

My Year in Tokyo

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The day I arrived was 1st October. The journey from England was 12 hours long. Even though I was really tired, before I knew it, I had to speak Japanese. At the airport I was interviewed for a Japanese TV show. On top of that, I had to tell the taxi driver the way to the dorms and fill in various documents. I regretted not practicing any Japanese before I came to Tokyo. I had no confidence and I only spoke broken Japanese.

As I slowly got used to Japanese culture, my Japanese slowly improved too. I made Japanese friends and I studied every day. If I hadn't have done that, I think it would have been difficult to adjust.

In November, I went to Niigata with the Ocha students. It was my first real experience of Japanese traditional culture. I went to shrines, went into an onsen and ate traditional Japanese food.

Because I love Japanese fashion, as expected my favourite place was Harajuku. I went here every week and meeting up with friends and shopping was something I did a lot. It's still the same after all this time!



I had a lot of amazing experiences and before I knew it, it was Christmas. Christmas was the saddest time for me. I missed my family, I was lonely, I wanted to go back to England. I was truly homesick. My grades were low, my attendance was low and I was in bad condition.

Come January, I was much better and much more lively. And before I knew it, end of term exams were over and it was spring break. Because I like traveling, I went to Mt Fuji and also South Korea. I am very grateful to have had these experiences.

The new term started, and I became friends with the new students. All the students here are really nice and we had a lot of fun times. The ochaneko (Ocha cats!) are also so very cute!

Now, the term is almost over, and I'm looking forward to summer break. It's very sad but, in 2 months, I have to return to England. I don't want to leave, but I am so very grateful to have had this wonderful experience.

