

Exchange Student Experience in Japan

Ochanomizu University
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My exchange year in Japan was scheduled to start in September 2021, but the border was closed, so I decided to go to South Korea instead. For the three months that I was there, I took online classes at Ochanomizu University, until my visa expired and I had to return to London. Fortunately, the semester ended shortly after I returned. Otherwise I would have been taking classes at 4am every day!

I was very sad that my study abroad was delayed due to the coronavirus, so when the border reopened in 2022, I was very excited. I moved to Tokyo in April, even though I caught covid in March and almost didn't meet the immigration requirements. I was very lucky to get into Japan!



When I arrived, I was very scared to move to a new country and participate in face-to-face classes for the first time in two years, but I actually really enjoyed my experience in Japan. Everyone at Ochanomizu University was very kind which made it easy to settle in. I arrived a few weeks before the class started and didn't have to quarantine, so I had the opportunity to explore Tokyo before I became busy.

I really enjoyed tasting authentic Japanese food and sightseeing. Then I had the opportunity to go to Osaka during Golden Week. The food there was very delicious and there were lots of fun things to do. I think my favourite thing was visiting Osaka Castle and taking a boat around the moat.

Other than sightseeing, my classes at the university were very interesting. I really enjoyed studying Japanese language and culture with my classmates. Everyone was very kind and I got to make friends from all over the world! There were some scary moments, like giving presentations in front of the whole class, but those moments helped me to gain confidence. I loved seeing my teachers and friends every day, so I was sad when classes ended.

Although I only spent a short time at Ochanomizu University, I learned a lot. Thanks to the exchange program, I feel that my Japanese level has really improved, and I

have learned a lot about Japanese culture. I'm really sad that I have to go back to England soon.



Thank you to the teachers at Ochanomizu University, including my academic advisor, and the staff of the International Affairs Division for your kindness. Especially

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