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

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<td>From 2018 year 20(xx) 4 month to 2019 year 20(xx) 3 month</td>
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(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

Living in Japan is a new special thing for my life. It’s a different country from Vietnam and I have to prepare everything very carefully such as personal documents, Vietnamese food, studying schedule, etc.

But for me, trying to live in a new country is also a challenge and what I do is try adapting a daily life in here and now I think it’s really good to live in Japan.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

I come to Japan to complete my master course in architecture so the most important thing I have to do is study. Besides many classes and subject I have to do, I also spend my time to study Japanese. For me, studying a new language is something very interested because I always want to communicate with many foreign peoples such as Japanese. After class time, We can learn by ourselfs for expansion knowledges.

However, I also take part in many community activities and volunteer group. It’s a good chance for me to talk with many peoples and friends from other countries. In my opinion, studying and working in Japan is very good for every students to improve their abilities.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

After a long time researching about many Japanese Company, I realize that to enter almost available company, you have to get the Japanese Certification. Fukuoka is a young city and it’s a good place for young generation to develope their career in the future. If i have a chance, I’ll apply to the doctor course in The University of Kitakyushu. Beside that, Part-time Job is also important. When you are employed as a part-time worker, you can earn money to pay for your daily life, communicate with many Japanese and get an experience of working in Japanese environment.

Advise to other international students

Just enjoy everything in Japan, it will be an unforgettable experience in your whole life.
I have been fascinated with Japanese culture since I was a child. When I was a child, I learned about Japanese culture and Japanese through animation and Japanese TV shows. Studying abroad in Japan was my dream. To apply a Japanese language school, I went to cram school to study Japanese. Because in China we only learn English as our second language. With working hard, I passed The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test and got the N3 certificate. With the N3 certificate, I applied a Japanese language school successfully, and I began my life in Japan.

It is difficult for me to live in Japan, due to the cost of living in Japan is much higher than in China. I was not born into a wealthy family. To maintain my life in Japan, I have to get a part-time job. To pay my rent, I have to spend lots of time on my part-time job. It is difficult for me to get a good grade at school while having a part-time job. Therefore, having a scholarship means a lot to me. With the honors scholarship, I can pay my tuition. Furthermore, with the scholarship, I can focus on my study and get a good grade at school. I very appreciate that I can get the honors scholarship, it helps me a lot.

I became a senior in 2018. It is a very important and busy year for me. In this year I had to prepare the graduate entrance examination of Tokyo University. Furthermore, I started my research in 2018. I was too busy to do my part-time job. Therefore the honors scholarship is necessary for me. With the honors scholarship, I can pay my bill without working, so that I can spend more time on my research and the graduate entrance examination. Fortunately, I passed the test, so that I will become a graduate study of Tokyo University in this April.

First at all, my warmest congratulations to you for getting the honors scholarship. I can not get a good grade or pass the graduate entrance examination without this scholarship, so I hope you can make good use of this scholarship. I hope this scholarship can encourage you to follow your dream. Please enjoy your life.
# Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

1. Name: Chunyang B
2. Nationality: Chinese
3. Grade: Master, Grade 1
4. Name of school: Keio University
5. Academic level: Graduate School
6. Name of (graduate) school, faculty: Graduate School of Media Design
7. Period of scholarship: From 2018 year 10 month to 2019 year 3 month

### (1) Preparation for coming to Japan

Before coming to Japan to join Keio University, I have been working for several years in a TV station in China. My interest and love in media made me decide to apply for the Graduate school of Media Design, Keio University. This program was my first choice, since it is so closely related to the future trend of media innovation and for students enrolled in September, all the courses are taught in English. The process of application ran so smoothly. All the faculty and staff in contact with me speaks or writes good English and they are really friendly and considerate, helping me and my classmates, who are mostly international students to get all the migration documents ready and send us emails on accommodation, scholarship and so on. Therefore, I was not worried about my trip to Japan at all. I learned some Japanese before coming to Japan and am trying to learn more Japanese while studying my major.

### (2) Life in Japan as a student

Life in Japan as a student is amazing. Keio University has a really great international horizon, where I can get knowledge from professors from different cultural background and work/academic experience. This experience has already given me a lot of inspiration and is keeping inspiring me. I have also made a lot of new friends with Japanese students and international students coming from all around the world. We did team work together in class. We share our ideas on our own experiences and the history and culture of our home country, this give us a really good chance to have an international vision. The daily life in Japan is quite enjoyable. Though my poor Japanese got me troubles at times, but the gentleness of Japanese people always made me feel at ease. Everything in the society is so well organized and operate smoothly. I am so interested in Japanese history and culture, so in weekends, I always travel around Tokyo and other areas, visiting museums, temples, shrines, local festivals and so on. By studying, living and traveling in Japan, I got a really closer look at this country and discovered the oriental beauty lies in every detail of the nation.

