

## **Write the Experience: Travel Writing in Japan**

Studying abroad for a semester not only moves us outside of our time zone, it moves us outside of our comfort zone. This allows us to dwell for a time in difference—differences in culture, language, geography, economic and political systems, and cuisine, just to name a few. When we dwell in difference, we commit to placing ourselves in situations where we get brave and get uncomfortable, all so that we can encounter deeply and mindfully what is present and grow.

Traveling abroad for an extended period of time gives us the chance to broaden who we are, what we think, and what we are capable of. And studying abroad is actually a “two fer:” we encounter all kinds of new and exciting people, places, and ideas; *and* we gain a deep and priceless understanding of our own identities and values. And let’s be honest, what could be more amazing than traveling to Japan, experiencing the heck out of everything, and writing about it? I hope you’ll join this merry band of travelers!