

Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

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|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1.Name | TO CHUN KIT | | | | | | undisclosed |
| 2.Nationality | HONG KONG | | | | | | |
| 3.Grade | 3 | | | | | | |
| 4.Name of school | YAMANASHI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY | | | | | | |
| 5.Academic level | Undergraduate program | | | | | | |
| 6. Department, faculty, school, college, etc. | International College of Liberal Arts | | | | | | |
| 7.Period of scholarship | From | 20 18 year 20(xx) | 4 month | to | 20 21 year 20(xx) | 3 month | |
| <p>(1) Preparation for coming to Japan</p> <p>Before arriving in Japan, I have done preparations like researching on Japanese local customs and taboos, packing my belongings, memorising short Japanese phrases as I could not speak a word of Japanese before coming to Japan. However, out of all these preparations, getting yourself mentally prepared is the most important. As I understand my disability in communicating in Japanese, even daily tasks like buying groceries or food from a convenience store or posting would become mentally exhausting. Understanding it would take time for us to get used to the new living environment can best prepare us to our new challenges.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>(2) Life in Japan as a student</p> <p>Unlike Hong Kong, one of the busiest and densely populated in the world, the university I am currently studying in is located in Sakaori, Yamanshi, a rather quiet and peaceful town. To do some grocery shopping or to get little entertainment from karaokes or arcades, bicycles became inevitable. In my university setting, it is very easy to get to know both local and international students because we are all clustered in one faculty facility. Classes are mostly conducted in English and academic discussions are highly encouraged by our professors. Students coming from different backgrounds would pool together and share their own thoughts, bringing up interesting cultural exchange and interactions. The open learning atmosphere has brought me so much joy and motivation that has broadened my horizon.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education</p> <p>In April 2021, I am going to become a forth year student. To be frank, I have not yet decided on what I want to do after graduation, whether to begin job-hunting or continue my studies. If I were to commit to job-hunting, I would love to work in occupations where I can utilise my language skills and work with people. Specifically, I am interested in jobs related to translation and interpretation. During my second year at YGU, I am honoured to be offered an internship opportunity to work at Kawaguchiko Music Forest Museum as a translator. My tasks included translating descriptions of exhibits from Japanese to English, recording my own voice for English announcements, replying to emails written in English and giving tours to international customers. Working as a non-Japanese in a fairly Japanese management and working environment brought valuable experiences and allowed me to explore my passion. Through this experience, I am determined and inspired to further improve my language skills and to devote in industry requiring more interpersonal interactions.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Advice to other international students</p> <p>As a foreigner in Japan, do not be afraid to step out of your comfort zone, and always embrace yourself with new challenges. Experiences no matter good or bad will also help you grow as a student and as a person. Relax and enjoy the journey ahead of you.</p> | | | | | | | |


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|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------|----|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| 1.Name | Max Rasmus Geiger | | | | | undisclosed | | |
| 2.Nationality | German | | | | | | | |
| 3.Grade | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 4.Name of school | Tokyo International University | | | | | | | |
| 5.Academic level | Undergraduate program | | | | | | | |
| 6. Department, faculty, school, college, etc. | Degital Business & Innovation(経済学部) | | | | | | | |
| 7.Period of scholarship | From | 20 20 | 10 | to | 20 21 | 3 | | |
| | | year 20(xx) | month | | year 20(xx) | month | | |
| <p>(1) Preparation for coming to Japan</p> <p>The month before entering Japan posed a notable challenge, especially concerning this years restrictive entry measures. Most of the preparations included financial management, document preparation, saliva tests and most impotantly Japanese language practice. Especially the language does need preparation in order to speak, which firmly practiced before, however living Japan so far has helped me to improve drastcially. I have also planned ahead of where I may stay and how much I could spend, it is good to know a rough frame of how you will eventually live if you abroad. Most of the time however is spent on document preparation, looking to get the right certificates and grants to headstart into a new life. It has been a challenge overall but I am glad to have made it to Japan!</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>(2) Life in Japan as a student</p> <p>Life in and around Tokyo is a challenge concerning money, accommodation and of course food. JASSO has provided me with necessary support to start of my first year at university and being able to live and learn concentrated without having to worry too much. The challenges ahead but also the opportunities to explore the country and culture are something I am looking very much forward to. For now, I am hoping to work part-time over the winter break and improve my Japanese by making new friends and practicing conversation.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education</p> <p>As far as job hunting, my only experience within Japan concerns part-time jobs, which has yet to prove successful. For my next step of education, surely a Japanese university to aim at my master's degree seems like a good option. I believe completing my upper level education before employment will likely enbale my to aim for a higher position from the beginning.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Advice to other international students</p> <p>If you plan to come to Japan, practice basic Japanese, plan ahead to where you want to stay, travel to and explore a little bit. It may seem like a big step far away from home but Japan will surely welcome you, just as it welcomed me!!</p> | | | | | | | | |


