



CBS Adventures Abroad

## Lynn Risser // Japan

### What was your most memorable experience?

It's hard to pick just one, but Ōkunoshima was really something. Ōkunoshima is an island a few hours east of Hiroshima, and its primary attraction is a massive population of human-acclimated rabbits. There are a couple different hypotheses as to the origin of the population, but in any case, they're all over the place and very friendly. I purchased a packet of rabbit feed before taking the ferry, which allowed me to get right up close to some of them. They've learned to be just curious enough to approach humans with food, but cautious enough to avoid bicycles and shuttle buses. There's nothing quite like being surrounded by a swarm of rabbits looking for snacks.

### How did you connect with the local community?

When I was studying in Tokyo, I had many opportunities to talk with the people there. My program partnered up with local Japanese university students, and took us all on various outings to learn about Japanese history and culture, while making friends with people our age. But many of the interactions I had happened when I was exploring the city on my own. I talked with people at museums, in stores, in train stations, and at restaurants. Even when you go on a program with organized outings, it's important to figure out what you want to do while abroad, and to make plans so you can have those experiences, and meet people with similar interests.

### Student Scoop

**Major:** Microbiology

### On why CBS students should study abroad:

No matter what aspect of biology you're studying, study abroad has value. Whether you want to become a healthcare provider, work in the biotech industries, or do research of any kind, the problems facing biologists are global in scope and will require international cooperation to tackle. Studying abroad in college can help you understand these issues and build the skills needed to contribute to the international biology community.



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