

*"Nobody can discover the world for somebody else. Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond and we cease to be alone."*

— Wendell Berry

**News and views from KU students at home and abroad**

## Student adventurers!

### Highlights

#### 4TH YEAR KU MATHS MAJOR IN PALAU

Soma TAMAI reports on his visit to the Pacific Island of Palau as part of the JICA-run GENESIS program in 2023

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#### EUROPEAN TOUR FOR SCIENCE MAJOR

Atsushi ADACHI studied in Brighton, England during the spring of 2023. Read his report on **Page 3**

#### MALAYSIA MEMORIES

Ayaka SAIHARA describes her study abroad experiences in Malaysia on the Global Education Support Centre Short-Term Study Abroad Program **Page 6**



**2023** marked the resumption of the Kochi University Summer Study

Program, now organised and led by the staff of the Global Education and Advancement Support Centre. During July KU hosted guests from the US and UK. As well as studying Japanese and Japanese culture, participants visited different locations in Kochi to learn more about sustainable tourism initiatives.

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## New partnership with Mexican uni



Kochi University has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Puebla University in Mexico. The agreement negotiated by Specially Appointed

Lecturer Hana Nagano allows KU students to study at Puebla on exchange, and likewise for Mexican students to study at KU. The agreement is likely to be of special interest to students who are studying Spanish—one of the world's most widely spoken languages and part of the GEASC mission to increase the scope of its global partnerships.

## Revised MoU with Pusan University

The faculty-level cooperation agreement between Pusan University of Foreign Language Studies and Kochi University has been expanded to institutional level.

The agreement was negotiated by GEASC Professor Kaoru Otsuka and provides opportunity for KU students from all faculties to study at Pusan.

Professor Otsuka is also currently in negotiations with several other Korean universities with a view to developing new partnerships.



## Spring Study Abroad Fair & Culture Cafe

GEASC will be hosting a Study Abroad Fair in April 2024, as well as Culture Cafe events. The fair will provide KU students opportunity to learn about study abroad and other overseas experiences, and to hear about other countries and cultures from international students. Watch out for further announcements.

## KU welcomes new international students

Twenty seven new overseas students arrived in Kochi University in mid-September 2023 to commence their studies. The students—from China, Indonesia, Sweden and Taiwan will spend up to one year at KU, during which time they will be focused mostly on studying Japanese. Many of the students have already developed advanced Japanese skills at their home institutions, with several having passed the top level of the Japan Language Proficiency Test.

As Swedish student Gustav Skallberg reports, one of the reasons he chose to come to Kochi was the opportunity that it promised to offer to practice his oral Japanese communication skills.

## Welcome back!



University of Rhode Island alumnus Kira Wencek returned to the university in March to visit old friends and acquaintances. Kira studied at KU as an exchange student in 2017, enrolling in language, art and media courses. She also joined the university's climbing club to indulge her passion for rock climbing and bouldering. During a very active stay in Kochi she also completed the 80km Muroto *sampo* walk. Her visit to the university was one leg of a three week tour that took in Sapporo, Sendai, Okayama and other locations. After returning to the US Kira will head north to Alaska, where she has been working as a kayak tour guide.

## New look website

GEASC has launched a new website for the 2024 academic year. It is hoped the new-look site will enable prospective students to find information about enrollment, scholarships and other information more easily.

## Chinese delegation visits KU

The Chinese consul to Osaka Mr. Xue Jian and a delegation of consular staff made a good will visit to KU in mid-February. The delegation met with Centre director Noriko Imai and Vice-Director Ri to discuss student exchange and other matters.

## Asia Pacific Association of International English Conference 2024, Perth

The Asia Pacific Association of International English Conference was in Perth in Western Australia in March from March 3rd to 9th, 2024. The event was attended by more than 60 universities and colleges

from Asia, Europe, and North America, and provided

GEASC faculty members with opportunities to meet representatives from overseas schools and student groups, and discuss overseas study, internship, volunteer and other opportunities for KU students.





## スウェーデンの 聖ルシア祭イベント



ルシアパン作り

2023年12月12日（火）にグローバル教育支援センター主催によるスウェーデンの聖ルシア祭を紹介し日本人学生と留学生が交流するイベントが開催され、日本人学生7名、留学生10名が参加しました。スウェーデンでは毎年12月13日にクリスマス行事の一環として「聖ルシア」を祝うお祭りが開催され、人々に親しまれているそうです。もともとスウェーデンでは、ユリウス暦が使用されていた18世紀には12月13日が冬至の日にあたり、その日をお祝いしていました。その後、グレゴリオ暦に変わり、その伝統とともに聖ルシアが貧しい人々にルシアパンを配ったことにちなんで「聖ルシア祭」として祝われることになったそうです。

そこで、スウェーデンからの留学生のオリバーさんとグスタヴさんと一緒に午前中は「聖ルシア祭」で重要な意味を持つ伝統的な「ルシアパン」を朝倉ふれあいセン

ターの実習室で作りました。「ルシアパン」の本来の形は八の字型ですが、学生たちは個性を活かし花型やハート型、猫や犬などそれぞれ思い思いの形でパン作りにチャレンジしました。サフランを入れて作ったルシアパンはふっくらと焼きあがり、香ばしくなかなかの出来栄でした。交流会では、オリバーさんによるスウェーデンの概要や料理、聖ルシア祭についての紹介があり、その後、皆自分が作った力作のルシアパンを試食しながら交流を深めました。

参加した学生からは、「パン作りは思ったより簡単で自分の好きな形に作れるのが楽しかった」、「今まで味わったことのないパンの味で本当に美味しかった」、「実際にスウェーデンのルシア祭を現地で体験してみたい」との感想が寄せられました。スウェーデンの留学生からは、「皆さんと楽しみながらおいしいパンが作れて嬉しかった。これを機に、スウェーデンについてもさらに興味を持ってもらいたい」との感想がありました。今回のイベントでは食文化も含めて国際交流、異文化理解を図ることができました。



焼き上がったルシアパン

## KU Summer Program returns



**Visiting Ashizuri Misaki en route to Otsuki**

Students from KU partner schools Fresno State University (US) and University of Central Lancashire (UK) spent the month of July in Kochi studying alongside KU students for the reinstated Summer Program. The program, which had to be suspended during the global coronavirus pandemic, is now organised and run by GEASC faculty. During their stay the guests, all of whom had previously studied Japanese either as a minor or major subject at their home institutions, took part in a formal program of language studies. They also learned about various aspects of Japanese culture

hands-on in workshops on the traditional *shakuhachi* musical instrument, *ikebana*, *kendo*, and heard a lecture on Japanese cinema.

