

OCT 07 2014

ATW Program @ Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Summer 14

I am willing to talk about the program with other students through email.

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Dear Foreign Study Returnee:

The International Programs and Exchanges Office requires that students enrolled in University of Washington direct exchanges or foreign study programs submit a final report to our office concerning their experiences abroad. This report has a dual purpose: to help us evaluate our current exchange ties and programs and to help us inform and orient students who will be participating on foreign study (or are considering applying) in the future. We ask you to reflect on your experiences abroad by addressing each of the topics in this outline. Advice or comments on other topics are also welcome.

The reports are kept on file in the International Programs and Exchanges Office and are available to any prospective student or interested faculty or staff member. If you wish your report to be read by the International Programs and Exchanges Office only, and withheld from all others, please write **CONFIDENTIAL** at the top of your report.

Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate your time and effort.

PLEASE TYPE YOUR REPORT OR WRITE LEGIBLY. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO BE CONTACTED BY THE IP&E OR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CURRENT AND PERMANENT PHONE NUMBERS AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESSES. THANK YOU!

IP&E PROGRAM EVALUATION OUTLINE:

Please list your name, program location, term/year of participation, and your current and permanent phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses at the top of your report.

1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

Program provided accommodation before the orientation began. They facilitated pick up from the airport.

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

It covered classes, the schedule of the program's activities, and some basics about Japanese culture, manners, and etiquette. It was not incredibly informative, but would be helpful for people that have no experience with Japan.

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

The teachers were brought in from around the world, so the instruction really depended on the class and the teacher's specific teaching style. Overall, it was much faster paced than UW courses, but the workload was not overwhelming.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Again, depends on the class. Japanese language was very fast paced and intensive, the culture classes not as much. I learned a ton in both.

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

The courses and instructors change each summer.

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

Because it had two culture classes related to Japan, I should be able to get credit towards the International Studies major for them. The Japanese language obviously works into this as well.

3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

Dorm or hotel, plus homestay

b. Which did you choose, and why?

Hotel, because it was only slightly more expensive and it was a 10 minute walk to the campus, vs a 40 minute train commute. The homestay was good, but I would recommend requesting a family that has children.

c. What would you recommend?

Either option would be good. I actually ended up staying in the hotel, dorm, and two different home stays, and they were all fun in their own way.

4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

Campus was very old, but the international center was in a great area that had the library and cafeteria very close. There is a large main street with convenience stores, grocery, restaurants, and an arcade very close, all of this is about 15-30 minute walk.

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.

None

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.)

The program had a tutor program where we were paired with Japanese students to show us around. Although my tutor almost never was around, I made quick friends with a lot of the other tutors and had a ton of fun seeing the city with them. The program also offered trips (one to Karatsu Castle, one to Miyajima and Hiroshima) which were great experiences.

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

Besides being too tall in older houses and buildings, I actually felt pretty much right at home.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

7-11 ATMs are surcharge free, you only have to pay the conversion fee that your bank charges.

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

Besides program costs, I spent about \$1000 a month, but I ate out almost every and bought tons of gifts for my friends and family.

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

I bought too much and had to send a box back to America (about \$100 for a big box full of books)

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

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

The ATW Program staff were some of the friendliest, most accommodating people I have ever met. I highly recommend the program just for that fact alone. They are all caring, fun people that work their hardest to make the study abroad enjoyable.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

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

Because there are many different Japanese levels, any student that is interested in learning about the language or culture would have a good time. I got to meet tons of Japanese students and the rest of the program was almost entirely international.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

I didn't really know what to expect, but from my studies of Japan I ended up feeling like it was basically just as I imagined. I learned a lot about Japanese language, the people, and the culture through both the classes and the extracurricular, so I feel it was the most worthwhile way to spend my summer.

JAN 05 2010

December 17, 2009

Kyushu University – International Program/Exchange Evaluation Report

1. Arrival Overseas/on-site orientation

- a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

The Kyushu University dormitories are in relatively good condition, and are very cheap. They also allow you to be near your fellow students, and I recommend them.

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

A few days after arriving, the whole JTW group (about 40 students) went on a friendship-building trip around Kyushu. We went and saw a whole bunch of historical sites (which included some beautiful views, Kumamoto Castle), and stayed the night in a facility owned by Kyudai (that means Kyushu University). There was a hot spring, food provided, and plenty of fun to be had staying up late. This whole trip brought us together and we were very "together" for the rest of the study abroad.

2. Academics:

- a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare classroom structure, instruction, teacher/student relations, grading/exams, administration, and library/computer facilities to the University of Washington.

The quality of Japanese instruction you will receive at Kyushu University is superior to that you could ever receive at the UW, simply because you are in Japan. If you are serious about getting better at Japanese, or even learning about Japanese culture, you need to go there to really learn. UW classes are well done, but when you actually start using Japanese on a daily basis, you learn quicker, and things sink in because they *have* to sink in.

