

[私の名前]: Goals Statement

When I started living in the U.S., one of my dreams came true. However, the “honeymoon period” did not last long because I struggled to make American friends. This hardship led me to study intercultural friendship formation as well as to explore ways to promote development of intercultural friendships in my program. This is why I became an international liaison of my program’s graduate student organization. My job in this position is to provide important information and to encourage interactions between American students and those of us from other countries. These experiences have inspired me to seek out new knowledge and education through a Ph.D. program. Specifically, I am interested in learning more about intercultural and interpersonal communication. My ultimate goal is to become a tenure track professor at a research one university, and [出願している大学院]'s Ph.D. program will help me achieve this goal. How I developed this important goal is best described by going back to the roads I have traveled to arrive where I am now.

I earned my Bachelor’s degree in English at [日本の大学], in [私の地元], Japan. Japan. I had a rare opportunity to be educated by professors that earned their Ph.D. degrees in Communication in the U.S. I was first inspired by the introductory communication course that I took with Dr. [教授の名前], who created [理論の名前] with Dr. [教授の名前]. Other inspirations included the interpersonal communication course with Dr. [教授の名前], who is a president of [組織の名前].

After attending the [語学学校] at [私の修士の大学] for a year, I entered the Communication Master’s program at [私の修士の大学] and was awarded a GTA position. My focus, intercultural communication, was no longer offered, thus I instead focused on taking methods courses in order to better prepare myself for the Ph.D. program. So far, I have taken

Ethnography with Dr. [教授の名前], Advanced Communication Theory with Dr. [教授の名前], and Quantitative Methods with Dr. [教授の名前]. I rounded out my methodology training with a rhetorical theory seminar. At present, I am furthering my methodology training by completing an independent study with [教授の名前], in which I am collecting data about intercultural friendship formation through Qualtrics. Last but not least, I chose to take the comprehensive exam option, rather than writing a thesis, in order to gain more thorough knowledge in communication. Last, my teaching experience and writing sample demonstrate that my English ability is proficient enough to pursue the Ph.D. degree as well as continue teaching through a GTA position.

As the next step to achieve the ultimate goal, I would like to learn and create new knowledge at [出願している大学]. I want to continue examining intercultural friendship formation and adaptation to a new country as well as the negotiation of cultural identities with Dr. [教授の名前]. Conducting research about intercultural friendship is something that I am passionate about because developing meaningful friendships is critical for international students, yet this is exactly where many students struggle.

I hope that I have effectively communicated my determination to pursue the Ph.D. degree. I believe that I am capable of accomplishing my goals because of my knowledge, skills, and experiences.