

Study Abroad Evaluation

General Information			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Host Country	Japan		
Host School/Agency	Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies		
Participation Dates	September 2014 – February 2015		
Your Program of Study	Japanese JASIN Program		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize why you rated your experience the way you did	It was a great opportunity to travel and meet people. I'm glad I looked into this opportunity and acted on it.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	It was a bit stressful because the locations for obtaining the travel documents are far and the hours aren't too convenient. The visas were approved pretty quickly though		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	I just had one flight from Vancouver to Narita Airport and then one extra flight from Narita to Fukuoka Airport. No, I would not have changed my flight plans because it was the most convenient way to get there as there are no planes direct from Vancouver to Fukuoka		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	It went smoothly with no issues		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	The meeting place for new students for my host school was actually at Fukuoka Airport so everyone gathered there, stayed at a pre-arranged hotel the night before, and then all took a bus to Nagasaki. The bus ride was approximately 4-5 hours. I don't remember the cost as it was just part of the "entrance fees"		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?	The orientation was great. It was really informative and I learned lots. It was just also a bit stressful because it felt rushed and most people came to the school with barely any information.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your evaluation of your host schools international staff or	The help was great. Staff is readily available in the office or by email. They typically answer all questions within one day and do whatever they can to help you find out the answer for things that they do not know either.		



office?	
Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)	
How was new student orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?	The tour of the school grounds was good but most of the information given seemed bit tedious as most of the things were mentioned on paper (in our welcome packages)
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people and resources available for you to talk to about what you were experiencing?	I didn't have much trouble adjusting so I didn't feel the need to seek help.
Housing	
Describe your accommodation in your host country.	I lived in the dorms.
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	Most students arrived around a week before school started and we were allowed to stay up to two weeks after school ended to leave the dorms.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	I was satisfied with the accommodations
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	There were two options: meal plan or no meal plan. I opted out of the meal plan thinking I would save money by cooking my own food.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	The dorm was a 5 minute walk from the school.
Academics & Course Registration	
Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Registration for the school was done months before the start of school and the courses were done during orientations. Course registration was a bit hectic and unorganized but everything eventually sorted itself out.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	Unless something is done to organize the course registration, be prepared for a lot of confusion and editing of courses.
What course load would you recommend for future students? Are there particular courses	The program courses are pretty basic so I would recommend new students to just try as much as they can.

would you recommend?	
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	
How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Yes
How did the style of teaching compare to Canada? How did the workload compare to Canada?	The workload was a lot less than what I had thought. The style varies in that there are mostly quizzes and tests rather than a big exam like in Canada
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	6
If applicable, what impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	It was hard to ask questions with the language barrier
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Well-stocked
Cost	
Books and Supplies/per term:	40
Flight:	1400 total
Accommodation/per month:	100 (which was then halved with my roommate)
Meals/per month:	250 approx.
Local transportation/per month:	25
Health insurance/per term:	50
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	0
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	20
Vaccinations:	50
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	500
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	Food and groceries were a lot more expensive than I had thought
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities available at your host site?	There weren't a lot of options for clubs.

What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	There are a lot of meet-ups that students organize themselves but I didn't know of many that were offered by the school
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	I didn't do any work or volunteering but there was a form to fill out for a work visa at the airport if wanted.
Health and Safety	
Did you feel safe in your host country?	Yes
Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	None
Personal and Cultural Connections	
How successful were you at making friends with local (not international) people and students?	Successful
How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?	No
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	Nothing in particular
What part(s) of the culture did you most appreciate?	The mannerisms and politeness of language
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	Everyone is very understanding
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	It would be alright, given that they have special courses arranged.
As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	The school isn't very handicap accessible (as it is at the top of a hill)
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or	It wouldn't appear to be a problem.

transgendered?	
Overall	
What are five important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	
1. Living expenses will cost a lot	
2. Food will cost a lot	
3. Be prepared to rely on asking for help/directions a lot	
4. Be prepared to be feeling confused a lot	
5. Don't expect to be buying a lot of things	
What are ten important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?	
1. Pick courses that you are interested in and want to learn about (don't take courses for the sake of credits)	
2. Expect to walk a lot (especially on hills)	
3. Do not overpack when preparing	
4. It is highly recommended to have a roommate	
5. Keep track of your finances	
6. Make lots of local friends	
7. Use a scheduler/planner	
8. Make sure you have the means to communicate with classmates/teachers (email, facebook, etc.)	
9.	
10.	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Making friends with locals and the other people in my program
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	As mentioned before, asking questions was the most difficult part.
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	Going abroad has made me realize that there are a lot of opportunities to educate myself through travel and meeting people
What else do you want to add out your study abroad experience?	

