

## Study Abroad

Art History examines the visual and material culture of the entire globe. One of the most important and memorable experiences many students have during their college years is travel to an unfamiliar place, and we encourage all our students to seek out opportunities to study abroad. For information about current study abroad program offered through NIU, visit <http://www.niu.edu/studyabroad/>

In spring 2016, art history professor Helen Nagata was involved in the creation of a new study abroad program, **Japanese Culture, History, Art and Education**, that we hope to offer again periodically. The first week in Yamaguchi, Hofu and Hagi, featured lectures and visits to temples, villas, museums, gardens, memorials of historical and cultural importance, and area schools. Students hiked through the Akiyoshi dō cavern and plains, experienced forest “bathing,” a bicycle tour of Hagi city, and hands-on pottery-making, tea ceremony, and paper-making. The second week was devoted to field trips to Hiroshima, Itsukushima, Himeji Castle, and ended with two nights at hotels in Osaka so students could explore Osaka and Kyoto. Most memorable of all were the friendly interactions, not only with Yamaguchi Prefectural University students and faculty, but also the hostel and inn hosts, teachers and children at the elementary and high schools, and even local restaurants. This program was the collaborative effort of Professors Helen Nagata (Art History), Stephen Tonks (Education), John Bentley (Language and Literature), the NIU Study-Abroad Office, and the International Programs department of Yamaguchi Prefectural University, headed by Robert Schalkoff.