According to participants an especially popular feature of the program was the guided weekend field trips to various locations in the local area, including the annual Ekin festival in Aki City, Katsurahama, Chikurinji Temple and Makino Botanical Gardens. In addition, the group travelled to Muroto Cape and west to Ashizuri Cape and Otsuki Town to learn about local sustainable tourism initiatives, spending



**Program participants learn about initiatives for preserving the marine environment at the COSA facility in Otsuki**

one night in a hostel

that previously served as an elementary school. Based on these experiences, in a final presentation mixed groups of Japanese and overseas students contributed their ideas and suggestions for a sustainable tourism model in Kochi. Although the visitors have returned home, some have already made plans to apply for the Japanese English Teacher program and return in the near future. A video about the program can be seen on YouTube [https://youtu.be/kkGXNHJ\\_N4k?SbzmBtCnrx0ard5](https://youtu.be/kkGXNHJ_N4k?SbzmBtCnrx0ard5)



**Kendo workshop led by kendo master Prof. Yano**



# 大豊町立大豊学園生徒との英語交流会



マレーシアの発表

2023年11月30日（木）に、大豊町立大豊学園8年生(中学2年生)13人が実践的な英語教育の一環として高知大学に訪れ、本学の留学生5名と英語で交流しました。今回の活動は、本学の留学生との英語交流の経験により英語表現力を高める機会とするとともに、異文化に触れる経験を通して国際理解を深めるという目的で行われ、スウェーデンからオリヴァーさん、グスタヴさん、中国から秘金旭さん、王怡楠さん、マレーシアからイザットさんが交流会に参加しました。

まず、大豊学園生徒による英語での大豊町の観光地、特産品、大豊学園の概要や学校行事、クラブ活動、英語学習に関する紹介があり、留学生は日本の中学校の生活について興味深く耳を傾けていました。また、どのようなクラブ活動があり、何部に所属しているのかという質問があり、生徒一人一人がそれぞれの部活動について簡単に紹介をしてくれました。

その後、オリヴァーさんとグスタヴさんによる「スウェーデンはどこにあるのか」から始まるスウェーデンの概要とスウェーデンでのクリスマスの過ごし方や料理についての紹介がありました。スウェーデンの特徴的な食べ物として「世界一臭い食べ物」と評されることもある「シュールストレミング」やしょっぱい味の「リコリス」というお菓子も紹介され、皆興味津々でした。

続いて、王怡楠さんと秘金旭さんによる中国の概要と中華料理ならびに観光地についての紹介がありました。中国は世界一の人口を有し、世界で二番目に大きい国であるため、地域により特徴的な気候や習慣、文化が発展しており、料理の味付けも「南は甘く、北はしょっぱく、西は酸っぱく、東は辛い」と言われているという説明とともに5つの地域の料理と観光地が写真で示されました。日本でも馴染みの「北京ダック」や「麻婆豆腐」などの料理や「万里の長城」や「兵馬俑」などの観光地も紹介され、皆興味深く聞いていました。

最後に、イザットさんからマレーシアの多様性についての紹介がありました。冒頭マレーシアの旗やマレーシアの位置についてクイズが出されましたが、正解率はそれほど高くありませんでした。そして、マレーシアはマレー系と中華系、インド系の人々により社会が構成されており、言語や宗教、食べ物などの文化が異なりますが、英語が共通語なのでマレーシア人は英語が話せるとの説明があり、皆感心していました。

それぞれの発表が終わった後、5名の留学生を囲んで小グループに分かれて10分間ずつ自己紹介や発表に対する質疑応答、「将来の夢」についてグループメンバーで英語で語り合いました。10分経った後、次のグループに移動し質疑応答と話し合いをしあい、5回のグループ活動が行われました。グループを移動するごとに皆表情が柔らかくなり、自信を持って英語でコミュニケーションが取れる様子がうかがえました。そして、交流会が終わりを迎える頃には皆すっかり仲良くなっており、大豊学園の生徒からは「コミュニケーションが取れて楽しかった」、「もっと英語で交流したい」という声が聞かれ笑顔が溢れていました。

留学生からも「皆積極的で純粋グループ活動



## 大豊町立大豊学園生徒との英語交流会Ⅱ



2024年2月21日（水）に、大豊町立大豊学園8年生(中学2年生)13人が実践的な英語教育の一環として高知大学を訪れ、本学の留学生6名と英語で交流しました。今回の活動は、本学の留学生との英語交流の経験により英語表現力を高める機会とするとともに、異文化に触れる経験を通して国際理解を深めるという目的で行われ、スウェーデンからオリヴァーさん、グスタヴさん、中国から董偉騫さん、紀清禹さん、マレーシアからフダさん、インドネシアからヘルミナさんが交流会に参加しました。

まず、留学生から自分の国の世界遺産とおもしろいものについての発表が各国10分ぐらいずつありました。スウェーデンからはオリヴァーさんより王室の居城であり、美しい庭園と宮殿がある「ドロットニングホルムの王領地」やヴァイキング時代の遺跡で歴史的な価値が高い「ビルカとホーヴゴーデン」、18世紀の製鉄所で産業遺産として重要な「エンゲルスバーリ製鉄所」、先史時代の岩絵が保存されている「ターヌムの岩絵群」などの世界遺産の紹介がありました。グスタヴさんからはスウェーデンのおもしろいものとして、2キロ以上の塊のチーズを切る「チーズスライサー」やペットボトルや缶のリサイクルシステムである「PANT」、15歳になると法的に免許なしで運転できる特別な「A-TRAKTOR」などの説明があり、皆文化の違いに驚いていました。

次に、董偉騫さんと紀清禹さんによる中国の世界遺産と中華料理の地域の味についての紹介がありました。中国の世界遺産はイタリアに次ぐ世界2位の登

録件数で、現在57件がユネスコに登録されており、日本でも有名な「万里の長城」や「兵馬俑」、「北京故宮」の紹介がありました。また、中華料理の5つの重要な味として中国は地域により特徴的な気候や習慣、文化が発達しており、料理の味付けも「南は甘く、北はしょっぱく、西は酸っぱく、東は辛い」という説明とともに漢方では「苦味」が不可欠で医食同源の考え方も紹介され、皆興味深く聞いていました。

続いて、フダさんからマレーシアの世界遺産としてマレーシアの西海岸にあるマラッカ海峡に面した2つの歴史的港町の「マラッカ海峡の歴史的都市群」が紹介され、東西の文化が交流した痕跡が説明されました。また、マレーシアのおもしろいものとしては、ビー玉を使って遊ぶ伝統的な「チョンカック」というゲームやデラックスなお弁当箱「ティフィンボール」が紹介され、皆興味津々でした。

最後に、ヘルミナさんからインドネシアが17,000の島々で構成されており、自然遺産になっている国立公園や山、湖などの自然が豊かなことが紹介されました。文化的豊かさとしては、多様な民族文化があり、伝統芸術であるバリ島の「ケチャダンス」や西ジャワ州の伝統楽器の「アンクルン」、ろうけつ染め布地の「バティック」などについて説明があり、皆興味を持っていました。

それぞれの発表が終わった後、6名の留学生を囲んで小グループに分かれて7分間ずつ自己紹介や発表に対する質疑応答、「自分が興味のある世界遺産」、「日本のおもしろいもの」についてグループメンバーで英語で語り合いました。7分経った後、次のグループに移動し質疑応答と話し合いをしあい、6回のグループ活動が行われました。大豊学園の生徒からは「マチュピチュ」や「ガラパゴス諸島」の世界遺産や「折り紙」や「新幹線」、「和菓子」などの紹介があり、グループを移動するごとに皆表情が柔らかくなり、自信を持って英語でコ

ミュニケーションが取れる様子がうかがえました。留学生からも日本のおもしろいものとして「だるま」や「よさこい祭り」を挙げる学生がおり、交流会が終わりを迎える頃には皆すっかり打ち解けていました。大豊学園の生徒からは「自分が準備してきたものを紹介でき、コミュニケーションが取れて楽しかった」、「もっと英語で交流したい」、「次の交流を楽しみにしている」という声が聞かれ笑顔が溢れていました。

留学生からも「他の国の話も聞けて楽しかった。グ



# KU ambassador in Palau



**4th Year Maths major Soma TAMAI visited the Pacific Island of Palau as part of the JICA-run JENESYS program in spring 2023**

What do you know about Palau? Some people don't even know what it is. It's a country! — an archipelago of over 500 islands and part of the Micronesia region in the western Pacific Ocean. Surprisingly, the population is only 20,000 and half of them are not native inhabitants. Considering that Tokyo Dome can hold 55,000 people, you can imagine how small the country is. Their official languages are English and Palauan, but Japanese is also recognized as an official language in some parts of Palau. Palau is the only overseas country that recognizes Japanese as an official language. Even Japan does not recognize Japanese as an official language. Why does Palau recognize Japanese as an official language? I'm sure you are already attracted to Palau. During last spring break, I stayed there for 10 days. I would like to talk about my experience in Palau in this article.

