

Final Semester at Ochanomizu University

University of Technology Sydney

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My final semester at Ochanomizu University was truly special. I'll always remember the excitement of learning new things in my Japanese classes, making new friends, and exploring different places.

Feeling more settled after my previous semester, I approached my second semester of university with more confidence. Coping with the intense heat and humidity of summer proved challenging, but I survived through it. Embracing new subjects allowed me to form new friendships and push my limits with different classes. I'm grateful for the support of my friends, Senpai, Otowakan staff, and the Ochanomizu staff, who all played a crucial role in making this semester a rewarding experience for me.

Compared to my previous semester I didn't feel as nervous to attend my classes. I enrolled in a diverse array of Japanese courses, including Comprehension, Writing, Culture, Conversation, and a unique Facilitation class. These classes proved not only engaging and enjoyable but also instrumental in honing my Japanese language skills.



The Facilitation class, a new experience for me, provided an opportunity to connect with my classmates on a deeper level as we shared personal stories. I appreciate the chance to take two classes with Tawara sensei, whose enthusiasm and infectious smile added to the enjoyment. Additionally, Hirano sensei played a crucial role in expanding my understanding of Japanese culture. Overall, my second semester was marked by a more confident and enriching academic experience.

As I was part of the 'Ocha Flow Jazz Club', I performed in a dance concert called the 'Spring Live'. All the dancers worked extremely hard during rehearsals from the start of the year to prepare



for this show. I was so impressed with the leadership of the senior student dancers. The senior dancers, also known as the '21st Generation', were amazing in organising rehearsals and encouraged us to do our best. The show was so much fun, and I enjoyed being on stage with my dance friends. There were a range of dance styles in the show, including Jazz, Hip-hop, Contemporary, Girls' Style, K-pop, Street, and more.

This Christmas and New Year were particularly special for me because I got to spend time with my family. I travelled to Kyoto and Kanazawa, enjoying fresh sashimi and delicious tonkatsu. I loved the cold weather and went skiing at a resort. After skiing, I relaxed at an Onsen. Despite feeling several earthquakes during my travels, I was safe with my family. On New Year's Day, I visited a shrine and got a very lucky fortune slip (Omikuji), suggesting that 2024 will be a good year for me. I also tried the colourful and tasty 'Osechi Ryoori' bento box. Traveling around Japan with my family was a wonderful experience, and celebrating New Year's Day was different from how I usually spend it in Australia.

Finally, I'd like to extend my appreciation to the Ochadai community. I want to express my gratitude to Totani Sensei, my welcoming supervisor. Special thanks to Hagiwara Sensei for providing valuable information and guidance. A heartfelt thank you to the International Affairs Division, Otowakan Staff, and the security guards of Ochadai for keeping us safe! I now have very special memories from my exchange experience at Ochadai.