

Bingrui Chen

I graduated from UCSD in 2018 with a Bachelor of Art degree in Japanese Studies. I am currently an incoming master student of East Asian Studies at Stanford University.

Since I was in high school, I had decided on studying Japanese cultures, and had put studying abroad in Japan on the top of my bucket list. Ever since I entered UCSD, I had understood that my major is definitely not the majority, but the university and the department still offered me countless opportunities. I enjoyed taking expansive courses on Japanese art, cinema, sociology and so on. The Japanese language courses not only equipped me with advanced language ability, but also introduced me to many patient and considerate *sensei* who are also friends. I also participated in the year-long UCEAP program at Keio University in Tokyo (thanks to the language trainings at UCSD), and was able to experience the Japanese culture and life in person. My four years' study confirmed and strengthened my passion. My learning as a Japanese Studies major laid me a solid foundation, and I am now ready for more in-depth study of the culture.

My decision on Japanese Studies was once doubted and misunderstood by my family members and even myself. Looking back on the past, though I could not have predicted what Japanese Studies would lead me to, there were constant surprises and achievements along the way. If you are interested in anything Japanese but are wondering about the benefits of learning it, my advice is that pursuing your interest never fail you. It may broaden your career choice, assist your study in other fields, or simply ignite your life a bit. We have great resources here at Japanese Studies department that you can explore.