Dispatch members and locals. To begin with, I would like to talk about why I went to Palau. I went to Palau as part of a program called GENESIS to learn about Palauan environment, culture, history, people, food, and connection with Japan.

Palau was colonized by Japan long ago, so Japanese is still the official language in some parts of Palau, and some elderly people can speak Japanese. Palauan main industry is tourism, and many people visit there every year, not only from Japan but from all over the world. Why is this small country so famous? The answer is that beauty. Rock Islands Southern Lagoon in Palau has been inscribed on the Mixed Cultural and Natural



Heritage List since 2012 because of the beauty of the nature and the importance of their culture. Palau has tons of unique animals and cultures, which attracts lots of attention. I myself was able to have a wonderful time in nature.

Look at the picture above! Guess what I was doing! I was communicating with birds. This way was originally a method of hunting birds unique to Palau, and in the olden days, people used this method to communicate with birds, attract them nearby, and shoot them down with tools such as slingshots. I also went to a diving spot called Shark City. It is clear what is in there. I swam with many



sharks over 1 meter long. Of course, it is dangerous. However, the locals said that if you follow the rules, such as not giving them food, it is not so dangerous, and since many people visit the area, the sharks have become accustomed to humans. I also kayaked, walked through the jungle, and did many other things in nature.

Next, I would like to talk about my experience at school in Palau. I went to an elementary school in Palau and taught mathematics. The teaching method is quite different from that of Japan, and it was very interesting for me who is studying mathematics education. It was also a great experience to be able to talk with the local children. Furthermore, a Japanese worked as a JICA dispatch member. I was able to hear about Palauan educational problems from her. In Palau, it seems that the decline in the ability to calculate due to the decline in the need for calculation has become a problem for the entire country. What also surprised me was the increasing number of children who could speak English but not Palauan. Palauan is their native language. Have you ever met a Japanese who cannot speak Japanese? From a Japanese point of view, this situation is unthinkable.

I also talked with some local elderly people. There, I was able to hear what Palau was like when it was colonized by Japan, and it was a very valuable



experience. Also, some of the elderly people could speak Japanese, so we were able to have a deeper conversation in Japanese. Many of them gave me souvenirs such as sweets and key chains, and I was able to find their kindness of people in Palau.

Lastly, the experience I gained in Palau made my life more colorful and told me what I liked to do, which is to travel to many places, communicate with locals, and expand my knowledge. I really love Palau, so I would love you all to come to Palau! I am sure that you will have a lovely time!

“The experience I gained in Palau made my life more colorful and told me what I liked to do, which is to travel to many places, communicate with locals, and expand my knowledge”.

**Soma TAMAI**

## Richard Chavira (US)

After they met through the “OASIS” Partnership program Yamato ICHIKAWA interviewed Fresno University student Richard CHAVIRA, from the US, who studied at Kochi University on the GEASC Summer Program during July. In this text, Richard talks about his impressions of Japan.

### How do you feel about the Japanese language?

RC: *“I feel Japanese is extremely interesting and fun to learn. It is also very challenging. I saw Kochi University students working hard to achieve their dreams.”*

YI: “I think so. Japanese people are diligent. I am a worrier! So, I spend as much effort as possible. In fact, being worried is considered a bad thing, but I think it is a good trait of Japanese because they expend effort on things.”

### What is the most surprising to you about Japan?

RC: *“I was surprised about how people in Japan ride escalators depending on which place you are in. Left side in Tokyo, right side in Osaka.”*

YI: “It is so interesting. I know about this phenomenon, but I don’t know why Japanese people change their way depending on where they are. In Kochi, we are a little relieved that the escalator rules aren’t stricter!”

### What interests you the most about Japanese culture?

RC: *“Anime!! Japanese Anime has fascinated me for a long time. In America, many people love Japanese Anime. “One Piece”, “Dragon Ball” and “Naruto” is so famous!” Anime Expo was held in America. Therefore, I went to this Expo festival. It was so much fun. I want to go again!*

YI: “I like Anime very much!! I didn’t know that Japanese anime was so popular in the United States. I’m very happy to hear that.”

### What is the best way for Japanese students to improve their English?

RC: *“Listen and watch Western media, music, and movies in English immersion. Most important is to try to talk in English more!”*

YI: “That’s good to hear! I often listen to Japanese songs, but I will listen to a lot of Western music during this summer vacation! Particularly, Western music!”

### Please tell us about the love you have for Japanese anime.

RC: *“I have loved anime since high school, and it helped me begin learning Japanese! My favorite Anime is “You’re Under Arrest!”. I recommend Japanese people read it!”*

YI: “I haven’t watched this anime yet. I will be watching it as soon as I can on Amazon Prime. Anime is indispensable to the Japanese. Every Monday, many Japanese go to bookstores to read Anime Manga. I hope you will continue to get the courage from Anime and study Japanese!”

Yamato adds..

“Richard is my first overseas friend. Through our conversations, I could understand how Japanese people are seen by foreigners. Also, I was able to become friends with him through *anime*, so I understood the importance of Japanese anime in other countries. I will continue to value exchanges with international students.”



# Brighton bound

By Midori SUYAMA

**KU Science Faculty  
2nd Year student  
Midori SUYAMA  
spent the spring  
break in 2023  
studying in south  
coast UK town of  
Brighton**

As I waited on the runway at Kansai Airport, I remember feeling excited but also nervous about the adventure I was about to begin. I had never been on an airplane before let alone been to another country. Eighteen hours later, after transiting through Hong Kong, we touched down with a bang on English soil. Thus began my month-long study abroad experience in the U.K.

From Heathrow Airport, I traveled south by taxi to the town of Brighton which would be my home for the next month. Brighton is quite small compared with London but has a variety of spots such as a tourist attractions and souvenir shops. Two hundred years ago, Brighton was a fishing village. However, when the fun-loving and

the free-living Prince Regent, George, began visiting it rapidly grew into a fashionable playground for the rich. These days, Brighton is still a popular resort town. Hotels stretch all along the seafront looking out over the English Channel towards France. There are also restaurants, bars, and plenty of other amusements throughout the town. What's more, the residents who I met are also very kind to visitors. All in all, it is a great place to visit and study!

I studied at Oxford International language school in Brighton from 20th of February to 10th of March 2023.



**The seafront in Brighton, U.K**

My course was "General English". In the morning we discussed a topic together while using expressions learnt during the class. We also had a test every Friday. The school checked whether we had acquired what we learnt during that week or not.