The teachers were phenomenal. Almost all of them. I specifically liked my Japanese teachers (both general and speaking classes), and all of my professors for the English-taught classes on Japanese culture/history. I do have one piece of advice, however, which is to make sure you don't take a class from a teacher you have trouble understanding. These teachers are in the minority, so there are plenty of choices open to you.

I was able to get to know and like most of my teachers, especially Tamah Nakamura, Tim Cross, and my S-5 Speaking teacher. Jordan Pollack is also a great guy, and I've heard good things about his classes.

Administration is good; things are well organized and easy to accomplish. You have a tutor available to you when you arrive, who will be able to help you with anything you don't understand.

Grading is easier than it is at the UW, although the Japanese classes can still be pretty challenging. But the English-taught classes are pretty easy to get good grades in. That said, I thought that the course content was amazingly good, and the idea that it's easy to get good grades shouldn't make you think that the classes are boring. On the contrary. There were some library facilities, but obviously not on the same scale as the UW. But they are more than sufficient for the JTW program, which has its own mini-computer lab.

- b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Absolutely amazing, except for my Development Assistance Economics class, which was pretty boring.

- c. Miyazaki Hayao's World, Haruki Murakami, Gender in Contemporary Japan, Tea Ceremony, the J-5 and S-5 classes (other levels should be equally good), the Modern Law class, all absolutely phenomenal. I loved the teachers and learned a lot in the classes. Jordan Pollack's classes are also good, or so I have heard. He teaches classes on Japanese culture and sociology.

- d. I am a computer science major, so this study abroad was purely to pursue a language learning/Japan passion. I may teach Japanese later on in my life in high school, but it wasn't directly related to my degree. That said, my Japanese improved a lot lot lot, and I really liked the classes I took. If you're a Japanese or International Studies major, almost everything you take will count towards something in your degree.

3. Housing

- a. What housing options were available to you?

Kyushu University dormitory (the Kokusai Kaikan Kouryuu or something) was available. Apartments are probably also available.

- b. What did you choose, and why?

Obviously chose the dormitory. It's a great place to stay in my opinion, and all your friends are nearby. It has a great location, and it takes about 15-20 minutes to get to class. There is shopping nearby, and food.

- c. See b. I would recommend the dorms.

4. Program/exchange site: Describe the campus and surrounding community.

The campus is sprawling, a pretty big campus. The buildings aren't nearly as beautiful as the UW, in typical Japanese style, but you really only need to go to one building, the International building. It was recently renovated and is in good shape. Classrooms have large monitors and are in good condition.

The surrounding community is Fukuoka, basically, a huge city with many sub wards. There's Tenjin if you want a downtown experience, there's Hisayama if you want Costco and other big stores, there's a big street right near campus with all sorts of restaurants and stores, there's a large baseball field near the dorms if you want to play there, there's more shopping and interesting towns near the subway station closest to the Kaikan. There's a lot to do for sure, and you won't be able to explore it all by the time you leave.

5. Health and Safety:

I had absolutely no health concerns. You do need to lock up your bike, although I suspect that even if you didn't, you wouldn't have problems. There is almost no concern about the safety of

the things in your room, although you should lock your room anyway. The country provides you with health insurance at a very low price (nominal), so if you do get sick it isn't a problem. I never had to visit the doctor there, though.

6. Cultural Aspects

- a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?

You actually have to put effort into integrating yourself with the community. My biggest success/good fortune here came with the Susenji Elementary field trip. We stayed with a host family, and I am still on very good terms with mine. We became good friends, and I was able to visit them for 5 days at a time sometimes. I also got a lot better at Japanese thanks to them. I still keep in contact with them.

I also met a disabled woman who was very nice, and had lunch with her several times. There are quite a few tutors (everyone has a tutor), and some people become good friends with theirs. Unfortunately I didn't really like mine too much, so we didn't hang out often. But there are plenty of opportunities to get to know Japanese people.

- b. Describe cultural activities and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.

I didn't really encounter any challenges, the Japanese people are pretty open. However, I did become a lot more tactful and polite after arriving in Japan—in fact, all the Americans did. We turned from loud, rude Americans into tactful ones, all without losing our sense of fun. That'll happen without you realizing it, especially if you have an open mind.

I didn't have any issues with gender differences.

7. Financial:

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

I had a scholarship from the Japanese government, so I didn't need to transfer *any* money. I did use travelers checks once at the post office, and that was very easy to do. I would assume that transferring money from a bank, or using a debit or credit card, is the best approach, but you would have to double check this with someone who actually had to withdraw money.

- b. How much spending do you recommend per month? Rent, food, transportation.

I spent \$150 on the rent (yeah, I said it was cheap didn't I?), \$200 average on food, and less than \$100 on transportation. That's \$450, and anything beyond that can be spent on entertainment, and hanging out with your friends. My problem was actually not spending enough money. I should have gone out and splurged a bit more.

- c. Any unexpected expenses?

Yes. You will spend a lot of money in the first month furnishing your apartment. If you spend your money wisely, you will end up spending a lot less here. I got a lot better at getting cheap food as time went on. It pays to go to the smaller grocery stores where they don't charge as much.

- d. If you used financial aid, were there any complications?

