

Cultural Exchange in Japan

Ochanomizu University

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Over the course of my exchange program at Ochanomizu University, I had many invaluable experiences. Although my purpose of study was to learn Japanese, I was able to experience Japanese culture very deeply and enjoyed every day of my time in Japan.

To study Japanese, I attended classes each weekday and conversed with Japanese students often. By using Japanese to communicate, I was ultimately able to not only improve my language skills but learn about culture and customs.

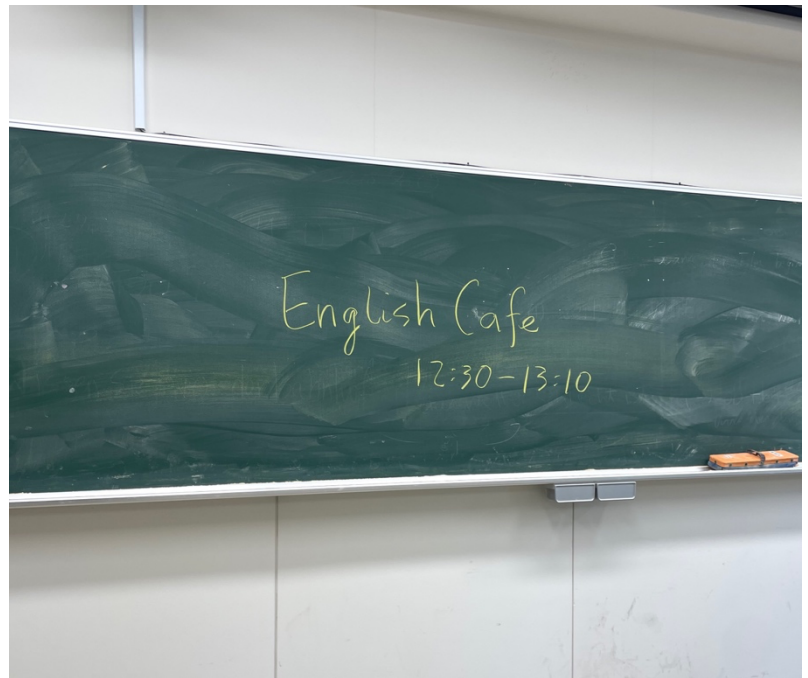
I was also able to exchange with many Japanese people of different ages, occupations and life experiences at Ochanomizu University. Not only was I provided with a chance to study Japanese but a chance to immerse myself in the ways of thinking and values of people who had led lives very different from mine. One of the most valuable and surprising things about my



exchange program was meeting many exchange students from all over the world. I hadn't considered that this exchange would provide me not only the opportunity to meet Japanese people, but learn about cultures from all over the world. In my time here, I learned not only about Japan, its culture and its people, but about the whole world. This also allowed me to

gain a deeper understanding of my own country's culture and values, and I feel that my international perspective has broadened.

My Japanese has improved greatly through my exchange. Life in Japan meant that I was able to use Japanese every day, and I had more opportunities to converse. I used Japanese not only in class but also in my daily life, so my listening comprehension and understanding of grammar improved. Moreover, by talking to Japanese friends



and teachers, I learned more natural phrases and expressions, which helped me to converse smoothly. In particular, I felt that I was able to understand the nuances of the language which gave me more confidence in using Japanese.

I would like to thank all the teachers and staff who helped make my exchange program go smoothly. I would like to thank my advisor, Wang Yiqiong. I would also like to thank Hagiwara-sensei and Sakurai-sensei, who always showed support and understanding, and were always kind and answered any questions I had. The staff at Otowakan also always supported me, greeted me kindly were never hesitant to explain things as many times as needed so that I could understand. I was also able to work part-time at the English Cafe, and with the help of many staff and participants, I was able to communicate with students in English and make new friends. Finally, I would like to thank my tutor, Miku, for always offering a helping hand.

My time here at Ochanomizu University was truly invaluable and a great success. I believe that my experiences across Japan studying with friends from all over the world will have a big impact on my future life.