There were many nationalities: one person was from Turkey, others were from Saudi Arabia, and others were from Colombia, so I was able to experience a variety of pronunciations, ways of thinking, and cultures by talking with my classmates.

I got the bus to school every day, always excited to see Abbie who works on

the reception desk. I always talked to her until classes began. Abbie is bright and really helped me, for example, how to look for and get to a phone shop and how to get a bus ticket. I loved talking with her so much. She told me a lot about British culture. For instance, the pose of "Hopefully," the meaning of "touch wood," and the Easter festival. British people make the peace sign with both hands while saying "hopefully." "touch wood" comes from a belief that there is a fairy inside the wood.

So they try to receive good luck and keep bad ghosts away by touching wood. So, they say "touch wood"

to somebody who has difficult situations. Abbie also gave me some “Mini eggs”, which is a chocolate sweet of the Easter festival. Finally, I felt like as if I were British.

I stayed with a local family during my study abroad tour. I am a bit poor at communicating with a big group of people, so I spent a lot of time with my host family instead of my classmates. The family really helped my English. My host mother, whose name is Ellie, cooked “Sunday Roast” for me on 6th of March. Sunday Roast is a British traditional lunch...on Sunday. It includes meat: beef, pork, and chicken, etc., and vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, and beans. There was also chocolate cake as a dessert. All members of her family got together on Sunday evening, and we enjoyed the special dinner.

There is a special episode that I would like to share with you. It happened the last week staying with them. When we ate the Sunday roast, Ellie said “Could you pass me the kitchen roll?” I reached for it because I could understand her. Her son ended

**Midori  
catching a bus  
in Parliament  
Square,  
London.  
London is only  
an hour’s train  
ride away from  
Brighton.**

up passing it to her, but she told me “You can catch what I said! Cool.” Can you get what I mean now? At first, I couldn’t understand anything even if she talked to me slowly, but I could deal with English better after only 2 weeks! Through this episode I could sense my progress.

What I learnt from this trip is not only language skills. I experienced traveling on an airplane, staying abroad, and explaining myself in English for



the first time. I searched for lots of information about these things before leaving Japan. I also experienced many unexpected events. I cried on the flight leaving Japan because I felt very lonely. When I came back home, when I transferred in China, I almost missed the flight because my flight from Heathrow Airport to Hong Kong was delayed for 1 hour. However, I enjoyed going shopping with my friend, making simple *sushi* for my host family, and visiting London by myself. I also wrote letters to Abbie and my host family. I really wanted to express my feelings exactly, so I looked up various English expressions many times. I used new phrases again and again. Eventually, I found a way of spending quality time abroad. I can say I grew through these experiences. I believe that this is the case for anyone. If you go abroad with clear goals and work hard to achieve them, you can also change your life.





# Navigating the Uncharted: An International Student's Tale at Kochi University



By **Murni Irsalinabintimohamadzain**

Why'd you come to Japan?" - a question every international student at Kochi University is familiar with. However, the answers vary, revealing a kaleidoscope of motivations that transcend the stereotypical perceptions of Japan. It's a land not just of cherry blossoms and ancient traditions but also a magnet for those enchanted by the vibrant world of anime culture.

For aspiring younger generations, like myself, Japan represents more than just a geographical location; it's a gateway to exploring the captivating anime realm. However, the reality for foreigners settling into Japan, particularly workers and non-Japanese speakers, is far from the glossy sheen often associated with the country.

The real challenge lies in the subtle cultural differences and the formidable language barrier. It's not unique to Japan; it's a universal learning

curve that confronts anyone venturing beyond their comfort zone. Fluency in language is undoubtedly a valuable asset, yet it only one aspect of assimilating into a culture where tacit knowledge, encompassing humor, social cues, and unspoken rules, eludes textbook learning. The daunting nature of this challenge is as intimidating as it is exciting. It marks the beginning of a new adventure, a fresh chapter in one's life- a true test of early adulthood. The fear of the unknown should not be a deterrent but a catalyst propelling you forward.

The key lies in embracing the unfamiliarity, recognizing that while language fluency is crucial, there will always be cultural gaps that transcend linguistic mastery. It's not about beating yourself up for perceived shortcomings; instead, it's about cherishing the journey of filling those gaps through immersive experiences.

The vibrant tapestry of Japan unfolds beyond the classroom, revealing a dynamic interplay of tradition and modernity. Every interaction becomes a bridge, connecting the international student with the rich cultural heritage that defines Japan.

So, why Japan? It's not just about pursuing academic excellence; it's about unraveling the layers of a society that beckon exploration. Kochi, nestled in the heart of Japan, becomes a microcosm of this journey- a place where international students weave their narratives into the intricate fabric of Japanese life.

In navigating the uncharted waters of language and cultural differences, international students at KU embark on a transformative odyssey, overcoming challenges and carving their niche in the vibrant mosaic of Japanese society. The true essence of studying abroad lies in immersing oneself in the living, breathing culture that surrounds us.

So, to those contemplating the leap into the unknown, remember: the journey may be filled with uncertainties, but each challenge is an opportunity to grow, learn, and truly experience the beauty of a world that extends far beyond the textbooks. Don't let your fears shackle you; let them be the winds that propel your sails into the uncharted waters of personal and cultural discovery.

### Erika Theresa (Indonesia)

**In this series of interviews for The Globe, KU students interviewed overseas and asked them about their impressions of Japan. Humanities student Shiori ORIMI talked with Erika Theresa from Indonesia**



#### Why did you decide to go abroad to study?

*"I'm a third-year university student, and I believe in the power of young people. I haven't married and I can't decide on what she really wants to do. If I make a wrong decision I can have a responsibility for what I did. So I wanted to something that only university students can do."*

#### Why did you choose Japan?

*"Japanese animation brought me to Japan. I like love comedy animation."*

#### How do you study Japanese?

*"In my Indonesian university, my major is management and international communication. But, I hadn't learned Japanese in my class. I only watched Japanese animation. Through watching Japanese animation, I learns daily conversation in Japanese."*

#### What are your favorite things about Japan?

*"Japanese people are punctual. Punctual is people who can keep time. My image of Japanese people is that they are dedicated. By spending time with Japanese people, I wants to learn the behaviour of Japanese people and if I become a businessperson, I wants to use my skill."*

#### What is your favorite place in Japan?

*"My favorite place is Kyoto. I went to Kyoto in Golden Week with my friend. It was a good experience for me."*





# Malaysian memories

By Ayaka SAIHARA

“Hi!!What’s up?”

Cheerful voices are all around. This is everyday scene in our school. There are many people from many countries, Saudis, Yemenis, Koreans, and Chinese....Moreover, there are people of all ages. However, the common language is English only. This environment was very challenging, exciting, and fun!!!