I had a government scholarship. It was very simple, and I got a lot of money up front (\$1500-ish), and \$800 every month. In yen, of course. I just had to pick it up every month, very simple.

8. Program/Exchange Administration

a. Please comment on the IPE's services. What could be improved?

I wish I had access to feedback like this! Although I ended up learning everything, and probably wouldn't have paid attention to feedback anyway. :P I thought the IPE did a good job though, and the whole process was easier than I expected.

9. Program/Student Type:

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

Any student of Japanese culture or language would benefit greatly from this program. Also, anyone looking for personal development is in for a good ride; you'll come out a better, more integrated person than when you came in. I recommend study abroad to anyone, and Japan to anyone that loves Japan.

10. Overall Experience

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Some expectations weren't realistic. I didn't spend hours in Zen temples meditating (thank God). I expected to get better at Japanese and I did, no surprises there.

I was pleasantly surprised with the quality of the people that studied there; I made a few very good friends and we had a great time together, all 40 of us. This part of the trip is really great, you'll see.

MAY 15 2009

Kyushu University
Summer 2008

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IP&E Program Evaluation

1. Arrival overseas/on-site orientation
 - a. I was picked up by one of the advisors for the program and a handful of tutors along with a couple other students in the program. They paid for the taxi to the dorm and were very friendly. It was easy to find them and very convenient.
 - b. Orientation talked about where the classes were and what was expected from the students for each of the different classes.
2. Academics
 - a. Language classes were similar to the quiz section sizes, with lots of interaction with the teachers and other students. Grading was similar and the facilities were comfortable. The culture classes were generally larger, about 30 students in the classroom, but still had a fair amount of interaction with the professor. Grading was fair, but the classroom was quite hot and a little uncomfortable, but bearable.
 - b. Quality and content were great.
 - c. I recommend the Southeast Asian class taught by Professor Teo. He was a very bright teacher with a good style of teaching. I am not sure if he will be there, but it was a good class.
 - d. Studying abroad helped me become more culturally aware of my surroundings, and helped me adapt to an unfamiliar environment, something I believe I will be forced to do in the workplace.
3. Housing
 - a. 3 options: 6-week dorm/apartment, 4-week dorm with 2-week home stay, 6-week home stay
 - b. I chose the 4-week dorm with 2-week home stay because I thought it would give me an opportunity to have freedom to do what I wanted and get to know the other students in the program better, and get to experience the lifestyle of a Japanese home as well.
 - c. I really enjoyed my decision, but I think it is up to the individual. The people who did the 6-week dorm enjoyed it for the freedom, but the people who did the 6-week home stay enjoyed it because they were forced more to speak Japanese and allowed them to experience a more family-style.
4. Program/Exchange site
 - a. The campus was very large, and during the summer, it is very hot. The cafeteria has many options and there are many places nearby for eating, or after-school activities, such as bowling, karaoke, and shopping.
5. Health and Safety
 - a. We had a few medical issues in the program (anxiety attacks, and I actually came down with a cold), but it did not seem related to the food or campus. The medical staff there was very good about giving out cold medicine, or providing whatever

assistance they could. There were no thefts on campus or at the dorms that I was aware of. It was a very good experience, having reliable staff and advisors to lean back on.

6. Cultural Aspects

- a. Each student received a tutor and mines introduced me to his friends, and actually took me to Nagasaki to meet his parents and show me around for a day. We also had a few get-togethers with the tutors and other students and faculty. Another student and I also arranged to play basketball at the school gym with other students and a few tutors that wanted to play.
- b. I am a Japanese-American and I am from Hawai'i so it seemed like I fit in, and where I did not fit in, people wanted to know more about where I am from. There were also many Singaporeans in the program, and since my mom is from there, I could relate with them, too.

7. Financial

- a. Through my credit union, I was able to withdraw money from the Japanese Post Offices with no charge. I talked to the credit union, and this policy differs for each bank and credit union. There are two separate charges, one from your home bank/credit union, and the ATM provider (i.e. at 7-11 they would charge ~\$2 fee per withdrawal.) It was very convenient for me, but as I stated above, it varies from bank to bank, so you should check with your bank before you go abroad.
- b. The dorms provided breakfast everyday and dinner M-F, and for the home stay, I had breakfast and dinner everyday unless I went out. We had to pay for lunch on school days, usually around \$4-8/day depending on what you wanted to eat. Transportation was probably the most expensive thing. There were discount passes for buying train fares in bulk. I believe it was about \$6 per day times 35 days from where I was commuting.
- c. Sightseeing expenses can be pricey if you add in transportation, food on-site and souvenirs.

8. Program/Exchange Administration

- a. I had no problems.

9. Program/Student Type

- a. I would recommend this program for anyone. It has a wide variety of language programs for beginners to advanced and also has cultural classes and activities. There are also a lot of places to see and experience, such as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mt. Aso and Kumamoto Castle. The food was also amazing, and apparently the shopping was pretty good.

10. Overall Experience

- a. All expectations were exceeded. Fun, adventurous, and educational.