my own. However, I had been captivated the entire time, it was like learning about a whole new world with new ideas and perspectives. This is what kept me going until I had hit a very critical juncture when I had taken a year to study abroad in Japan.

I had been immersed in a completely different world, and my language and culture classes could have never prepared me entirely for this experience. But I had learned and grown immensely while in Japan, I had achieved a milestone in my understanding of this country and people. Now I want to continue pushing forward on this quest to understand more about this culturally rich country. Through graduate school I can gain a deeper understanding of foreign languages and cultures, and perhaps be better able to share this knowledge with people who are just like myself. I think especially in an increasingly connected world where we communicate and make business with people from everywhere, knowing a foreign language and culture makes this process much more cooperative and successful.