My studying abroad started on February 18th. When I arrived at KL international airport, I was really nervous. Because it was the first time that I

went abroad. At first, I was surprised because KL was very city. Before I went to Malaysia, I thought there is a developing country. But, there are many tall buildings, shopping mall, and any more. Especially, I was surprised about Japanese companies. There were many Japanese companies! For example, Don Quixote, Sushizanmai, Sukiya, and more. Thanks for them, I don’t feel lonely about Japan. From these things, I change my image about Malaysia. Moreover, I will tell you about my school. At first, there were many kinds of people. For example, Arabian, Chinese, Korean and



Russian. In addition, there were people of all ages, both of young and old. The environment was very interesting for me. The school experiences were unforgettable memories. Furthermore, I learned English in English at the school. I couldn’t understand my class in the first week because I couldn’t catch teacher’s talking and instructions. I was

to go to school. Additionally, I realize the importance of learning English in English. It is a great way to acquire

**“I could make a lot of wonderful memories with my friends”**

English abilities. These experiences in Malaysia are my lifetime treasure. I could make a lot of wonderful memories with my friends. I’m glad that I choose Malaysia for my first studying abroad. In addition, I want to go many countries in my life because I can enjoy different cultures. And then, I definitely visit Malaysia again!!!!

upset. However, I had come to understand classes strangely from the second week. And I became able to communicate to the classmates who come from foreign countries. I was happy!! It’s getting fun



# KU students participate in Global News Relay

The *Global News Relay* is an international event for media and journalism students around the globe.

2017 marked the first time that Kochi University participated in the event, which was initially hosted by KU partner Fresno State University in California.

Since that time four other students have been involved. International Education Program alumnus Reiko Hosogi led the way, followed by Humanities 3rd year Mei Fukata, and Nepali student Temba Tamang. All of them have recorded video packages on the theme of student activism.



Reiko's piece, which was entitled 'Being Different', focused on the rights of LGBT rights in Japan - a subject that she is concerned about and actively involved in trying to change. The video, which was filmed at Chikurin Temple on Godaisan, looked at some of the difficulties that sexual minorities face in Japan, and how individuals are moving to change current attitudes. Mei chose to base her package on the

anti-nuclear protests witnessed in Japan in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake in Sendai and subsequent disaster at Fukushima No.1 power plant. The protests have attracted considerable support from the younger generations.

Mei, who spent 9 months at Fresno studying journalism and currently employed by the *Kochi Shimbun*, took the opportunity of a visit by then IEP

Director Shigenari Maenishi to ask him to share his views on Japan's nuclear energy policy.

The Global News Relay, which first went live on the evening of March 29th 2017, will take place again this year. The Kochi University contributions can be found on YouTube.

<https://goo.gl/LkPXMf>



## Profile



### Davey Leslie (US)

**In this series of interviews for The Globe, KU students interviewed overseas students and staff and asked them about their impressions of Japan. Ayaka SAIHARA talked with long-term Kochi University teacher Davey LESLIE, a familiar face on campus whose classes are always popular with students**

**What do you want to do in this summer?**

*I'm looking forward to my grand daughter coming to Japan in September. I want to spend time with my family.*

**What is the most interesting event in your life?**

*Coming to Japan. This event is the biggest change in my life. I'm happy to have a good job and a wife.*

**If you could take one thing with you to a desert island, what would it be?**

*I'd take books I haven't read yet. I have many books I haven't read yet on my book shelf.*

**How do you feel about Japanese people?**

*I like people from the countryside. I feel Japanese in the Kanto area are cold! In addition, Japanese are devious. I am relieved that Japan has gun laws.*

**What is your dream in the future?**

*Writing and publishing an original novel. Writing is my hobby.*

**I hope that your dream will come true!**



# My plans for study abroad



“Through studying abroad, I would like to make my university life more meaningful.”

**Yamato ISHIKAWA**

### 1st Year student Yamato ISHIKAWA describes his inspirations and motivations for studying abroad

Did you know that Canadian people often eat maple syrup using chopsticks? When I was a high school student, I met a beautiful ALT from Ottawa, Canada. She taught me about Canadian culture and habits including the fact that they use chopsticks to eat maple syrup. I was so surprised to hear that. This story made me interested in Canada. I decided to study in Canada because of this.

If I go to Canada, I would like to learn at Vancouver West college

because I want to take Professional Customer Service Co-op Certificate. A lot of exchange students take Co-op program these days. This course has a paid internship. I would like to learn practical English through internship. Major internship destination includes airports, hotels, cooking schools, etc.

Today, I am interested in Vancouver International Airport because I want to do my best to provide hospitality at the airport, a place where people of different nationalities gather, so that customers

can depart on their journeys in comfort.

After school, I want to meet my ALT again. she taught me many Canadian customs and traditions in high school. Particularly, when I graduated from my high school, she gave me a book about the future. Her advice gave me courage. And most importantly, she inspired me to want to go study abroad. I will take a lot of time from Vancouver to Ottawa, but I want to thank her again in Canada.

I have another thing that I want to do after school. To participate in the

Sugar Shack. Sugar Shack is a Canadian festival where food flavored with maple syrup is served. It is especially famous for its maple toffee, which is made by drizzling maple syrup on top of snow, and I would like to try it.

This is my studying abroad plan. Through studying abroad, I would like to make my university life more meaningful. And I will **find my dream!**

# A journey to answer the question “Who am I?”

KU Graduate Airi CHIKAMORI, now a  
doctoral student in Hokkaido, spent  
six months studying in China

皆さんは留学のメリットというとうとう  
ものが思いつきますか?言語を学べること?文  
化を知る こと?それとも国を超えた友達・家  
族ができること?もちろん、これらはすべて  
留学で得られる利 点であり、それ以降の人  
生において本当に貴重な財産となります。で  
すが、私はこれ以外にもう一つ、重要なこ  
とがあるのではないかなと考えています。そ  
れは留学は「『私』という人間はどのよう  
な人間なのか」という問いへの潜在的な答え  
を提示してくれるということです。 留学中  
は自分がよく見知った環境とは違う環境へ足  
を踏み入れます。防御壁をとっばらって 様々  
なことに体当たりしていく場面がとても多い  
んです。そうしてがむしゃらに楽しんだり、

つらい と思うことに向き合ったりしていく  
と自然に、「私」とはどういう人間なの  
か、何が好きなのか、何がしたいのか、と  
向き合い、自分を知る時間が多くなりま  
す。実際私も含め留学を経験した友人の 多  
くが、例えば将来本当にしたいことを発見  
したり、自分のコンプレックスを受け止め  
たりとそれ ぞれにとって非常に重要な課題  
を解決する糸口をつかんでいました。もち  
ろん言語的文化的な 学びが多く得られる留  
学ですが、「私」とは何者なのか、という  
問いへの答えを探求する旅として も、留学  
へ歩を進めてほしいと思います。

## Pros and Cons of study abroad

Wako YAMAMOTO joined the police force after graduating from KU. Here she  
provides an honest appraisal of study abroad

### ☆留学のメリット

- ・英語力が伸びる
  - ・留学経験を通じて、「何でもやればできる」という自信がつく
  - ・海外に友人ができ、ネットワークが広がる
  - ・何でも挑戦する度胸、行動力がついた
  - ・留学先の現状を実際に体感でき、自身の価値観が広がる
  - ・異文化への理解が深まる
  - ・日本で日常的に耳にする海外のニュースについて、考えるきっかけになる(実際に現場に行くことで、ニュースの内容が正しくないと感じることもあった)
  - ・就活に有利(就活の面接等で、話のネタが増える)
- 意外な国への留学なら尚更話が盛り上がる

### ☆留学のデメリット

- ・お金がかかる(親に負担をかける)
- ・何か目的を持っていかないと、何も得られない
- ・努力しないと、留学しても英語力は伸びない
- ・はじめは環境に慣れず、体調を崩しがちだった(長期の腹痛、胃腸炎になった)
- ・英語が母国語ではない国の授業で、先生がたまにその国の母国語で説明するときがあり、理解できなかった
- ・留学前の準備が大変
- ・国による性格の違いに戸惑うことがあった(グループワークでのテストがあったが、マイペースすぎて準備が全く進まず、結局ぶっつけ本番になった)

