

General Information			
Host Country	Japan		
Host School	Ryukoku University		
Program start & end dates	Sept 2022 - Jan 2023		
Program of Study	Japanese Language and Culture		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize and explain your general evaluation of your experience.	Overall a great experience to have being able to study abroad and being able to meet new people. Great experience to have to learn and grow as a person.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	once I had all my documents it was relatively fast getting my visa. But the host university is really slow at sending the necessary documents so I felt rushed getting my visa.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	was driven to the airport by family 3 hours ahead. Took 2 planes to get to my host city. Would not change any part of it since this was the easiest way I found to get to my host city.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	There weren't any surprises. was relatively fast getting through customs and immigration.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	Took around a day. Had to stay overnight at a friend's place as I landed late at night. The next day my friend helped me get to my host facility by local trains.		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?	Somewhat satisfied.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	Found more help through student tutors than the office.		
Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)			
How was new student orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?	Somewhat satisfied. Helpful to have a campus tour.		
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?	Found it easy as I had an idea of what the culture is like. Making friends to experience it with helped a lot.		
Housing & Daily Life			
Describe your accommodation in	Relatively clean. Has cleaners clean every day. It is		

your host country.	a mixed facility so it can get loud at times. the staff are really nice
When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	First day of september till two months after your program ends.
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	Shrines, gyms, grocery stores, lots of restaurants, Convenience stores, cafes, parks and train stations.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	Sometimes went out to eat at local restaurants. Most of the time made food at the dorms. The food in Japan is really good and cheap.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	Five minute walk.

**Academics & Course Registration**

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Was confusing and only had a slide show that explains how to do it.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	Take more than you need so you can see which ones you like and drop the ones you don't since they won't allow you to add classes after you register.
What tips do you have for finding the courses and course syllabuses/outlines?	It was hard to find and can only be found using their data base but it is all in Japanese.

**Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)**

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	somewhat satisfied.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	I feel there was a lot of presentations to do compared to Canada and a lot of homework. For my core Japanese classes it was more group learning than individual.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad? Are there particular courses would you recommend?	16 credits so around 6-7 classes. If you are advanced Japanese level I would recommend taking special lectures 1G0 class as it was easy GPA booster class.
If applicable, what impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	It is good to learn the basic before going.
What was your impression of the	The library was a good place to go study and

computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	do homework since the dorm rooms did not have wifi. I found it very convenient for my study habits and schedule.
<b>Cost</b>	
Books and Supplies/per term:	\$200
Flight:	\$1,500 round trip.
Accommodation/per month:	\$220/month for double room
Meals/per month:	\$1000
Local transportation/per month:	\$200
Health insurance/per term:	\$200
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	
Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	
Vaccinations:	
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$8,000
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	Fruits are really expensive.
<b>Extra-Curricular &amp; Social Activities</b>	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	There are clubs and circles you can join just have to research which ones you want to join.
Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?	Hiroshima was a very nice place to visit. The locals were very nice and helpful.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	At school you can apply to be a English tutor. I personally did not do it though.
<b>Health and Safety</b>	
Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	I was sick twice during my stay.
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	Just have to buy medicine from the drugstore as I found that my medicine I brought from Canada did not work. I recommend Lulu attack.
<b>Personal and Cultural Connections</b>	
How successful were you at making friends with local (not	pretty successful. I had friends that introduced me to them so it was a lot easier to meet

international) people and students?	Japanese people. But in general if I didn't have that introduction it would have been hard to make Japanese friends.
How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?	There were minor culture shocks but I found it really easy to adjust. Just have to research what the culture is like to make adjustments easy.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	None
What part(s) of the culture did you most appreciate?	Very helpful people and accomodating.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	were treated normally.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	easy. There are ramps in certain places and every building have elevators.
As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	In certain places depends on where you go you might face discrimination.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	Might face some discrimination from older people. The younger generation seems to be more open about it.

**Overall**

What are <b>five</b> important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?
1. Basic Japanese
2. Bring lots of money
3. Take passport with you all the time → some places offer tax exemption
4. Explore as much as you can
5. Buy transit card → will be transiting a lot on local trains.
What are <b>ten</b> important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?
1. Bring A Pillow + towels
2. Put your name on everything you bring / buy.
3. Clean up after yourself since you share bathrooms, kitchen, and showers
4. Ask tutors for help
5. Buy a wifi router if you want wifi in your room
6. Go to events hosted by tutors to meet people
7. have an open mind
8. Try to get a single room if you don't want to sleep in bunk beds



9. they don't supply pots or pans so some people bought	
10. recommend 天来 (tenei) best tempura place just around the corner of the dorms!	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	meeting people around the world and making deep connections with them.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Missing Christmas with the family. Basically all the seasonal stuff that you can do in Canada but not in Japan.
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	Japan is culturally different from Canada and it opened my mind more on how they live and interact with people.
What else do you want to add about your study abroad experience?	I wish I had done a full year. Half a year is not enough to learn the language if your goal is to get better in that language.

Below is a space to share any photos (this is optional and may be shared on our website).