of recent Notre Dame Japanese majors started full-time jobs, enrolled in graduate school, entered service programs, joined the military, or launched independent projects within six months of graduation.

Max Kennard ’18
Japanese major
Master’s student, robotics,
University of Tsukuba
(Ibaraki, Japan)

“I have always been interested in
Japanese culture and dreamed
to one day be able to study
robotics in Japan, so I decided
to major in Japanese in addition to
mechanical engineering.

“My experience in the Japanese
program was extremely beneficial
during my study abroad experience.
I had visited Japan before, but was
nervous about whether or not it
was a place I could see myself living
long-term. The fears quickly left
after only spending a few days in the
country, and the fun I had during that
experience was enough to propel me
to return later for graduate school.

“Living in Japan now, I use the
language every day. My lab is very
diverse, and even though our working
language is English, I constantly
use Japanese with my classmates
outside the lab.

“Because I majored in Japanese,
I’m able to better appreciate and
participate in my surroundings on
a day-to-day basis. Even with only
a basic foreign language ability, so
many doors open to you when you
live in or visit a country where that
language is spoken.”

Curriculum requirements
Completion of third-year Japanese
or its equivalent (fourth-year and/or
advanced Japanese is encouraged)

3 upper-division Japanese and
literature courses

Additional coursework in Asian Studies

Study everything. Do anything.

Study Japanese. Do anything.