

Personal Statement

Sushi, Karaoke, Manga and Anime are coming to one's mind when he or she is thinking of Japan. But the land of the rising sun offers way more. I would be very thankful if I get the chance to experience the many facets of Japan.

I came across the country in a common way. Since I am a child I love to read and watch the stories about '*Detective Conan*'. All information from the manga/anime about the Japanese language, national holidays, food and so on have been soaked up by me. I started to read further books/articles as well as watch movies/documentaries about Japan. Additionally to my apprenticeship I took part in a language course to learn the basics of the Japanese language. The wish to visit the completely different country with its unique culture grows more and more.

On 2015/09/14 the time had finally come. My friend and I flew to Tokyo for two weeks. The main reason was holiday but I also used this journey to get a first impression of the country. We decided deliberately to stay with native people in their flats instead staying in a hotel. It was a really great experience to see into a daily routine of a Japanese family. All natives we have met were so kind to us that it made it so hard to fly back to Germany. We also got to know great people who I am looking forward to meet again.

As I am a keen photographer I can not wait to take more pictures of the changing landscape from the cold north to the tropical south. I wish I can take long walks finding amazing places and buildings to document them on a website to show my family and friends where I am and how beautiful it is there.

Especially for me as a creative person, Japan offers a great opportunity to get new inspirations. I am a garment tailor and I love to sew and design cloths. At school I mainly learnt the fashion history of western countries, but it would be great if I could learn more about Kimonos and other historical garments of Japan. To get a look into traditional wormanships will improve my skills and would be a huge honor for me. But also visiting fashion places like Harajuku will be helpful creating an outstanding portfolio for my application to a fashion design school after coming back from Japan.

To go abroad for a long time is a huge step. It is the first time for me travelling alone and I am aware of the difficulties that can occur. It will be not easy in the beginning but I will try to integrate myself in Japanese life as best as I can. There will be a lot of challenges which I have to meet during the trip. Changing those challenges into positive experiences will enrich my life and help me to strengthen my self-confidence and become more independent.

I am sure, at the end of the trip I have got a lot memories and experiences which I would not want to miss!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.
Janina Weiß