### (3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

Currently, I am still in the first year of my graduate program. I don't have a clear idea about job hunting, but I am willing to work and live a certain period of time in Japan after graduate.

### Advise to other international students

To study and live in Japan is really amazing and enjoyable, it will give you an unique experience during your undergraduate/postgraduate study. So if you are interested in Japan, do not hesitate to give a try. Difference in language and culture are not barriers, they are the flavors making our journey more exciting.
## (1) Preparation for coming to Japan

I came to Japan as a language student 5 years ago, this my main focus in the preparation was about getting familiar with the culture and the language. Even though I studied Japanese at my university, I knew my speaking skills need more improvement. Moreover, keeping in mind that at that moment I was already a professional, before coming to Japan I make sure to make valid my university and different studies certification. On the other hand, a complicated topic as foreigner resident in Japan in searching for a place of living, so I made a reservation of a mini apartment studio in Leo-palace. I do appreciate that it is possible to get a room via the internet before arriving in Japan.

## (2) Life in Japan as a student

My life as a graduate student at a Japanese University has been full of positive experiences. Especially in my program, I am glad I have the opportunity to work and study with professionals who are passionate about education and how it can improve society in general. However, I have to say that it is hard to keep the balance between studies and work. Most of the university students, local or international, have a part-time job to pay their expenses (especially whether they are living in the big cities which more expensive).

## (3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

I am interested in staying in Japan a little bit longer once I graduate. I am looking for different options to do my doctoral studies in Tokyo. I will start to look for more options one I finish with my graduation thesis.

### Advise to other international students

If it is possible, try to get a job that is a little bit related to your study field to gain more experience. Especially if you are trying to stay in Japan, the working culture might differ from your country. More than one student has faced this culture shock, especially in the working environment. So the more familiar you are, the better.

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### Iris Magnolia Cortés Ruiz

**Nationality:** Colombian  
**Grade:** Master's second year  
**Name of school:** Sophia University  
**Academic level:** Graduate school  
**Name of (graduate) school, faculty:** Graduate School of Languages and Linguistics  
**Period of scholarship:** From 2018 year 20(XX) month to 2019 year 20(XX) month  
**Title:** 秋の日

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**Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students**
(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

I came to Japan in 2009 as an undergraduate student. I chose Japan because the essential qualities for personal growth and character development such as discipline, punctuality and hard work have widely been synonymous to the character of the Japanese people. I always wanted to instill such important values in me to be a better person. In order to achieve this target and to get a good scholarship and enroll in an international university, I took English language proficiency test seriously and started to learn Japanese at the same time. I searched more about Japan, its people and culture to familiarize myself in a view to make adaptation. I contacted my seniors at the university and inquired about the pros and cons of joining the university. Only after assessing all my options I took a final decision, which I am happy to look back now and say that I did the right thing.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

During my stay in Japan as an undergraduate, master’s and PhD student, I was fortunate enough to receive the Honor’s Scholarship multiple times in all these levels. By virtue of this, I was able to concentrate more on studies and research. The time that could have been taken by part-time jobs, I utilized it in academics and extra-curricular activities. I participated in numerous exchange events, festivals and several home stay programs at different places. To deepen my understanding of Japanese culture, society and people, I improved my Japanese language ability too. As a result, I was also able to receive various other scholarships concurrently with the Honor’s Scholarship. As the first scholarship I received in Japan and the one I received for multiple years, I credit Honor’s Scholarship for its role in subsequent success that I have been able to achieve as a student in Japan.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

My decision to continue to pursue higher education in Japan was partly down to the fact that I had received Honor’s Scholarship multiple times. It motivated me to continue pursuing my academic goals and hence I am here today attending doctoral course. Despite applying in a domestic applicant category, which would limit my scholarship chances prior to enrollment, to my pleasant surprise, after enrollment I received the Honor’s Scholarship during my Master’s as well as Doctoral studies. It has helped me immensely in pursuing my dreams and I am extremely indebted to the organization. This debt will forever remain with me and as a responsible recipient I have always strived to be, I look to repay the faith by any possible action under my capacity. Even after completion of my education in Japan, I hope to return back and act as a bridge to contribute in building better network and relations between Japan and Nepal. I will forever be grateful to this scholarship for its role in making the person

Advise to other international students

Identify an institution that is a best fit to you. Learning the language is strongly recommended even if your studies are carried out in English. Engage in extra curricular activities. Preparation and swift adaptation is vital for success in the beginning, which can lead to cycle of good fortunes.
Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

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<td>Period of scholarship</td>
<td>From 2018 year 20(xx) to 2019 year 20(xx)</td>
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(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

Apart from preparing official documents like passport, visa etc, I brought 200000 JPY. This helped me in my initial days, as scholarships money starts after 2-3 months of arrival. Although, I didn't have any Japanese language skill but never faced any problem in academic or administrative related works.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

As a student, I felt Japan to be very rich in technology and culture. Professors are very supportive and motivates students to venture into new technologies. Colleges laboratories are well established and hence convenient to do research. Apart from studies, Japan is full of scenic beauties, greenery, mountains etc. and hence a balance between academic and social life can be maintained.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

Since, I am continuing my studies it's difficult for me to comment on Job hunting in Japan.

