

My Study Abroad Experience at Ochanomizu University

It has been four months since I started my study abroad journey at Ochanomizu University. When I first arrived, I found myself struggling to adjust to living on my own and navigating life in Tokyo. In all honesty, I was already counting down the days until my return home on my very first day in the dormitory. However, looking back now, I am amazed by how much things have changed. I can confidently say that these past four months have become some of the most meaningful and fulfilling months of my life.

My experience truly began to change once classes started. I met wonderful classmates, attended courses that sparked my curiosity, and became involved in various extracurricular activities. Little by little, these experiences helped me build a sense of belonging and made my everyday life at Ochanomizu more enjoyable. Before I knew it, the place that once felt unfamiliar had become somewhere I genuinely loved being.

Academically, I had the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects, including modern and contemporary Japanese literature, Japanese lexicology, communication psychology, and multicultural coexistence. Through these courses, I learned to examine culture and society from different perspectives, discovered the complexity and richness of the Japanese language, and gained a deeper understanding of the challenges surrounding multicultural societies. These experiences were especially valuable for me as a student majoring in International Studies and English, as they connected closely with my academic interests while also encouraging me to rethink my own perspectives and values.



Outside the classroom, I actively participated in several extracurricular activities. As a beginner in the kendo club, I was grateful for the patience and encouragement I received from the members, who helped me learn new techniques and improve step by step. Through orienteering, I challenged myself physically by incorporating regular running into my routine, and I was proud to achieve results at competitions that exceeded my expectations. In addition, through the international exchange club, I met students from Ochanomizu and exchange students from various countries, forming friendships that I will forever cherish.

Looking back, my classes, club activities, and time spent with friends were not only enjoyable experiences but also opportunities for personal growth and unforgettable

memories. I am deeply grateful to everyone who made these four months so special. I would like to sincerely thank my advisor Professor Ishii, Ms. Ichihara from the International Affairs Division, my tutor Hikari, all of my professors, the members of the Kendo Club, TEA (the international exchange club), the University of Tokyo OLK (orienteering), and all of the friends who welcomed me and shared this wonderful chapter of my life with me. The experiences, knowledge, and relationships I gained at Ochanomizu University will always remain an important part of my journey. I hope to carry these lessons with me and continue growing throughout my future studies and beyond.