



UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program

*International Study Scholarship
Sponsored by Suresh Subramani & Feroza Ardeshir*



NHAT PHAM

Major: Mathematics

Cohort Year: 2022

Plans to study abroad in Japan 2023-2024

My family have always encouraged me to learn everything I can, even though we did not come from a privileged background. My parents have suffered the horrors of the Vietnam War, as both of my parents have their childhood taken away. Neither has finished high school, and a college education is far away from their reach. When we immigrated to the United States in 2012, we have no expectation of what our new life would be. A few years later, I have embraced my new American identity as I became a new American citizen in 2018. Yet,

I have never visited another country besides Vietnam, my old home country. As I am finishing my degree in mathematics, I realized that I want to participate in a study abroad program. Being able to study abroad allows me to further my global experience, especially in making new connections with research and industry development. My goal after my undergraduate career is to go to graduate school to pursue a PhD in applied mathematics and work in industry as a researcher. As international collaboration in research projects is the norm, being able to study abroad will be an advantage to my academic and career development. I chose Japan as the country I want to study abroad to. Japan has been one of the large players in mathematics research, so with the program that I picked, I am able to work with Japanese math professors and experience a different math experience compared to the math experience I obtained here in America.

Tohoku University is one of the top public research institutions in Japan. Being able to conduct research in such an institution will allow me to interact with great Japanese researchers and gain a rigorous international research experience that I always want. I am also interested in Japanese culture and language since I was a child, and being able to live in a city that is not Tokyo is a challenge that I want to partake in. Sendai is a beautiful city in the north of Japan with a lot of cultural experience. With the Tanabata Festival and the distinctive seasons with the amazing natural scenes of northern Japan, I would like to be able to experience those aspects.

Research in Tohoku University allow me to have both a great Japanese experience, both in academics and culture. Even though I am nervous about living and studying in a foreign country that I am not familiar with, allowing myself to see the world and experiencing new cultures and languages will make me a globally minded person. Being able to represent the Vietnamese American community as a study abroad student in Japan is my honor. My family story will have a new chapter: a successful first generation Vietnamese American furthering applied mathematics for the international community.

