




BAJI, Adam
Comenius University
CJS Class of 2022-2023




Hi! My name is Adam and I am currently a 4th year student in the Japanese Studies Undergraduate Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. I had been applying relentlessly to join exchange programs since I started university but sadly, because of the Covid situation I wasn't able to get to Japan to study. Luckily, on the third time I was able to travel.

Here at Nanzan University I am having the time of my life. It's a truly humbling experience being taught and guided by these amazing teachers, and thanks to the CJS Program I can improve my Japanese language and comprehension skills on a daily basis, and that doesn't end in the classroom. In the Japan Plaza the main rule is that you can speak only in Japanese, which might sound a little bit intimidating to people who are not confident about their Japanese, but it's a perfect place for anyone who wants to make new friends, get help with homework or polish their everyday Japanese language skills. But even beyond that, you can play traditional Japanese games, do origami, participate in discussions or be a part of fun events that are brought to you by creative, kind, patient and always helpful Japanese students who work as teaching assistants in the Japan Plaza. So please make sure to visit the Japan Plaza!



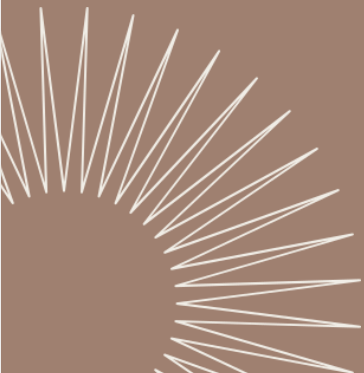
WANG, Rachel Zhang
University of Notre Dame
CJS Class of 2022-2023



Going to Japan Plaza at least once during their time at Nanzan University is an experience I would recommend to any CJS student. As one of the language plazas both CJS and Japanese local students can use, Japan Plaza has been a great way for me to meet new friends and practice my Japanese skills, and it's one of the first places I consider stopping by during breaks between classes.


While the Japanese only rule can seem a bit daunting at first, there's nothing to fear! The Japan Plaza TAs are all Nanzan students, and they are extremely kind and do their best to make sure you can participate in conversations regardless of your Japanese knowledge. Apart from the great conversations I've been able to have, I also really love the activities you can participate in. You can take part in everyday games and activities such as card games, *origami*, and *karuta*, but there are also themed events, such as a Halloween scavenger hunt and Ghibli-themed paper-cutting that you can enjoy with your friends. If you have any homework questions, you can even ask the TAs for help.

Through Japan Plaza, I've been able to make so many wonderful new friends in Japan Plaza that I may otherwise have not been able to meet, and it's been a surprisingly good way for me to catch my breath between schoolwork and classes.





FROSTAD, Ryan Lawrence
Brigham Young University
CJS Class of 2022



Finding the help you need as an exchange student in a foreign country can be difficult. At my home university it is very common to have a teacher's assistant in most classes whom you can send inquiries to and get help from. Classes at Nanzan do not always have a teacher's assistant available, and the professor's office hours are usually limited to a few days. In lieu of this, Nanzan's Japan Plaza was a very valuable resource. You are welcome to come and go anytime, bringing any questions you have, whether they are related to class or not.

Don't have any particular inquiries? No problem! The Japan Plaza also doubles up as a hub for full-time university students and exchange students to gather, play games, interact, and speak Japanese.

The secret to the success of Japan Plaza is its student employees. Everyone is eager to help, extremely friendly, and has a desire to help us students succeed. I was amazed at their ability to provide individualized support while working with so many students who have varying levels of understanding and speaking in Japanese.

One of my favorite parts about Japan Plaza was the ability to speak and interact with full-time university students. I was able to learn so much! What better way to learn about Japan than to take what you are learning in class and ask actual Japanese students?

I would recommend the Japan Plaza to every student. Take advantage of this amazing resource!