## Think different! Studying Abroad in Khazakstan



**Khazakstan may not feature highly on most people's list of study abroad destination. But for those with a sense of adventure, thinking 'out-of-the-box' about such destinations bring great rewards. So says Hinako INOUE**

こんにちは。2016年に高知大学土佐さががけプログラムに入学した井上日南子と申します。

私は、2018年9月より9ヶ月間、中央アジアに位置するカザフスタン共和国で留学生生活を送っていました。

通っていたのは、カザフスタンの南に位置するアルマトイという街にある、カザフ国立大学です。アルマトイは南の首都と呼ばれカザフスタンの経済・教育・文化の中心です。私は、カザフ国立大学の準備学部でロシア語を勉強しました。この学部にはカザフ語専攻とロシア語専攻があり、私はロシア語のコースを受講し、ゼロ

からロシア語の習得に励みました。はじめのテストでクラス分けがあり、キリル文字の書き方や発音などからスタートしました。同じグループには、中国人の正規留学生や韓国人の交換留学生がありました。そのほか違うクラスには、アフガニスタン、トルコ、ウズベキスタン、アメリカなどの国外からの学生が多く在籍しており、ほとんどが寮で生活を送っていたので、世界各国からの友達を作ることができました。

カザフスタンの国語はカザフ語ですが、旧ソ連の国であることからロシア語が公用語として幅広く使われます。特に首都のヌルスルタンや、最

大都市であるアルマトイでは、ロシア語が多く使われるため、ロシア語が話せれば生活に支障はありません。まれにロシア語が話せないカザフ人もいます。また都会から離れるとカザフ語中心で会話されるようです。9か月という限られた時間の中で、文法、リスニング、スピーキングの授業を通して日常会話レベルまで習得し、自分で文章を書くこともできるようになりました。

そのほかの授業には、カザフスタンの地理歴史を学ぶカントリースタディーがあり、カザフスタンの地形や行政区域、遊牧していた時代からソ連になり、カザフスタン共和国として独立するまでの歴史などを学習しました。少しではありますが、カザフ語の学習にも取り組みました。カザフ語は、ロシア語と文法が全く違うので、ロシア語の学習と並行して勉強するのは大変でした

が、カザフ語の学習を通して、カザフ文化の理解につながる場面が多くあったので良かったです。

アルマトイ市内にはバス・地下鉄があり、タクシーも安いので、交通に不便はありませんでした。住んでいた寮は町の中心部に位置し、レストランやバーザールなどアクセスのいいところに位置しています。寮に関しては、日本人は無料だったので、生活にかかる費用といえば食費と携帯電話、娯楽費くらいです。

家計簿をつけていましたが月にかかる費用は多くても3万円というところでした。食事は、寮のキッチンで自炊することも可能ですが私はいろんな料理を試してみたかったので、外食が多かったです。スタローバヤといわれる大衆食堂では一般的に、スープ、サラダ、メ



### Murni Irsalinabintimohamadzain (Malaysia)

In this series of interviews for The Globe, KU students interviewed overseas students and staff and asked them about their impressions of Japan. Midori SUYAMA interviewed Malaysian student Murni Irsalinabintimohamadzain about her life in Japan.

#### Could you tell me yourself?

Murni: My name is Murni, I'm from Malaysia and I'm a first student year in Kochi University. I came here as an effort to strengthen diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan.

#### Why did you choose Japan instead of another country?

Murni: I'll be honest, that I got introduced to Japan was because of anime. But then like when I study to properly learn about Japan and Japanese language, I became introduced to a polite society like you can trust people to not commit crime without any supervision.

#### What do you learn now?

Murni: Objectively speaking, there is no difference in what I learn from here or what I could've learned in Malaysia because I'm sure that Malaysia's standard tertiary education is just as good as Japan. But I can confidently say that I've come to learn the spaces of environment and we are doing things from new prospective, which is something that you can only pick up through experience.

#### How do you do or what do you want to do to be satisfied your abroad life?

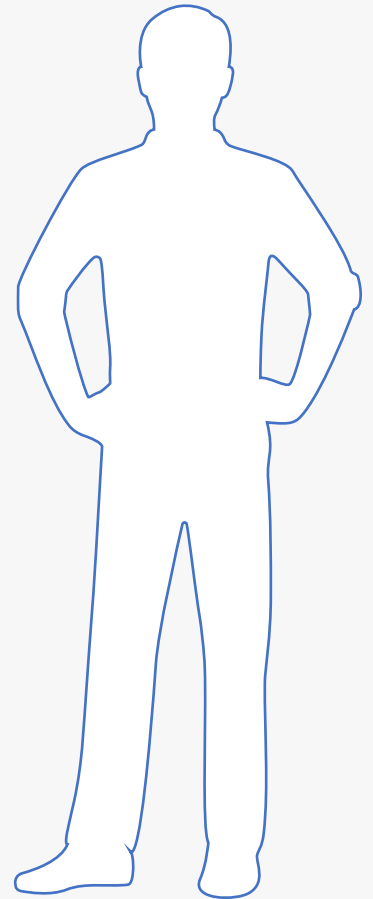
Murni: I'll Just do everything that I can only do abroad. Traveling or going to be playing around is not study, but the point is do everything that I can only do here in Japan.

#### What do you want to do or work after graduate?

Murni: I aim to make a lot of connections and then make use of those after graduate for future investments. That's as expected of a Malaysian government sponsored student I guess.

#### Do you have any advice for me about studying overseas?

Murni: I would say I mean your idea is annoying you. I'm trust you to do your best. I hope if you do ever come to any trouble, know that there will be someone to help you.





**KU Graduate Chiseri IMANISHI, now a company employee in Kochi, spent a month learning English in Brighton, U.K.**

高校時代は普通科に通い、留学経験もありませんでした。英語に興味があったため大学では英語や中国語など語学を専攻しました。

入学後、英語で講義を受ける機会が増える中、周りの発言を聞き取れないなど自分の英語力のなさを日々痛感しました。

その頃に教授からイギリスの語学学校への留学を提案していただき、初の海外留学が決まりました。

当時、一緒にイギリスに行く先輩がいたことや初の海外渡航で喜んでいただけ、不安や心配はそれほど感じませんでした。

語学学校では、英語で初級の文法を勉強しました。イタリアやチェコなど様々な国籍の方と一緒に勉強や食事といった交流をしました。

また、現地ではホストファミリーの家で1ヵ月生活させていただきました。これまでも、留学生を受け入れていた方だったようで、

“ブライトンが多国籍な街だったこともあり、初めてたくさんの異文化交流を体験することができ、視野が広がるきっかけになりました”

