

日本での交換留学

University of Technology Sydney

Tara Belle Hickman

I arrived in Japan on the 2nd of April 2023. I already had a slight interest in Japanese prior to my arrival, so studying abroad here was something that I had wanted to do for a long time. With that in mind, I was so happy that I could study here at Ochanomizu University as an exchange student.

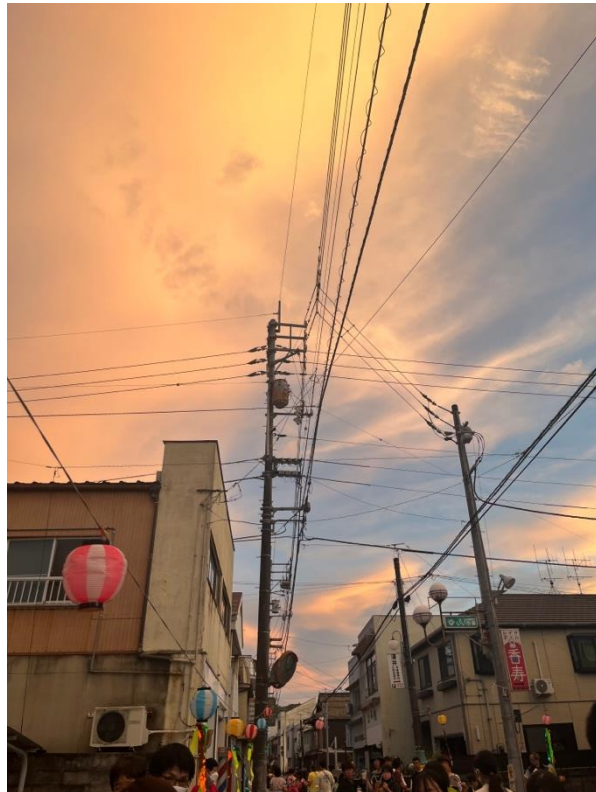


One week after arriving in Japan, my classes started. The classes at Ochanomizu University were so fun, and I feel like I was truly able to learn a lot. The classes I took were mostly conducted fully in Japanese, which was difficult for me. Especially for the first two weeks, I found it really challenging, although because of that challenge, I was able to grow both academically and personally. The way the teachers taught made it easy to understand, and there were many opportunities to discuss things with other classmates, so before I knew it, I became accustomed to the classes here. Besides language classes, there were also classes concerning Japanese culture and society, which were also really interesting.

Tokyo is a really big and beautiful city. I wasn't raised in the city back at home, so to me it was unbelievable that I'm able to experience living in a city like this. In these past 4 months since I've arrived, I've been able to do a bit of travelling around Japan. Amongst the places I've travelled to so far, Kanazawa left the biggest impression on me. During Golden Week, I stayed

in Kanazawa for two nights with a friend. At the Higashi Chaya District, I was able to experience a traditional Japanese atmosphere, and it was really beautiful. Visiting the many stylish cafes and stores was really fun. Also, when I went to Kanazawa, it was also my first time staying at a Ryokan (Traditional Japanese Inn). I was glad to be able to experience some of Japan's traditional culture, and before I return to Australia, I want to travel around so many places in Japan.

I experienced Japan's summer for the first time. It's the first time I've experienced such humidity and it was really difficult to become accustomed to. Despite this, Japan's summer season is really fun. Going to Japanese summer festivals and firework shows has left a great impression on me. In July, I went to the 45th Adachi Fireworks festival with some friends. We couldn't see it very well because we were so far, but having a nice picnic and being able to spend time with friends was a great



experience, and a memory that I will cherish. I was able to feel the charm of Japan's summer thanks to that experience.

Lastly, 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. Ishii, for checking my reflection sheet every month. 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. For meeting with me every week and helping me with

my Japanese, I'd like to thank my language exchange partner Chisato. I really enjoyed all our language exchange sessions! And lastly, I'm really 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.