

Experiential Learning and Student Mentoring Plan

Kon'nichiwa! My name is Masaru Mito, an Instructor of Japanese at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I will serve as your direct contact from UHM during your participation in the summer program in Kobe, Japan. As the Resident Director, my responsibilities include overseeing your academic performance, supporting you in reaching your educational goals, and ensuring the accurate transfer and recording of your grades as UHM credits.

Throughout the program, I will provide support, offering guidance and assistance to help you navigate the academic and personal adjustments that come with your new life in Japan. As an experienced language teacher, I will also assist you in improving your language skills and deepening your cultural understanding so that you can make the most of your study abroad experience. My office hours will be available both in person and online on most weekdays or by appointment, and you are always welcome to stop by for a casual chat. In addition, I will be hosting social gatherings where you can connect with your fellow students, exchange information, and just have a good time together during the program.

As the Resident Director, one of my main roles is to make sure that all students achieve the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) established by the Study Abroad Center:

1. Demonstrate awareness of own cultural values and biases and how these impact their ability to work with others.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in the specific Study Abroad program.
3. Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups.
4. Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

To achieve these goals, we will do the following:

- Reflective journal (SLOs #1, 2, and 4)
During the program, you will be asked to maintain a journal that records at least six of your intercultural experiences. You are welcome to use any creative means, whether through written text, photos, or drawings, to express your personal thoughts and reflections. You may share it only with me or also with your fellow students. Following your submission, I will provide you with comments.
- Recording of conversations with Japanese individuals (SLOs #1, 2, 3, and 4)
You will be tasked with documenting three conversations you have with Japanese individuals, including your host family and friends. We will hold individual sessions to review these conversations together, allowing us to reflect on your interactions and intercultural experiences. This presents an excellent opportunity to enhance not only your language skills but also your understanding of diverse cultural values and communication styles.