

My Year in Japan

Ochanomizu University

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During my year in Japan, I have seen and been to many places;

Kanagawa's Odawara city, Hakone,

Machida, Ebina, Hon-Atsugi and

Yokohama,

Shizuoka's Atami, Izu Peninsula and

Fujinomiya town,

Yamanashi's Fujikawaguchiko and Kofu,

Nagano's Suwa city, Matsumoto city and

Kawakami,

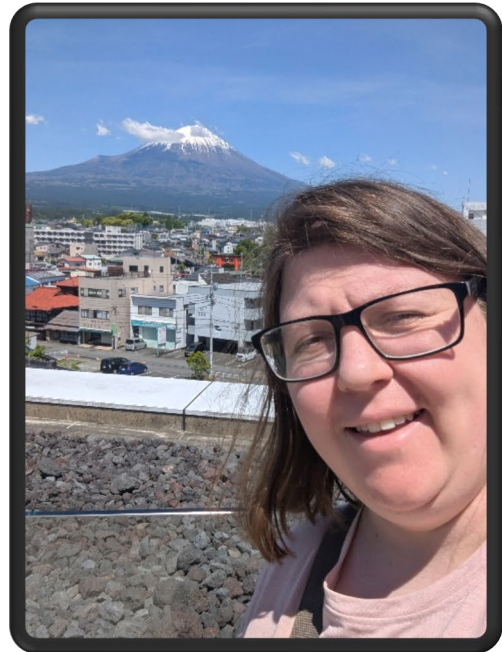
Niigata's city and Sado island and

Aichi's Nagoya and Toyohashi. Whilst in

these prefectures, I learned about their

culture and what their everyday life was

like for those living in those places.



During the Spring Holiday, I entered an

essay competition for the manga "Tokyo Jinrou", serialised in Sho-Comi

magazine (Shogakukan) and won a keychain (of which only 50 were able to

be won). It is one of the achievements I'm most proud of because I was

using the skills that I learned in my classes to do something related to what

I enjoy.

During my classes, I was able to meet the Primary School Children of

Ochanomizu University and better understand Japan's school system,

experience and see theatre shows like Kyogen, Kabuki and Bunraku and

learned about Japanese Language and Culture.

During my time studying at Ochanomizu University, I joined a Kyogen club and Calligraphy club, I also joined a Studio Ghibli cinema event, I wore Kimono and Yukata, I even went to a Takoyaki party. From these events, I was able to learn more about how Japanese culture and society works.



The most challenging time for me was Christmas time, as it was my first Christmas without my British family, but when you are on your own, you can make your own Christmas traditions, such as going to see a Rakugo, enjoy ishiyakiniku, or enjoy a Stamp Rally under Nihonbashi's Christmas lights.

I would like to thank the Ochanomizu University's Ryunai team for helping me with admin, Otowakan's team for making me feel at home and helping me out with my first apartment. I would also like to thank my student advisor, Chiba-sensei and my student buddies,

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