

My name is Nikki Erika Riser, and I graduated from UCSD in 2012 with a degree in Management Science (B.S.). Although I grew up bilingual, having a Japanese mother, I had limited experience writing Japanese and speaking in *keigo*, the honorific form, as I had never attended Japanese school. For that reason, in college, I took the Japanese language courses (JAPN 140 and 150 series), where I enjoyed learning and discussing various cultural trends, presenting on current political and societal topics, and sharpening my *keigo*.

This experience helped me land a job at Rakuten (an e-commerce tech giant in Japan) in Tokyo, Japan. During the 3 years that I worked there, I started off in sales as an account manager where I had numerous opportunities to travel to various countries and regions of the world, including Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and Guam, to visit my clients. I spent the last couple of months in Tokyo as a business strategy data analyst. My experience taking the language courses also enabled me to build lasting relationships with both my Japanese and non-Japanese coworkers and clients.

Now I'm back in the United States pursuing a career in web development, working towards developing an online dictionary app that would help students learn Japanese. I'm sincerely grateful for UCSD in offering the Japanese language courses, as well as the lecturers who made the courses very enjoyable. For those of you interested in taking Japanese language courses and working in Japan, I would highly suggest that you talk with the wonderful language lecturers, as they could help guide your career goals.