

My Experiences in Japan

This spring semester, I had the opportunity to come to Japan to study culture at Yamagata University. The experience can be summarized with the word WONDERFUL because I learned many useful things and I was able to visit many beautiful places. In the following lines, I will tell you about my experiences and explain why it was truly incredible.

I arrived in Japan at the end of March, in the middle of spring. First, I arrived at Narita Airport. It was a beautiful dream that was coming true, and I couldn't believe that it was really happening. Then, I traveled to Yamagata by bullet train (shinkansen). The bullet train was a nice experience because the train traveled very fast, but I didn't feel it from the inside. When I arrived at Yamagata Station, I could see that Yamagata was a quiet city with beautiful mountains around it and this quiet place would allow me to focus on my studies. Afterwards, I arrived at the university. It was a small campus, but with high technology inside.



Later, I arrived at the International Residence in Kasumicho. The first time that I saw my dormitory I thought: "Finally I am here in Japan, and from now on, I will live here. A new life waits for me...". From this time, I realized it was not a dream anymore, it was real life. The days passed by and I was getting used to the Japanese way of life. I remember the first month the weather was very cold, and therefore, I had to use the heater all the time. However, I tried to go outside and discover the city as much as I could.

I decided to take 3 JSP courses: Japanese Culture, Shodo and Japanese Culinary Culture. Japanese Culture captured my attention because I wanted to learn more about the culture and Japanese lifestyle. The lectures were very interesting because the methodology used by the professor was pleasant.



I had the opportunity to go to cultural concerts, see a Kabuki presentation, see a Geisha performance, wear a kimono and so on. Yu sensei, the professor of this lecture, always encouraged me to try to learn more and increased my love for Japan.



Shodo caught my attention because I wanted to learn the history behind Kanji characters. This lecture was conducted in Japanese and I did my best to try to understand the classes. I was able to learn that a Kanji character can be written in many ways and every Kanji has an original meaning. Japanese Culinary Culture captured my attention because I wanted to learn the principles of Japanese cuisine. This lecture was one of my motivations to come to Japan because Japanese cuisine is very famous around the world.



I took Japanese language classes as well. They were divided into Reading classes, Writing classes, Grammar classes and Kanji classes. These classes were fun and allowed me to improve my Japanese language skills quickly.

Also, I had the opportunity to travel to cities like Tokyo and Nagoya. Tokyo was a very crowded city with many touristic spots. In Tokyo, the trains and subways caught my attention because the system was very well organized and the trains were always on time. I thought it would be difficult to go from one place to another, but it was not a pain in the neck at all. Actually, it was very easy to go to the places that I wanted to visit. Another interesting aspect about Tokyo is that there are many things to do. Therefore, it was mandatory to prioritize which places I wanted to visit. I stayed in Tokyo for 5 days during Golden Week and it was one of the best experiences I had. Nagoya was a beautiful city and I was able to visit the Toyota Museum. There, I was able to learn more about this technological Japanese firm from its beginnings as a tailor firm to becoming one of the best car manufacturers in the world.



I think coming to Japan was a beautiful experience and I would like to thank all the people who made it possible.



JAPANESE AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS