

## Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS	
Your Name	[REDACTED]
Your Program of Study/Year	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (HISTORY) 2ND YEAR
Host Country	JAPAN
Host School/Agency	RYUKOKU UNIVERSITY
Participation Dates	APRIL 1 - AUGUST 3
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Practicum <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Section 1	
GENERAL EVALUATION	
Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10 (one being poor and 10 being exceptional)	10
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	IN THE TIME THERE I WAS ABLE TO EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING JAPAN HAD TO OFFER. FROM TEMPLES/SHRINES, CULTURE, FOOD, LANGUAGE TO NIGHTLIFE. THE PEOPLE I MET, BOTH JAPANESE + INTERNATIONAL MADE IT EVEN BETTER + HAVE FORMED FRIENDSHIPS THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME
Section 2	
ARRIVAL	
How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)? *Always verify immigration regulations with the consulate or embassy of your host country*	WITH MY PASSPORT I HAD TO WAIT FOR THE PARTNER SCHOOL TO SEND ME A LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE. WITH THAT + AN APPLICATION I HAD TO TAKE THOSE TO THE JAPANESE CONSULATE DOWNTOWN + SUBMIT THEM. AFTER 1 WEEK I HAD TO GO BACK + PICK IT UP.
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	MOST FLIGHTS TO JAPAN WILL GO DIRECT TO TOKYO BUT BECAUSE I WAS GOING TO KYOTO I HAD TO ARRIVE AT TOKYO + TRANSFER TO OSAKA WHERE A TUTOR PICKED ME UP. AFTER STAYING + BEING FAMILIAR W/ THE AREA, THE CHEAPEST WAY TO GET TO KYOTO FROM OSAKA AIRPORT (TAMI OR KANSAI) WAS THE AIRPORT BUS FOR \$20
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	VERY SIMPLE. ONCE AT KANSAI I HAD TO GO THROUGH CUSTOMS, HAVE FINGER PRINTS TAKEN + PICTURE
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I HAD A TUTOR WHO PICKED ME UP FROM KANSAI AIRPORT. IF YOU ARRIVE WITHIN CERTAIN TIME THEY WILL DO THAT FOR FREE. IF NOT FROM KANSAI TO KYOTO BY TRAIN IS ~\$35 EACH WAY, \$20 BY AIRPORT BUS BUT WILL HAVE TO PAY \$4 TO TRAVEL FROM KYOTO TO SETA.
Section 3	
ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE	

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	VERY. ABLE TO GET INFO ON TRANSPORTATION, CULTURE, DORMS, CAMPUS ETC.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	DIDNT NEED MUCH HELP FROM THEM BUT STAFF WAS VERY ACCOMMODATING WHEN NEEDED.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	HAD A 4 DAY ORIENTATION. SHOWED US AROUND CAMPUS + HOW TO USE LIBRARY + COMPUTER LAB. WENT OVER SAFETY ISSUES + TRANSPORTATION. HELPED US SELECT COURSES.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing?	I KNEW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO CULTURALLY BUT THE LANGUAGE BARRIER AT THE BEGINNING WAS DIFFICULT. THERE WERE OTHER INTL STUDENTS WHO COULD HELP + JAPANESE STUDENTS THAT WOULD HELP ALSO. THE DORM ALSO HAD A MALE + FEMALE TUTOR WHO COULD HELP ANYTIME
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	THEY WERE HELPFUL BUT MAJORITY DID NOT SPEAK ENGLISH.

#### Section 4

##### HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	LIVED IN INTERNATIONAL DORM WITH 1 ROOMMATE
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	YOU COULD MOVE INTO DORM 1 WEEK BEFORE CLASSES STARTED + AFTER + JUST PAY UTILITIES. YOU COULD MOVE IN EARLIER OR STAY LATER BUT THEN WOULD HAVE TO PAY MONTHLY RENT
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	VERY. HAD MY OWN 2 ROOMS + WASHROOM W/ SHOWER. SHARED COMMON ROOM W/ TV + TABLE + LARGE KITCHEN
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	COOKED FOR MYSELF AS THERE ARE PLENTY OF MARKETS CLOSE BY. SHARED PINNER RESPONSIBILITIES W/ OTHER STUDENTS IN DORM. UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA WAS CHEAP + GOOD WHEN AT SCHOOL. ONLY ATE LUNCH THERE. CONVENIENCE STORES WERE CHEAP + GOOD OPTIONS. FOOD OVERALL WAS GREAT.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	I WOULD BIKE 10 MIN OR WALK 20 TO THE BUS STATION. BY BUS IT WOULD TAKE 10 MIN. IF YOU WALKED TO CAMPUS FROM DORM 45 MIN WALK.

#### Section 5

##### COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What	WE WERE GIVEN A LIST OF CLASSES - OFFERED (ENG + JAP) + HAD TO CHOOSE A MIN OF 8.
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assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	WE HAD SYLLABUS TO LOOK OVER + HAD A WEEK TO SUBMIT CLASSES.
How successful were you in registering for classes? What advice would you offer to another exchange student about how to register at your host institution?	FAIRLY STRAIGHT FORWARD IF NO JAPANESE SKILL DONT TAKE CLASSES IN JAPANESE. TEST, PAPERS + TEXTBOOK ARE ALL IN JAPANESE
How many courses did you take per semester? What course load would you recommend for future students? What particular courses would you recommend to other students?	8 BUT COULD TAKE MORE. 2 ARE MANDATORY (RELIGION + SEMINAR) TAKE ALL 3 JAPANESE COURSES. WRITTEN, GRAMMAR, + CONVERSATION

### Section 6

#### ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES HELPED ALOT + LEARNED ALOT. THE JAS CLASSES IN ENGLISH ARE VERY BASIC
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	STYLE OF TEACHING WAS SIMILAR. READINGS THEN LECTURES ON THEM. BUT ONLY WENT THROUGH 3 CHAPTER OF BOOK IN SEMESTER BECAUSE JAPANESE STUDENTS ALSO IN CLASS. PAPERS WERE NO LONGER THAN 3 PAGES. JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES WERE DONE AT YOUR OWN PACE
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	7
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	CLASSES IN ENGLISH NO PROBLEM. HAD 1 JAPANESE LANGUAGE TEACHER WHO COULD NOT SPEAK ENGLISH + HAD HARD TIME ASKING QUESTIONS REGARDING LANGUAGE
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	HAD LOTS OF COMPUTERS IN LIBRARY + LABS. PRINTING FROM COMPUTERS WAS FREE (ONLY GOT 400 FREE PAGES)

### Section 7

#### COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	\$200
Flight	\$1200-\$1900
Accommodation – per month	¥35,000 (\$380)
Meals – per month	\$200-\$250
Local transportation – per	\$250

7 TRY TO HANG AROUND LOCAL FRIENDS THAN FOREIGNERS BECAUSE YOU WILL PICK UP LANGUAGE	
8 DONT LET LANGUAGE BARRIER OR UNFAMILIARITY BRING YOU DOWN	
9 GO IN WITH AN OPEN MIND	
10	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	MEETING SO MANY NEW FRIENDS FROM JAPAN + AROUND THE WORLD. ALSO BEEN ABLE TO SEE MY "ROOTS" BEEN A JAPANESE CANADIAN
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	LANGUAGE BARRIER AT BEGINNING BECAUSE NOBODY SPOKE ENGLISH + I DIDNT SPEAK JAPANESE
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	