

My Experience in Japan

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The past year living in Tokyo and studying at Ochanomizu has certainly been a fascinating and unforgettable one. It has been strange, but I have travelled, made new friends and had all sorts of new experiences.

It was daunting at first, to actually live in Japan. I had visited before with my mum, but it's different to stay and settle, rather than just visit.

What most worried me was how well I would be able to speak to people, since of course it's not easy to get Japanese conversation practice in the UK, and although at first I struggled with having enough confidence, it now feels normal to me, even if I might say things wrong.



Over this year I've done a lot of different things. I've visited Osaka, seen its castle and eaten too much takoyaki; I've walked through Arashiyama bamboo grove, seen a Shinto wedding at Yasaka shrine, and fed the deer at Nara. I've also attended Tokyo Rainbow Pride with my friends, and was even interviewed while at an izakaya with my mum.

Of course, there have been difficulties as well. It takes a long time to adapt to living in such a different culture, because of the new food, traditions and attitudes. Although most Japanese people are very polite and helpful, old men in particular stare openly, which is extremely tiring. Adapting to the different learning style has also been a challenge, as has the recent arrival of the cockroaches.

Before I leave, I'm going on a trip to Sapporo, to explore a little more and escape the heat. Then, I'm returning home to Manchester. I will be glad to see my dog again and be in familiar surroundings, but I do hope I can return to Japan soon.