

AUG 10 2015

STUDY ABROAD EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad Program: Waseda 4-Week Summer Session

Quarter(s) of Participation: Summer

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

The program provides a housing option at one of their hotel locations.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

The orientation covered the overall schedule and expectations of the classes and events for the program. We were also introduced to the teachers and student assistants of the program. There was also an overview of safety and usage of the rental cellular phones. The orientation helped to introduce me to some of the other students who were also part of the program, and later became my friends.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure
- instruction
- teacher/student relations
- grading/exams
- administration
- library, computer, and classroom facilities

Compared to the UW system, the classes for this program encouraged more participation from students. The classes focused on Japan's culture and also wanted to hear student input and opinions based on their own country's cultural background. Classroom sizes were smaller, which allowed for closer relationships amongst students and teachers as well. Because this session was only 4 weeks, students were not only encouraged to do well in their classes, but also to enjoy their short time in Japan by exploring. The workload of these classes was reasonable and access to the library and classroom facilities was easy to have.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Instructors were very informative of their respective topics and open for students' input and opinions on their topics. The workload given was very reasonable as they understood that students were there to learn and explore Japan as well.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

If students were interested in Japanese culture, then I would recommend them to take the culture courses in this program. There may be more work compared to some other classes, but students would learn a lot of information and engage in the culture in some field trips specifically for these culture courses.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

I took a course about Japanese business management in order to better understand the cultural differences between the U.S. and Japan. I want to become a pharmacist to develop new medications and if I would want to bring these medications abroad, then I would need to become familiarized with other cultures. Because of this, I have a better understanding of how the Japanese culture affects their businesses.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

There were 3 housing options available. One was a traditional Japanese hotel and the other two were regular hotels.

b. Which did you choose, and why?

The program chose my accommodation. I was not able to rank or choose where I would stay in.

c. What would you recommend?

I liked my hotel where I stayed in, which was the FlexStay Inn Ekoda. Although it took 40 minutes to get to school either by subway or bus, the area was very quiet and calm. There were also many restaurants and other stores very close by, which was nice to have.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is centered around many smaller shops and restaurants, so it can be hard to find for the first time around. On campus, it was easy to find the classrooms since the program specifically scheduled classes to be in two buildings. Overall, the faculty and students at the campus were very friendly, making my academics more enjoyable.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

I believe it is important to bring hand sanitizer and tissues in your backpack because some bathrooms do not provide soap or toilet paper. Tokyo is pretty safe – it is always better to travel with one other person, but at times I needed to get to places on my own and I felt safe. I believe it is also important to have cellular data in order to communicate and navigate.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

This program had students from schools in different countries, which was nice since not everyone was from the host school. The primary language spoken was English, so it was very interesting to meet and become friends with students internationally. The school had a cultural center specifically for international students and hosted cultural events that would teach and allow students to experience Japanese culture.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

Learning some common phrases and bowing was a challenge for me, but luckily some of my friends were familiar with the culture so I was able to learn from them.

Adjusting to the food portions was also a big challenge. This was my first time traveling abroad, and I did not realize how much the food portion sizes would affect me. Because of the smaller food portions, I had to buy second meals or extra snacks.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

It is best to exchange currency before travelling, as it saves time and effort to find the banks.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

The program was only 4 weeks, and I probably spent a little over \$1000 USD. Most of my money went towards food and transportation. Other expenses were for entertainment or souvenirs.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

I did not realize how much I would use the subway and bus in Japan, so I charged a lot of my money towards my Suica transportation card.

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them?

No, there were no problems.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

Please comment on the effectiveness of the UW Study Abroad Office's services. What service could be improved?

UW Study Abroad Office's services were helpful in the process of applying for study abroad programs; however, I wish there were more informational sessions that would have informed me more of what to expect from my own specific program. It also would have been nice to meet the other students attending the study abroad program beforehand.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

This program is best suited for students who are interested in the Japanese culture and desire to have a career in Japan. However, I believe this program is a great experience for any student ready to take on the challenge to go abroad. For me, this was my first time traveling abroad and it was definitely a challenge, but I enjoyed every moment in the program. I was able to experience a new culture, explore a new country, have many adventures and memories, and made new friends from all around the world.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I was expecting vigorous academic classes and a major culture shock going into the program. However, my expectations turned out to be unrealistic. The classes were purposely structured to be fairly easygoing in order for students to enjoy their time in Japan. There was a culture shock, but I was able to adjust to the new culture along with other students who were experiencing the same feeling.

JUL 30 2015

STUDY ABROAD EVALUATION REPORT

Your Name:

Name of Study Abroad Program: Waseda Summer Session

Quarter(s) of Participation: 4 weeks

E-mail Address:

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Look out for the school signs because students usually arrive before the time. I waited in the spot they told us to wait at but I realized that majority of the students were already sitting in an area together.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

It went over schedules, teachers and important dates. It was quite helpful since a lot of us came to the summer program not knowing the details about the program.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:

- classroom structure: very informal, open to discussion
- instruction: clear
- teacher/student relations : great relationship since the teachers are also foreigners
- grading/exams: easy but a lot of work
- administration: very helpful
- library, computer, and classroom facilities: I didn't use them so I'm not sure

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Clear but during the Nikko Field trip, instructions were very flexible.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

Business 1 class teacher, Parissa

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?
I took business and economics which relate to my business major

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?
Square Nishitokyo

b. Which did you choose, and why?
I did not get to choose, we were randomly placed

c. What would you recommend?
Takadanobaba because it's the closest dorm to the university

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Very safe and convenient. There's a family mart close by and a lot of vending machines. Also there are a variety of small restaurants close by.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

Japan is very safe so I was not concerned. If I had to really pick one thing, then it would be drunken people at night. They will not attack you but there are a lot of people drinking at night

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?
(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)
go to festivals and learn about Japans culture in class

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.
(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

I feel like I am a very open minded person so I did not face very difficult cultural challenges. There was something that I had to get used to and that was the fact that there are rarely any trash cans close by.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

ATM at the airport. There are ATM machines at 7-11 but it might not take international credit card

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

I think \$1000 should be enough. Majority of the money I spent was for transportation and food

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Transportation fees are very expensive, even if you only take train, subway or buses. Its because I had to take all three of these transportation everyday

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program, were there any problems? If so, how did you address them? I did not have financial aid

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

Please comment on the effectiveness of the UW Study Abroad Office's services. What service could be improved?

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

Its suited for any types of student. I'm quite introverted but I had an amazing time here. I made so many friends and memories. This honestly is the best experience I ever went through

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

The summer session exceeded my expectations