Advise to other international students

Although, it is not necessary to know Japanese language for academic, I suggest to have some prior knowledge of Japanese language, as it will be helpful for better understanding and enjoying Japanese culture.
(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

I came to Waseda University, Grad. school of IPS(Kyushu) under my university program(3+2 program). Preparation for this program was really a big challenge for me, to earn all the bachelor credits and complete the final project in such short period of time. My bachelor thesis was all about my bachelor final year project, which is an industrial-academia collaborating project between my university and a company in Taiwan. Feeling grateful to have my supervising professor supporting me as well as writing recommendation letter for me, I gained a lot of knowledge and skill set throughout the progress. I started learning Japanese a little late, it was after I've received the offer letter from IPS. I did joined Japanese class for about a month in Taiwan, it wasn't really sufficient but it helps me to pick up in the Japanese class here quickly.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

To sum up the first semester of a master student here, it is to be fully loaded by classes and coursework. Not to mention coping with a totally different lecturing style and adapting to the local lifestyle. It is tough for everyone at first, but after the elation phase of studying abroad there is plenty to be discovered. Being able to have your own time management, expanding your own social circle, learning local culture and etc. Japan is well-known with its beautiful and unique culture, through the Niko-Niko family program, I've learned a lot from a sweet Japanese family. Living expenses is considerably high for me, my parents could not fully support my to study over here. As a privately financial foreign student from Malaysia, I really appreciate to have this honor scholarship to lighten my burden.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

I have tried once to look for an internship during first Spring vacation, but did not get any opportunity for it. Most of the intern position prefer communicating level of Japanese, and those are not is really rare. I am planning to get JLPT test this year and hopefully will get an internship by summer. Through intern I might be more familiar about working environment in Japan to schedule my career plan in Japan.

Advise to other international students

Learning the language might be hard, once you get to experience Japan's amazing culture it will totally paid off.
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<td>From 2018 year 20(xx) 4 month to 2019 year 20(xx) 3 month</td>
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(1) **Preparation for coming to Japan**

Before going away, I made sure to spend a lot of time with my family, as I knew it would not be simple to be apart for a long time. I packed my stuffs and made my goodbyes, and the heavy heart of my departure was quickly eclipsed by the excitement of this new adventure! I took an introductory class of Japanese shortly before to Japan, which taught me the bases of Japanese but didn't prove to be actually useful, I should have started before. My school and Doshisha helped me with the paperwork for the VISA and the housing. My professor and my lab mates helped me a lot to get settled, and get to know my surroundings.

(2) **Life in Japan as a student**

Since I was little, I always felt passionate about how the world we live in work, and that is what drove me to study science, and what motivates me to become a researcher. After a master's degree in Biotechnology in ESPCI Paris in France, I entered the International Science and Technology Course of Doshisha University in the Life and Medical Sciences department, for a Master of Research. Studying in Japan is very rewarding, as I get to spend most of my time in the laboratory, doing experiments, developing my skills and my knowledge in Biology, while learning Japanese. I also have many opportunities to learn more about the rich History and civilization of Japan.

Here, I especially appreciate how easy life is. Shopping for groceries, paying bills, dealing with administrative papers (which is a huge relief when applying for a visa), everything is made to be as easy as possible, and there always are people to help you. Furthermore, Japan as a country is a wonderful place to live. I have made friends with Japanese people and people from very different countries like Brazil, the US, Italy, the Philippines and many more, and we all enjoy discovering Japan, visiting Kyoto, Osaka and Nara, going to izakayas, singing in the karaoke, discovering all the new food: sushi, takoyaki, ramen. The JASSO scholarship enables me to enjoy my student life in Japan, without taking a part-time job, so that I have plenty of time to work hard on my research, which is why I am very grateful for it.

