

## My Study Abroad in Japan

University of Technology Sydney

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I first arrived in Japan on the fourth of April. Before I came, I already had an interest in Japanese culture, fashion, and food so I always thought it would be nice if I could study abroad in Japan someday. Being able to study in Ochanomizu University made me extremely happy. It's hard to believe that I'll be returning home so soon.

Firstly, the classes in Ochanomizu University were very interesting. While learning Japanese language skills, I was also able to learn more about Japanese culture and society. Alongside the Japanese classes, in the second semester I also took one gender studies class that was held in English, where I was able to learn and study alongside Japanese and other foreign students, which was very nice. All the teachers I've met at Ocha were very kind, and the classes were always fun and interesting, so I was able to learn a lot from them. As well as my normal classes, Ocha provided the opportunity



to join one-time culture classes, and I participated in the flower arrangement, kimono, and incense class. The flower arrangement (*ikebana*) class left the biggest impression on me, as I really enjoyed making my own arrangement and learning from the teacher about this aspect of Japanese culture. The teacher had a very intricate and polite way of teaching, and we were able to view her as she made a very beautiful arrangement. During that time, I really felt the beauty and detail of Japanese culture.

I really like Tokyo. I wasn't raised in a big city, so for me being able to live in such a large and beautiful city like Tokyo, it was a really good experience. During my study abroad period, I was also able to experience a lot of fun trips all around Japan. During golden week, summer and winter break, and even during the semester, I travelled to different prefectures across Japan. Japan is a beautiful country, and I was able to experience a lot of region-specific foods and cultural specialties and sights. My home country, Australia, is quite distanced from other countries, so I was shocked that you can fly to South Korea in only around two hours! My trip to Seoul, Korea during the summer holidays was an unforgettable experience, and I was able to meet with my Korean friends who I met during my exchange at Ocha. I really hope I'll be able to meet the people I've met here again someday.



In November 2023, I experienced my first ever school festival! Not only was I able to go to Ochanomizu University's Kiin Festival, but I also helped the international exchange club in preparing for their café, which I also helped at on both days of the festival. Everyone in the club was so nice and welcoming, and we had a lot of fun talking and working together during the festival preparations.

Finally, I would like to thank a few people that have supported me during my time at Ochanomizu University up until now. I'd like to thank my academic advisor Ms. Wang, for checking my reflection sheet every month and for always teaching such interesting classes. I'd also like to thank Ms. Hagiwara for looking after me and working so hard for all of us exchange students. Thank you also to the international affairs division, particularly Ms. Ohno. I really enjoyed all our language exchange sessions! And lastly, I'm glad to

have met everyone in my exchange cohort. Thanks to everyone, I was able to have an enjoyable study abroad experience. I'm really thankful for everything and everyone I've met until now.