

## End Of The First Term At Ochanomizu Women's University

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Since my first term at Ochanomizu University has ended, I will share my thoughts and impressions over the past four months. Fortunately, I've lived in Japan before, so culture shock wasn't a problem, but it is still scary to enter a new environment. Nevertheless, everyone in the dormitory was very kind and the students who helped us made sure that registration with the ward office went smoothly.

But the biggest shock came at the university. Everyone spoke so fast that I couldn't understand much; even other students seemed far more competent and skilled. I started to think "Help, I'm not very smart," and started panicking. I was so worried that I almost cried.

I caused extra work for the teachers, but they all made sure that I had an enlarged copy of handouts that I could read. When lessons began, I started to enjoy myself. There were experienced students in my class, but I wanted to improve my Japanese to keep up with them. Sometimes I felt adrift, but also felt that I could understand better.



I met with friends in Japan that I knew from the UK and hadn't seen for a long time. With them, I was able to relax and have a good time. (Japanese women take shopping very seriously). I went shopping many times to the Pokemon Center and enjoyed staying at a traditional Japanese inn for the first time.

I bribed the cats and terrapins at university with food to tolerate me and enjoyed seeing all the Japanese animals, insects and plants not found in Britain.

During spring break, I will go to Hokkaido to see the Japanese cranes in their natural habitat. I forgot how hot and humid Japan is, so I am looking forward to traveling to a cold place.

In the next semester, I hope to learn, grow and meet many new people. Please be patient with me for a while longer. Thank you for the past semester.

