

Daiwa Scholars in Japanese Studies 2017



Harriet Cooke

Harriet Cooke was awarded a BA (Hons, first class) in Japanese Studies by the University of Sheffield in 2016. As part of her degree she spent her year abroad at Kyushu University during the 2014/2015 academic year. Harriet has been studying a two-year MA in International Relations at Waseda University since September 2016, and her proposed dissertation falls under the umbrella of Japan's demographic changes; specifically, women who choose not to have children, their reasons for doing so, and the historical context of this phenomenon. Harriet's interest in Japan began at a young age through anime and literature. Her long-term career aim is to promote ties between the UK and Japan, either by working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or for an NGO.



Kendra Evans

Kendra Evans was awarded a BA (Hons, first class) in Japanese Studies by the University of Cambridge in 2016. She spent her 2014/2015 year abroad at Doshisha University. Since August 2016 Kendra was a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme in the Yamanashi Prefectural Government Tourism Department, working as a translator and interpreter and also arranging educational and business exchanges. While in Japan Kendra took calligraphy classes and reached 5th kyu. In September 2017, Kendra began an MA in History with a dissertation in Japanese Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Her dissertation will explore Japan's awareness and perceptions of Africa in early-modern history. After her MA she hopes to explore further the historical links between Japan and Africa through a PhD.



Karen Kong

Karen Kong completed an MA (Hons) in Japanese at the University of Edinburgh in 2017. As part of her degree she spent a year abroad at Kwansei Gakuin during the 2015/16 academic year. In autumn 2017, Karen began an MSc by Research in Japanese Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Her overall aim is to establish how religion affected Nara period politics by focusing on the development of religious practice in a socioreligious and political context, examining the origins of Shinto and how its functions overlapped with Buddhism, and how and why Buddhist monks gained power rapidly through the Nara period. She would also like to explore to what extent religion was used to justify politics during Nara period Japan. Karen is interested in portraiture and manga drawing, and plans to enter manga competitions in Japan. Her long-term aim is to work in academia following a PhD, mainly focussing on Japan's ancient history.