

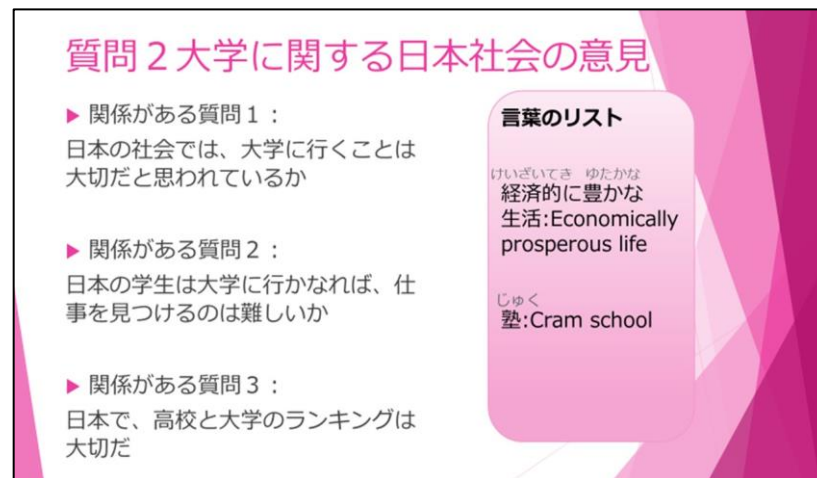
## Exchange Student experience in Japan

"SOAS" University

Asia Cannavo

My name is Asia Cannavo and I came to Ochanomizu University in Japan as an exchange student. I would like to talk about my experience as an exchange student at Ochanomizu University.

Due to the influence of the new coronavirus, I am currently unable to enter Japan. However, I was able to take classes online safely through online tools such as Zoom. Before I entered Ochanomizu University, I was embarrassed about my level of Japanese, I thought it was insufficient and I wouldn't speak much. But since October, I was able to talk with other students at Ochanomizu University through lessons in the homeroom for exchange students. I found the lessons in the homeroom for exchange students very useful. I was a little nervous, but I enjoyed taking part in the lessons. I also gave a lot of presentations. So I think my speaking is getting



better now. Last month, when I went to a Japanese restaurant in my country with my friends to eat curry, I could even talk a little Japanese with the waitress. I studied a lot for the Japanese tests, so I think my grammar and kanji learning is going well now. I also think that listening to Japanese lessons has improved my Japanese listening ability.

(One of my slides from my interview project presentation)

I am taking online classes in the UK. Due to the time difference between London and Japan, it is sometimes difficult to attend classes. Sometimes I can't sleep well. And my internet connection was sometimes unstable, and it was difficult to listen to the lessons, so I have been a little stressed. Due to the influence of Covid, I couldn't meet the students of Ochanomizu University face-to-face, and I didn't have many opportunities to experience school life. But I was able to interact with other exchange students. However, the most difficult thing about not being able to

enter Japan is the limited opportunities to practice daily conversation. Therefore, I hope that Japan will allow foreigners to enter the country freely. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person at Ochanomizu University.

Finally, I would like to thank my teachers and tutor. Everyone really helped me during this difficult time and understood my situation. In addition, I would like to thank all the members of the International Affairs Division for their continued support. I am very grateful for the opportunity to study abroad as an exchange student.