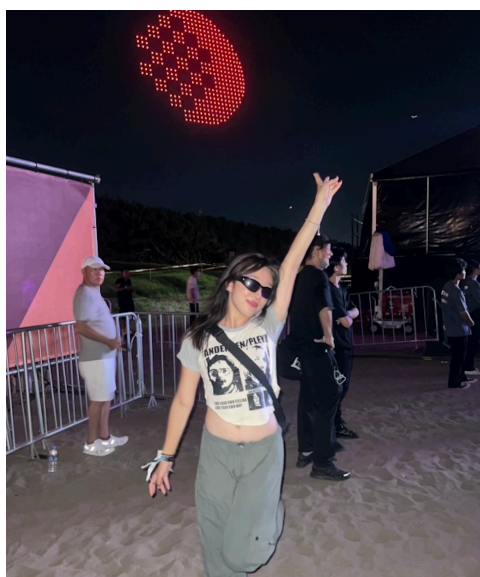<p align="center">日本での交換留学</p>

University of Technology Sydney

Emily Ka Yee Cheng

It has been 11 months into my exchange since arriving in Japan in April last year. As my exchange here is coming to an end, lately it feels like time has been passing by very quickly for me. Reflecting back to the beginning of when I first arrived in Japan, a sense of nostalgia hits. My Japanese was not the best at the start, which was quite nerve racking as all the Japanese language and culture classes at Ochanomizu university are taught in Japanese. However, with the help of teachers and friends, I am now fully accustomed to life in Japan as well as improving my Japanese language skills. Furthermore, I think that the appeal of studying abroad is that I have gotten the opportunity to meet a lot of new friends from all across the world.

During the summer vacation, I attended a music festival held in Tokyo called "Summer Sonic". This music festival is held annually in Tokyo and Osaka, which features a line up of artists from all across the world. I was able to see NewJeans and Kendrick Lamar live through this festival. The summer in Tokyo was also a lot more hotter than I expected which was a bit tough to deal with. Though despite it being so hot, many key memories were made, such as when my friend and I got splashed with cooling water in Summer Sonic. I was also able to spend my first winter Christmas last year in Japan. As I have lived in Sydney all my life, Christmas is usually spent at the beaches in the hot summer. Thus I was really glad to experience my first ever "White Christmas", paired along with some beautiful illumination lights and Christmas markets.

Living in Tokyo meant that there would be no boring days at all. There was always something I could do here, such as cafe hopping, shopping at vintage clothing stores or attending events at night. That being said, I also took my chances to travel all across

Japan as well in order to gain the full Japanese experience. Throughout the year, I have been to Kanazawa, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Kagoshima, Hiroshima, Yamanashi, Kamakura, Sendai, Ehime and Fukuoka. During the winter vacation, I also went to Nagano to see and play in the snow. Since it does not snow at all in Sydney, I was determined to see snow here in Japan during my winter break.

Moreover, I really enjoyed my time here at Ochanomizu university. I was a little worried at first since all the classes were taught in Japanese, but thanks to my teacher's kindly explaining the classes to my pace, I was able to learn a lot and improve my Japanese compared to when I was in Sydney. During these two semesters of study at Ochanomizu university, I took Japanese grammar, kanji, composition, conversation and Japanese culture classes. It was such a wonderful experience being able to enrol in a variety of classes. Besides, unlike the University of Technology Sydney, Ochanomizu University is a women's university, so it was a completely new experience for me. The Kimono class Ochanomizu university provided was also a great opportunity for me to not only wear a Kimono, but to learn it's history and how to wear one step by step.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for all the help provided to me whilst studying abroad. I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Umetada. Thank you for taking the time to review my monthly reflection sheet. Thank you to the management office staff at Otowakan for always helping me whenever I had a problem with the dorm move-in procedures. Thank you to the International Affairs Division and my tutor Takada-san for supporting me during my studies abroad. I would also like to thank Hagiwara sensei. Thank you for helping me and the rest of the exchange students with all the procedures and for holding homeroom each week. Finally, I would like to thank my class teachers for always being so enthusiastic in class and being one of the biggest reasons why I have improved in Japanese. Thanks to everyone's kindness, I was able to enjoy my exchange in Japan and will never forget the memories I have made in this era of my life.