

Semester abroad in Tokyo

Vassar College

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During my study abroad period in Japan, I was able to experience things that I never thought I would be able to experience. I met new people from different parts of the world and made friends that I believe I will keep in touch with in the future. I also learned more about Tokyo and found places that I



revisited again and again. And my time at Ochanomizu University also allowed me to learn more about both the Japanese language as well as subjects that I was interested in.

During my few months in Japan, I experienced many moments that I was looking forward to. I arrived in Tokyo just before the cherry blossom season and within a week they were in full bloom.

I remember often going for walks where the cherry blossoms were blooming. Although they are beautiful under the sunlight during the day, I think they were more serene at night. As summer approaches, I often visited the beaches of Kamakura and Enoshima over the weekends, and took walks in Yoyogi Park at night alongside the cicadas. It was the perfect experience to experience both the spring and summer seasons in and around Tokyo.

Writing this summary, however, means writing a long farewell. And so I bid farewell to not only my long walks, the people and friends I met, or the places I frequented, but also to the teachers and faculty members who made my experience in Tokyo even possible.

I took a combination of the Japanese language course for international students and the English course for undergraduate students at Ochanomizu University, and the experience left a deep impression on me. The most memorable part of this semester was Professor Gu's Kanji' class. From the first day of class, I could feel that she was someone who genuinely cared about each of our students and is passionate

about teaching. I always looked forward to going to her classes and felt the joy of learning so many kanji that would be useful in real life.

Additionally, I would like to thank Professor Akagi for her course on Japanese conversation. Including me, the class only had four students, which created a friendly and fun environment for learning Japanese and having conversation. Professor Akagi always took the time before class to check on all of us and made an effort to get to know all of her students as individuals..



Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Oyabu for taking the time each month to read my monthly review sheets and for always giving very warm responses. I would like to thank the faculty and staff at Otowakan for making my transition into the dormitory smooth and helping me manage campus and dormitory life. I would also like to express my gratitude to the staff at the International Support Office, who always kindly responded to me whenever I had any trouble with my school life and in Tokyo.

One semester is not a long time, but it didn't feel short either. It was a truly surreal semester. I never expected that my study abroad experience would be so full of new experiences and new encounters. I felt a lot of support during my time here, and I forever look forward to the time when I return to both Tokyo

and its people.