休日一緒に出掛けたり、「こっちを使ってもいいよ」とお箸を買ってきてくれたりなど、とても親切で温かいファミリーでした。

語学学校だけでなく日常生活でも英語を使う機会が急激に増えたことで、耳が英語に慣れ、次第に聞き取りやすくなりました。

一方で、英語での発言は思った通りに相手に伝えることが難しく、意思疎通ができていないことも時々ありました。

しかし、帰国後に講義に出席した時には、前よりも発言に自信がついたように思います。

ブライトンが多国籍な街だったこともあり、初めてたくさんの異文化交流を体験することができ、視野が広がるきっかけになりました。

留学をしなくてもオンライン教材などで語学力を伸ばすことができたと思いますが、地元民のフットボールの練習を見たり、







### Ship for World Youth

By Rina IIDA

**Every spring, 240 young people from five continents travel to various locations around the Indian Ocean for a month on the cruise ship *Nippon Maru*. The purpose of the project, 'Ship for World Youth', is to raise participants' leadership skills and understanding toward different cultures or countries. Rina Iida reports on her experience**

From January 21st to March 1st 2019, I was on board the *Nippon Maru* to participate in 'Ship for World Youth', an project organised by the Japanese Cabinet office, which has been running more than 31 years. The number of participants is about 240; 120 Japanese, and 120 others from 10 different countries on five

continents. This year the participating foreign counties were Sweden, Greece, Turkey, UAE, Tanzania, Ecuador, Chile, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Australia. Each year people from overseas countries participate in this program, and the route changes. This year we left Yokohama port and went to Okinawa in Japan and Palau for refueling, Darwin and Brisbane, and Honiara in the Solomon Islands for refueling, before going back to Japan.

The schedule was pre-prepared, but arranged by the participants. So, we made a "National Presentation" and some events such as club activities and seminars on any theme we want. Some activities were prepared such as course discussions, of which there were seven, and the port call activities in Darwin and Brisbane.

What I learned from this program is the importance of stepping out of my comfort





“What I learned from this program is the importance of stepping out of my comfort zone.”

Rina Iida

zone. It was harder for me to discuss about refugees in English, debate in English, give information in English, and talk about serious topics in English than I had expected. I often felt stressful, frustration and disappointment. However, every time I was disappointed with myself, my friends helped me in various ways. I have two people who I cannot forget are Pontus and Ayaka. Pontus and I were in the same group and committee, which was like the leadership of the group and tell group members information from administration every day. He made me try to speak in front of group members and helped me when I was confused about what to say. I sometimes couldn't understand what he was saying, but he very tried to understand me. He will be my big brother forever. Ayaka is a positive thinker and always encouraged me. We spent meaningful time together and talked about a lot of things.

Now she is in Cambodia doing an internship. I'm going to see her in Cambodia next year and also see Pontus someday when I have improved more. I made a family through this program. I have not only happy memories but also some negative ones, which will nonetheless help me develop. I'll keep in touch with them.







## Dreaming of Canada

By Ryusei YAMAMOTO

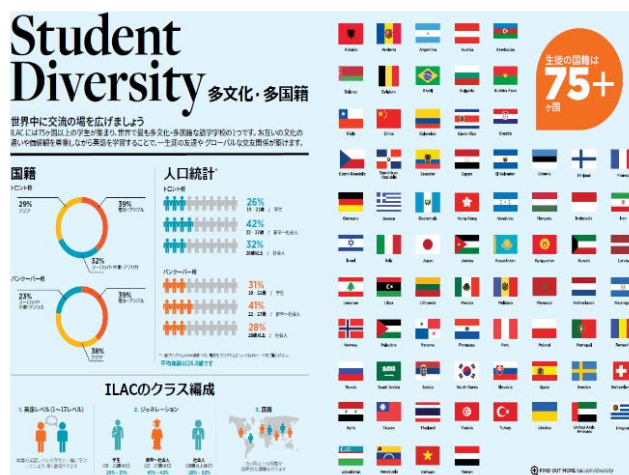
Hello! everyone! First, here's a few hints about the country I would like to visit. The most popular sport is hockey. It is surrounded by nature and very beautiful. And its most famous product maple syrup. The correct answer, of course, is Canada.

The main reason I want to go to Canada is because as a study abroad destination, I can not only learn English, but also experience various cultures. I have been interested in culture and religion since I was a high school student, so I would like to go and experience the diverse country of Canada. Also, Canada is known for its natural beauty and warmth of people, so I think it will be more fun and fulfilling. I would love to go to Canada next year to experience and learn various things.

I want to go to a language school called ILAC (International Language Academy of Canada) Toronto in Canada. This school has more than 75 nationalities of students, and it has the charm of being

multicultural and multinational. There will be a test soon after entering, and it seems that we will be divided into levels, so if I go, I want to do my best so that I can go to a higher class.

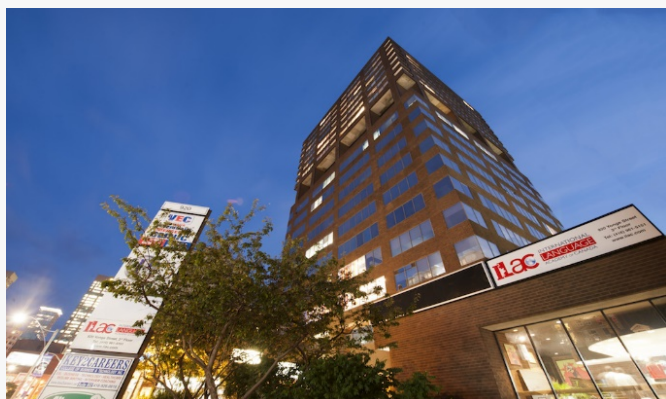
Transportation is very convenient near the school, and it seems that there are various events such as parties and trips. The reviews were very good, and word of mouth said that "I became fluent in English"



and "I made many foreign friends", which made me want to go even more.

My motive for studying abroad are as follows. The first is to improve my English. Before studying abroad, I need to study hard and improve my English. And I think I'll try TOEIC and Eiken (English proficiency test). The second is to increase motivation. I often watch videos of people studying abroad on TIKTOK and YouTube. The third is to save money. I can't go to study abroad without money, so I'm going to save up steadily.

I want to use my study abroad experience to become an English teacher. However, I am also interested in working in international relations, so I will think about it and make a decision.



## Profile

### Andrew Perez (California, US)

In this series of interviews for The Globe, KU students interviewed overseas students and staff and asked them about their impressions of Japan. Atsushi ADACHI talked with California State University 3rd Year student Andrew Perez, who visited Kochi during July on the GEASC Summer Program, about his impressions of Japan

**Why did you decide to come here?**

*There is a summer school program, and I am studying Japanese at university, so I came here. Also, this is my first time coming to Japan, and my first time traveling abroad.*

**What do you major in at university?**

*I major in classical music and Japanese at university.*

**What is your image of Japan? Did your feelings change before and after coming to Japan?**

*Before I came to Japan, I had an image that it was all busy like Tokyo, but I was surprised by the fact that I had to change public transportation. Also, the Shinkansen felt very fast. I also felt that Japanese food was cheap and delicious.*

**What do you think about the difference between English education in Japan and America?**

*English education in the United States begins in kindergarten or elementary school and focuses on reading and writing rather than speaking. Grammar and vocabulary begin in the second grade of elementary school. In addition, the second language is Spanish, which starts in high school. I spoke with Japanese people at the airport, but I didn't think their English was difficult.*

**What are you good at?**

Playing the guitar — I'm in a band. I especially like rock.

**Thank you!**





# European tour for science major

By Atsushi Adachi

What was happening around the world On November 4th, 2017? Was it your birthday? your anniversary? For me, the answer is simple. The day was my first time to travel onboard an airplane. Before that day, I had never flown aboard an aircraft. I had never been to Hokkaido, Okinawa, nor Tokyo. After that in the next five years I flew about seven times per year. In those five years, I went to five countries.