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|--|---|----------------------|-------------|----|----------------------|------------|--|
| 1.Name | K.Y. | | undisclosed | | | | |
| 2.Nationality | Republic of Korea | | | | | | |
| 3.Grade | 1 | | | | | | |
| 4.Name of school | Waseda University | | | | | | |
| 5.Academic level | Undergraduate program | | | | | | |
| 6. Department, faculty, school, college, etc. | School of International Liberal Studies | | | | | | |
| 7.Period of scholarship | From | 20 20 year 20(xx) | 4 month | to | 20 21 year 20(xx) | 3 month | |
| <p>(1) Preparation for coming to Japan</p> <p>Since I entered SILS in AO application admission, I thought it was most important to be faithful to my school life. So I actively participated in international diplomacy and human rights related activities, as well as managing the scores of school records and national mock test in June. However, as Japanese was also very important for living in Japan, I actively participated in Japanese classes and programs in my high school from the beginning. Throughout the classes, I developed basic grammar and words, and tried to develop conversation skills through various Japanese exchange programs. In addition, since my desired undergraduate department is a place that only teaches in English, I often visited and talked with native English teachers in order to improve my listening and speaking skills, and listened to English lectures in various fields through the overseas lecture site named Coursera.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>(2) Life in Japan as a student</p> <p>At first, it was a little hard to follow because I had relatively little experience of taking classes only in English in the past. However, in order to follow as much as I could, I always tried to find what I didn't know immediately with a vocabulary dictionary next to me, and if there was anything I didn't understand, I would ask the professor questions right away to improve my understanding of the subjects. During the spring semester, as I dreamed of becoming a worker at the International Labor Organization, most of the classes I registered mainly related to the international community and human rights, but I also participated in an "Introduction to Media Studies" class, believing that the media would also greatly influence our society. As I continued to take classes, I realized that I was more interested in human rights than in social and international studies, and that human rights protection could be effective not only through direct politics but also through the media. However, I also learned that human rights violations by the media were common, with nationalism and sex perception appearing in Disney animations being typical examples. Since after, I got interested in watching and analyzing various media materials, and desired to make media that more people could watch with confidence. So now, I am learning about the current trend of contemporary global journalism and learning about the necessary factors for more objective media production. In addition, through this seminar class, I am studying how Japanese animations express those factors such as love, social criticism, and family effectively. However, regarding the foreign language, as the whole classes are conducted in English, it was difficult to develop Japanese language skills. But, to supplement this, I am trying to improve my conversation skill by entering the International Student Dormitory 'WISH' and talk to everyone in Japanese. Furthermore, I joined the promotion planning team of a musical club using Japanese to learn both high-level Japanese expressions and the knowledge related to media promotion planning and production.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Advice to other international students</p> | | | | | | | |

