

Statement of Purpose

It is Saturday night around 11 pm, bored out of my mind, I am flipping through the channels looking for something to amuse myself with, when I come across a person on TV with long white hair, dog ears, huge eyes, and a sword as long as his body, and somehow I found it quite amusing, considering I watched it until 6 am the next day. The show I had accidentally come across was Inu Yasha while in middle school, and it was probably my first introduction to Japanese culture. Although my introduction to Japanese culture was in the form of anime my real interest in the entirety of Japanese culture was when I started my first Japanese language class in High School. I took Japanese in High School on a whim thinking “it would be cool to watch anime in Japanese without subtitle” but that reason expanded into much more. My interest and knowledge of Japanese culture only grew from that time onward. This interest in Japanese culture started out only as a hobby as I consumed copious amounts manga and anime, but it became much more than a hobby, and the more I learned about Japan’s diverse cultures, the more I wanted to immerse myself in those cultures and make them part of what I want to do for the rest of my life. It evolved from a simple hobby into a passion that will be with me forever. After graduating High School not knowing what I wanted to do in the future, I did what most other does; I went to community college. There I did take one semester of Japanese which rekindled my interest in the language, and when I eventually transferred to California State University Monterey Bay, although I had transferred as a Marine Biology Major, I still ended up getting sucked back into learning Japanese. It only took taking one Language class to see I was suffering in my science class and thoroughly enjoying my Japanese language class. That is when I realized that I wanted to make a living out of this interest I had in Japan and its culture and

changed my major. From there on I have only expanded my knowledge in the language and culture of Japan and will continue to do this well after I leave California State University Monterey Bay.

Five years ago I was just starting college not knowing what the future would hold. I changed my major and finally found what I really wanted to do. I know firsthand a lot can change in five years. So after the five years I hope to spend in the JET program, I want to continue teaching English to Japanese students, come home to get a master's degree in Japanese language, or teach Japanese in an American High school. The sky is the limit and whatever comes next for me will only make me grow.