I decided to go to a foreign country to study English before starting university. But at that time I had not decided on the country. I searched for information about study abroad for two years. One day, I received information about study abroad for United Kingdom and Malaysia. I decided to go to United Kingdom because I have never been to a European country. Before going to UK, I had heard that English food is bad and expensive. However, when I went to UK, my host family's meals were good. On the other hand, English prices are high. When I went to the Japanese noodle restaurant, I paid the two thousand yen.

At language school, I met many people from other countries. I learned various English skills. In particular it was hard listening to English spoken



Big Ben in London, U.K



Atsushi in the U.K with fellow students from Italy, Turkey, and France

by Italians, because Italian English finishes with vowels. I took 30 hours per week of lessons. In the morning, I learned grammar and vocabulary mainly. At the time, I felt difference between education systems. In general, Japanese English education system concentrates on listening and reading. That why most Japanese people can't speak

**“Studying English while speaking and using it is the way to study English.”**

**Atsushi Adachi**

English. However, on the other hand, English education systems in other countries concentrate on speaking. So, I have to say my opinion in class. I really believe speaking and using English is the way to study it. On the other hand, some can speak English very well but can't understand grammar.

Also, I was able to experience other cultures. For example, I wore Albanian clothing. On the weekends, I went to coffee shops and theme parks with my friend and communicated with him all the time.

After finishing the home stay, I went to London for sightseeing. I stayed for 3 days. There are many different cultures and traditional buildings in Europe. While staying London, I also went to Paris in France. The night of first day, I went to Victoria coach station (a coach is a long distance bus). I was on the coach for 10 hours. On the way to Paris, I crossed the strait of Dover by Eurostar. I was surprised by the the method because we drove onto the train while still on the bus. When I woke up on the coach, I had arrived in Paris. I mostly walked along the Seine River because of the risk of pick pockets. I saw the Eiffel tower, Arch of triumph, Louvre Museum which is famous for the Mona Lisa and the Orangerie Museum which has the famous garden paintings by Claude Monet. All of things which I saw were familiar from TV shows and journals.



The Eiffel Tower in Paris

## Feature

# Kuala Lumpur: multicultural 'melting pot'

**Humanities Faculty student Shiori ORIMI travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the spring break on the Global Education Centre Short Term Study Abroad Program. Here she recalls the experience**

Have you ever been abroad? Do you have any image of Malaysia? If I ask these questions to my friends, almost all of them will say "No". I had never been to another country until my last spring vacation. And I didn't even know where Malaysia was until the last 2 weeks before departure. That is why this short-term study abroad has a lot of first experiences for me.

Before I went to Malaysia, I worried about many things. But now I can confidently say such an experience makes our possibilities expand. The most important things I learned is even if the language is not understood, it is possible to communicate if there is a will to convey. So, if you worry about if you should go to study abroad or not, I absolutely recommend it to you. I'm sure you've heard from many people and many



situations, but I would like to tell you the most is "don't be afraid of making mistakes". There are many things I want to tell you, but I will focus on three things.

Firstly, travel in Malaysia. During the weekends I often went to traditional places. One of my favorite places was Melaka, famous as a world heritage city. The night market is well-known and popular. You can enjoy the cityscape, as well as shopping and eating delicious foods.

Malaysia is multicultural country, so you can go to religious centres such as Chinese temples, mosques and churches. If you go there you can feel the atmosphere of other cultures and see traditional buildings. Furthermore if you want to buy some souvenir or enjoy shopping around KL, you can go to central market and China town. Central market has almost 130 small stores



selling souvenir and food. For example we can buy traditional patterns craft and sea cucumber soap which is a famous souvenir in Malaysia. China town is also an enjoyable market which provides opportunity to communicate with salespeople. They can speak a little Japanese because of numerous Japanese tourists.

Secondly, life as student. I was a student at ELC(English Language Company). My room in the condominium the school manages was very beautiful and comfortable to live in. The view from the window was gorgeous. School started at 9:15. Before the

*"I can confidently say such an experience make our possibilities expand. The most important things I learned is even if the language is not understood, it is possible to communicate if there is a will to convey."*



Masiid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah

time, I got ready to go out and went to school on foot, which took 10 minutes. At school, we learned English according to our level. During lunch break, I had lunch at a restaurant near the school with friends from around the world while exchanging our culture. After



school, I had a wonderful time with friends as the location of our school is in downtown KL which has all kinds of places like amusement park, commercial facilities, and gyms. To make your life abroad really fun, the location of the school might be enough.

Eating in Malaysia. The thing I was most looking forward to in Malaysia was the food. I ate both traditional Malaysian foods such as *nasi goreng* (fried rice) and *mie goreng* (grilled rice noodles). These taste good, and are found in almost all restaurants. You can also eat Chinese food as there are many Chinese Malays. There is a huge local restaurant which Chinese Malays often go to. A lot of Malaysian restaurants can't offer pork because around 60% of Malays are Muslim, but Chinese restaurants have many kinds of pork foods. KL also has lots of stylish cafeteria and restaurant. Food cheaper than in Japan, desserts especially are low in cost. The last day, my friends and I went to an Italian restaurant which has wonderful night view

Through this short-term study abroad, I can learn many things and get some confidence. I realized I can do many things what I never done before if I really want to do. Furthermore, getting a lot of other countries friends and broadening my horizon. Try short-term study abroad!!!!

# Crossing Roads in Malaysia - A Lesson Learned

Education faculty major Shiori KOZAKI spent a month in Malaysia studying English. Here she describes one of her more interesting experiences!



In Japan it is common for pedestrians to use crosswalks when crossing the road. From a young age, most Japanese are taught the simple rule of "Look right, look left, and raise your hand while crossing the pedestrian crossing." However, Malaysia presents a different challenge altogether, as pedestrian crosswalks are few and far between. With busy roads, fast-moving cars, and motorcycles dominating the streets, pedestrian bridges are not as abundant as one might expect. In Malaysia, the scarcity of pedestrian crosswalks is a reality.

In spring of 2023 I went to Malaysia for a

month to study English. It takes 7 hours by airplane from Tokyo. After I arrived at Kuala Lumpur International Airport the school driver picked up me and dropped me near the school. It was then that I learned about Malaysian pedestrian crossing! I had many experiences here have focused on crossing the road.

Upon my arrival in Malaysia, when I was first learning how to commute from my dormitory to school, the instructor pointed towards a four-lane road divided by a median and said, "Cross the road here." On my first day of school, it took me

approximately seven minutes to cross the road. I followed behind the locals, unsure of the right timing. However, after a month, as my departure date drew near, I became a pro at crossing the road. Now, I would like to share with you the key to successfully crossing these busy roads. It's quite simple: just raise one hand straight out to the side, with the palm facing the oncoming vehicles, and cross the road with confidence.

Easy, isn't it? With this gesture alone, most cars will come to a halt, allowing you to safely cross. However, it requires some

experience and discernment to deal with those few vehicles that don't stop. I encourage you all to give it a try next time.

Crossing the roads in Malaysia may seem daunting at first, but with a little practice and the right technique, pedestrians can navigate the bustling streets with ease. Remember, raising your hand confidently while crossing sends a clear signal to drivers, indicating your intention to cross the road.

Exercise caution and rely on your judgment to assess the traffic situation. Stay safe and happy crossing!





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