

Arden Evander Taylor

Objective

I feel the greatest sense of purpose when I am studying or teaching Japanese language and literature. It is my intention to become a professor of Classical Japanese literature, through which I hope to spend a lifetime preserving these objects of fine art and untangling their mysteries.

Experience

October 2022 – Present City University of Seattle Seattle, WA
Japanese Teaching Faculty

I teach novice-level Japanese in once-weekly courses for continuing education at the Washington Academy of Languages division of City University. Though the content is similar to the material I taught during my time as a TA, I am also lecturing, assigning homework and writing tests myself at this current position. It has been, thus far, the most rewarding career I have ever had.

April 2018 – August 2019 University of Washington Seattle, WA
June 2020 – June 2021 Japanese Teaching Assistant

I started as a TA for first-year Japanese language classes in spring of 2018, with a gap of receiving a FLAS Fellowship for the 2019-2020 AY. My duties included teaching quiz sections, grading and holding regular office hours for answering any outside questions, attending meetings and variously assisting the primary instructor. Though the shift to online instruction in 2020 meant a variety of adjustments, including expectations, the ability to teach while completing my own education made both experiences exponentially more fulfilling to me.

July 2015 – July 2017 Kahoku City Board of Education Ishikawa, Japan
Assistant Language Teacher

Through the JET Program, I was employed as an ALT by the city of Kahoku for two years. I taught all grades of elementary and junior high students at three schools. My main duties at elementary were teaching lessons, as well as creating and distributing lesson plans in Japanese for every lesson and homeroom teacher. I taught in a mix of English and Japanese based on the students' ability, using the textbooks as a guide and adding lesson-reinforcing games as necessary. In junior high school, I assisted the English teachers in class, preparing games and presentations, grading student writing, and making posters for the English board. Part of my duties also included assisting at a community English conversation club of varying levels which met approximately once a month.

Sep. 2009 – Nov. 2009 WWU Asia University America Program Bellingham, WA
Administrative Assistant

After completing my term as an International Peer Advisor, I returned to the Asia University America Program to perform a basic administrative assistant job, which was constructed on my behalf. My main tasks were acting as support for the administrative staff of the program, helping to plan events, setting up calendars, copying and filing, helping carry and decorate for events, and other office tasks.

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Feb. 2009 – July 2009 WWU Asia University America Program Bellingham, WA
International Peer Advisor

I was a peer advisor to the Japanese exchange students of the Asia University America program, where I learned leadership skills and effective intercultural communication. My responsibilities included daily meetings with students, help with English homework, planning and holding events, administrative tasks, and generally being available for help. Those students taught me more than I can say, and I still think of them often.

Education

Sept. 2021 – Jun. 2022 Inter-University Center Yokohama Yokohama, Japan

I received a Nippon Foundation Fellowship to study at the Inter-University Center at Yokohama for one year. During my time at IUC, I developed increased confidence in public speaking, researching, and stating and defending arguments in Japanese. In addition to periodic presentations of my research as required by the Nippon Fellowship, the one-on-one project work with a classical language professor in order to do close reading of noh plays was a particularly meaningful experience.

Sept. 2017 – Jun. 2021 University of Washington Graduate School Seattle, WA
Master of Arts in Japanese Literature

I graduated the Asian Languages and Literature department of the University of Washington Graduate School with a Master's in Classical Japanese Literature. I made lasting friendships among my cohort and gained invaluable guidance from my professors. I served for two years as the President of the Graduate Student Association for AL&L, and graduated with a GPA of 3.92.

Sep. 2006 – June 2010 Western Washington University Bellingham, WA
Bachelor of Arts in Japanese and Linguistics

I double-majored in Japanese and Linguistics and graduated with a cumulative GPA of 3.46. I attended the Japanese Conversation Club and Anime Club, and also volunteered as a classroom assistant with the Asia University America Program before working there as an International Peer Advisor. I entered two speech contests in Japanese, winning first and second place respectively. The prize for the first was a small scholarship to KCP International Language Institute in Tokyo, which I attended the following year.

Sep. 2007 – Dec. 2007 KCP International Language Institute Tokyo, Japan
Level 3 Language Proficiency

Completed Level 3 Language Proficiency, equivalent to third year Japanese language study at university level, which I tested into after one year of formal university study. I value the experience as one of the defining ones in my life. In addition to being able to learn at an advanced rate, the culture classes provided immeasurable enrichment and broadened my horizons. I was also a member of the anime club there, and attended several kabuki plays and one noh performance. I spent my free time exploring the many religious and historical areas of Tokyo.

Conference Presentations

Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University, "Japan: Pre-Modern, Modern and Contemporary, A Return Trip from the East to the West Learning in, about and from Japan," 2021

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Title: “The Yūgen of Imperfect Masculinity: Three Heike shura-nō of Zeami.”

Inter-University Center, Yokohama, Nippon Fellowship Foundation Study Group Presentation, 2021

Title: “From Heian to Muromachi: Shifting Masculinities, Focusing on Taira no Atsumori.”

Scholarships and Awards

Nippon Foundation Fellowship for IUC Yokohama, 2021-2022 AY

FLAS Fellowship, 2019-2020 AY

Western Washington University Japanese Speech Contest – 2nd Place, 2008

Western Washington University Japanese Speech Contest – 1st Place, 2007

Skills and proficiency

ACTFL Japanese Oral Proficiency Interview score of Advanced Mid as of December 2017

Scored in the top 95th percentile of the verbal portion and top 93rd percentile of the essay portion of the GRE in August of 2016

Passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test level N1 in December 2014

Can translate up to 2,000 words per day, depending on the amount of specialized content

Typing net speed of 70 WPM

References:

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Please note when contacting references that some of my earlier acquaintances (from Professor Tomasi to Mrs. Katou) knew me by my birth name, “Gwendolyn Demelza Taylor,” and she/her pronouns.