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“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.”