

## Personal Statement

[私の名前]

As I grew up, I started to consider that the deeper the relationship becomes, the more difficult it is to understand each other. However, when I went to university, I began to learn about Communication Studies, which I now believe is the key to solving a lot of troubles in relationships. Therefore, I would like to learn more about the field of Communication, and spread the knowledge to others as a professor.

I originally applied to the Communication Master's in Fall 2013 when I was still in Japan. However, I was not accepted, in part because my GRE scores were insufficient. Nonetheless, my desire to study Communication Studies in America where the field has been most developed, did not disappear. Thus, I decided to attend [私の出願したアメリカの大学]'s [語学学校の名前] program so that I could improve my English and further prepare for the graduate program. I have been studying here with classmates from other countries and my English skills have improved dramatically.

In addition, I have taken advantage of being at [私の出願したアメリカの大学] to reach out to the Communication Department. During my first semester at [語学学校の名前](Fall 2013), I was able to meet seven professors from the Communication Studies department, and observe undergraduate Oral Communication classes given by [教授の名前] and [TAの名前]. I also observed a graduate level Advanced Communication Theory class given by [教授の名前]. Additionally, I am enrolled in an undergraduate Intercultural Communication class, which is one of my fields of interest, taught by [教授の名前] for the Spring 2014 semester.

I started learning English at the age of seven at an English conversation school. The school taught us English and American culture. It was shocking to see disparate ways of life and people who looked very different in movies about the U.S. After I entered junior high school, English was still my favorite class. My grade was always a five which is equivalent to the American A. I received the highest grade every year for six years until I graduated from high school. Fortunately, I had a chance to visit my uncle who lives in [あるアメリカの州] State for two weeks when I was 17 years old. This experience heightened my interest in the U.S. because I found a lot of cultural differences that I had not encountered in Japan such as how people communicate, live, and the like. It was here that I experienced my first language and cultural barrier when I tried to communicate with my uncle's American co-worker who was very kind. Although she spoke slowly and tried to help me understand, I had a lot of trouble communicating with her. Thus, I decided to study English more at university.

I entered [日本の大学] in [地元の名前], Japan, an affiliate of [私の出願したアメリカの大学], and majored in English. [日本の大学] has two English related departments, English literature and English language. I chose the English language department because it focuses on more practical English and other fields, including Communication Studies, speaking skills, Linguistics and American culture and history. [日本の大学] is known to have the best English language faculty in my prefecture, and I was always placed in the most difficult of the five levels of classes. I attended an Introduction to Communication Studies class, a Business

Communication class (listed as International Business on the transcripts), and an Interpersonal Communication Theory class, focusing on Persuasion. The more classes I attended, and the more experiences I had with campus life, the more interested I became and convinced myself that I would like to study the discipline after I graduated from my university. I had three distinct experiences in university that greatly influenced my desire to study Communication Studies.

The first was interactions with exchange students. Since I became interested in American culture, I found myself frequently visiting the international dormitory and talking with the students there. My school has many international students from about ten countries each year, thus I could interact with people from other countries besides the United States. I met a French student and enjoyed his accent and expressions because he sounded as if he was a poet. I remember him saying, "There are many Japanese words that I do not know, therefore I am engulfed by a tsunami of words." On the other hand, I also had irritating experiences. One Thai American could not adjust himself to Japanese culture. He was most annoyed by Japanese high-context culture and complained intensely. This taught me that some Japanese customs might make foreigners frustrated or even angry. These experiences led me to consider Communication Studies to be very interesting and important to understand other cultures.

Another experience I had while studying in France in 2010 when I was a sophomore. I had studied French for two years, and I wanted to experience an authentic French lifestyle. Therefore I studied at a language school in Nice, France for a month. My classmates, mostly from other European countries, did not know very much about Japan, which was shocking to me. I did a homestay with a French woman with Austrian and Belgian housemates, and found or experienced something new everyday. There were even labor strikes, which is something I had never experienced in Japan. I wanted to introduce my country to my friends, but I realized that I did not have the skills to explain my country well. As a result, I decided to learn how to teach Japanese culture after going back to Japan.

The last experience that had a significant impact on my desire to study Communication Studies was working as a Japanese teacher. After coming back from France, I attended a 420-hour program on teaching Japanese while attending university at the same time, and managed to pass the qualification test for Japanese teachers. At first, I taught Japanese as a volunteer. I taught students from Norway, Germany, Australia, America, England, and other countries. From May to July 2013, I got an internship at a language school. Half of the teachers were German because the school taught Japanese in the morning and German in the evening. One of my bosses and some co-workers were German, thus I experienced more of a Western working style, which was friendly compared to the military-style relationship that exists between Japanese bosses and employees. My job at the school included doing orientations for new students every week, making teaching plans for Japanese language and culture classes of various levels, and organizing the student database. This teaching experience showed me that being a teacher is such an enjoyable job, and convinced me that I wanted to be a professor.

These experiences have nurtured both my desire to learn Communication Studies and to be a professor. As I talked with the professors, I realized that they have different perspectives

than ordinary people, and they are more aware of peoples' behaviors, which help them respond in a way that generates better consequences. I believe that Communication Studies has infinite possibilities because communication is endless and ineluctable for everyone. Communication is valuable in business, politics, and relationships with family. Hence, I would like to provide practical knowledge to more people as a professor. I strongly hope to attain the position of a Graduate Teaching Associate, which will give me the opportunity to experience and practice teaching college students and achieve my goal to be a college professor in Communication Studies.

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