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|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----|----------------------|---|--|--|
| 1.Name | MARCO CONTARINO | | | | |  | | |
| 2.Nationality | ITALIAN | | | | | | | |
| 3.Grade | FIRST | | | | | | | |
| 4.Name of school | KYOTO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES | | | | | | | |
| 5.Academic level | Undergraduate program | | | | | | | |
| 6. Department, faculty, school, college, etc. | GLOBAL STUDIES | | | | | | | |
| 7.Period of scholarship | From | 20 20 year 20(xx) | 4 month | to | 20 21 year 20(xx) | 3 month | | |
| <p>(1) Preparation for coming to Japan</p> <p>Before coming to Japan I took some Japanese lessons in a private school so as to get at least a basic knowledge of the language. I also took a Diploma which allows me to teach Italian as a foreign language to Japanese people to enhance my chances to find a part time job in this field. I have then periodically checked all the updates concerning university enrollment in order to make the application process smooth, gathered all the necessary documents and applied for the Visa.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>(2) Life in Japan as a student</p> <p>I would say I definitely enjoy my life in Japan as a student. Despite the current situation is not that bright because of the pandemic, Japanese institutions have been helpful and supportive in making students' life easier and allowing them to keep on their studies reducing the negative consequences and impact of the pandemic on their academic lives. Online lessons have definitely many limits and make less enjoyable the learning process as well as limiting the chances of socialization but, nonetheless, health related risks have been successfully reduced.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education</p> <p>Job hunting has become more difficult during the pandemic. I personally didn't manage to get a part-time job as a teacher of Italian language as I was hoping, but still other types of job are still available, despite the overall situation is somewhat precarious. I also intend to keep on my studies enrolling for a post-graduate program and a PHD and our current teachers are really supportive in helping students pursuing their academic goals.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Advice to other international students</p> <p>My main advice for those international students who consider to come studying in Japan is to familiarize with the language before entering the country, since by doing so they will definitely have either more chance to socialize and to find a good part-time job.</p> | | | | | | | | |

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|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----|----------------------|---|
| 1.Name | PO Virakboth | | | | |  |
| 2.Nationality | Cambodian | | | | | |
| 3.Grade | 1 | | | | | |
| 4.Name of school | Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University | | | | | |
| 5.Academic level | Undergraduate program | | | | | |
| 6. Department, faculty, school, college, etc. | College of International Management | | | | | Title: When I traveled in 2017 |
| 7.Period of scholarship | From | 20 20 year 20(xx) | 4 month | to | 20 21 year 20(xx) | 3 month |
| <p>(1) Preparation for coming to Japan</p> <p>I was always dreaming of studying in Japan. Before graduating high school, I knew I had to continue pursuing my undergraduate degree abroad, hence, I searched for various universities. After doing research for days, I came across APU which is where I firmly believe I can gain more personal improvement. As soon as received the result for my application, I started to follow the procedures given by the school administration office. The guideline was helpful as I only needed to confirm and follow. I prepared all the documents that the university asked, then applied for COE. After that, I proceeded to apply for visa at Cambodia-Japan embassy.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>(2) Life in Japan as a student</p> <p>I am really grateful that I am able to live in Japan as an international student. I am given countless opportunities to learn and grow personally. I am able to discover my own interest, meet new people from different countries, work with local and international students, and find out what the other side of the world looks like. Although I am having difficulties coping with my daily life due to the pandemic, it has always been a wonderful experience for me. I have grown into a mature person who can handle any kind of situation by himself. Japan is a really safe, comfortable and fun place to live. Japanese people are kind and willing to help me out. Being in this multicultural environment allows me to deepen my knowledge and shows me how I should make the most use of my teenage life as a college student.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education</p> <p>Working in Japan is also a part of my dreams. I believe Japan is where I can constantly gain personal betterment. When I am in my 3rd year, I am planning to apply for internship in an international company in order to gain a better and broader perspectives of what it feels like to work in a diverse environment. Also, I am thriving to apply for an exchange program in a university in Canada to deeply understand about western culture. After I graduate from APU, I want to actually work in a Japanese company as a full time employee. I am convinced that this will further equip me with soft skills and essential experiences.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Advise to other international students</p> <p>Living in Japan is an amazing story to tell. If you wish to study in Japan, you need to be prepared as you will experience something new and different from your own country. Before coming to Japan, there is a need to make sure that you do enough research to understand the culture differences so it will not be too difficult to adjust. Working in Japan takes determination. You need to keep your passion and yourself motivated.</p> | | | | | | |