

# Aaron C. Sponseller

Associate Professor  
Osaka Jogakuin College



## email:

[sponseller@wilmina.ac.jp](mailto:sponseller@wilmina.ac.jp)  
[japansaproject@gmail.com](mailto:japansaproject@gmail.com)

## websites/socials:



**JAPAN STUDY ABROAD  
PROJECT**

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## SUMMARY OF RESEARCH TO-DATE

I've been engaged in study abroad research since 2016 when I was approached about accompanying students on two-week sojourns abroad to Australia and Vietnam. As I dove into the literature I quickly realized the field of study abroad research is both inherently interdisciplinary and full of compelling research gaps waiting to be filled. My doctoral research on study abroad asks two primary questions:

- How do study tours abroad benefit students' development of intercultural effectiveness?
- How do individual and programmatic differences influence students' development of intercultural effectiveness?

Published outcomes of my research to-date have focused on the development of reliable and contextually-relevant instruments for measuring individual differences related to study abroad motivation ([Sponseller, 2020, 2022](#)) and self-efficacy ([Kabir & Sponseller, 2020](#)).

I'm currently PI for a [JSPS Tybe B research grant](#) focused on study tours abroad. We are investigating several models for sojourner change which account for personality, linguistic proficiency, aspects of self-efficacy, and other variables we suspect influence the impact of sojourns abroad on Japanese undergraduates.

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## TEACHING & RESEARCH BACKGROUND

I began teaching in 2006 on the JET Programme. After returning to the U.S. and completing a TESOL certificate at UC Berkeley and my MA TESOL at San Francisco State University, I returned to Japan as a MEXT-funded research scholar investigating team-taught classrooms. My university teaching experience began in 2014 as a full-time lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at Hiroshima University. I began my PhD in applied linguistics at Temple University Japan in 2015 and am presently ABD. While my primary research since 2016 has been short-term study abroad programs, I'm also interested in Japanese parent-child storybook reading in English as a possible approach to boosting EFL literacy development in Japan.