(3) **Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education**

Advise to other international students

You will be very busy with the homework, the research and the visits here, so be sure to learn Japanese seriously before coming here. It will make your integration all the more easier.
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(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

In preparation for coming to Japan I took some general Health Checks and vaccinations as stated by the University. I took some additional Japanese classes to be make my life a little easier and less stressful. I did some web research about Beppu and Oita city, mostly about weather and services available for foreign students, for example cellphone and data, bank accounts services for remittances, currency exchange, transport etc.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

It's a challenge every day. It's fun and at the same time it requires much energy to learn the Japanese way of living. I think making foreign friends makes it easier because we can help each other and share experiences from the point of view of foreigners coming to a new culture. Getting to share time with Japanese students has been amazing too. I think I have learned great things about how young Japanese students make plans for their future and how important is community for them. I think that so far what I like the most is the nature that surrounds the place where I live, having sea and mountains on the same place and enjoying the view every morning is a good way to start the day.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

I'm not yet at this stage but I want to work for a Japanese NGO that implements development projects in Asian countries. So I have been attending the many conferences and seminars my University offers on this topic.

Advise to other international students

Study Japanese as much as you can. It will make your life easier and help you connect with Japanese people faster. Depending on your city you can save a lot of money if you use bicycle instead of bus.
I knew I had plans to study abroad once I graduated high school, and given the abundant support my family had given me, my options were quite open. My cousin and friends who had studied in Japan were the ones who inspired me to continue my education in here. When I finalized my decision to enter my university, I had immediately enrolled in a Japanese course and studied the language for a few months in advance. I had been interested in the Japanese culture since I was little, and I was also a big fan of anime and manga, but I believe studying the language intensively beforehand had really helped me ensure a smooth transitioning once I came to Japan. By the time I arrived, I was already familiar with the kanji and grammar points. I had also sought advice from my friends who had been living here, and that alone had prevented me from being culturally shocked.

So far, I am beyond grateful to be given the opportunity to study in Japan. You learn something new every day, and I am constantly introduced to new cultures. Living in Japan as a student makes me realize the importance of counting my blessings and seizing opportunities. You have to force yourself to always make the best out of today. We get to meet a lot of people from different backgrounds and understand the work ethics in Japan. Every day, I learn to become more independent. Still, it doesn't necessarily mean it is easy to adjust living here. The primary obstacles that many students face, including me, are the language barrier and the different living standard. While I had known that living in Japan is a lot more expensive than living in Indonesia, I am still taken aback by how much expenses I can make in a month. The scholarship that was granted to me had helped me adjust my life in Japan gradually as it gave me the financial support I needed and helped me prioritize on my education and learning Japanese.

Job hunting is a scary prospect, especially for international students who are culturally different and have no idea what their plans are once they graduate. The language barrier becomes part of the problem if you cannot prepare yourself carefully. Frankly, you will receive mixed advice from your seniors and advisors regarding the topic of job hunting, and some of them may clash against the other. This is what I experienced. Some will say that it is better for international students to apply to international corporations, while some also recommend applying to Japanese companies. Seniors can also say that taking the JLPT N1 test is not important. I do think everyone needs to filter these advice on their own and follow their instinct. I personally intend to work long-term here in Japan and hopefully get to enter a foreign-friendly company. I greatly respect Japan’s work ethics, and I truly think I get to make the best use of myself if I work here. I haven't had plans on continuing my education once I receive my degree, but then again, I am open to any changes.

Advise to other international students

Learn the language beforehand—if you already own a certain level of Japanese skill, it can help you a lot in terms of living on a day-to-day basis. The easiest way to learn Japanese is to force yourself to speak up, and this is why I suggest students to find a proper part-time job so you can meet Japanese people, or be friends with native students. Most importantly, find a balance. Living in Japan means you are given access to pursue education, gain new experience and have fun. Many students have a tendency to neglect one or the other. As a result, their time here becomes a true waste of opportunity. I truly believe that the key point to enjoy your time here is to not lose focus on yourself and in life. It might get a little bit overwhelming sometimes, but then again, everyday is a learning process if you are in Japan. Do not be lazy and find what you are truly passionate about.
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#### (1) Preparation for coming to Japan

I had the chance to visit Japan as a tourist before attending Tokyo International University so I had a slight idea of what to expect. I researched about what studying in Japan is like by watching videos and reading blogs to ease the transition into living here. In order to prepare for the Reservation Program of Honors Scholarship, I read their official website and the testimonies of students who had previously been accepted into the program. With the assistance of my university, I was able to successfully fill out an application. The admissions process at my university felt overwhelming at times since as a transfer student I had to obtain credits and course information from my previous institution, but by referencing to my school's admissions portal and constantly communicating with staff, I was able to submit all required documents on time. Something I did that really helped me deal with homesickness was to look up events and hobby groups near my university, it allowed me to make friends easily and not feel isolated during my first few months here.

#### (2) Life in Japan as a student

As a student in Japan, you will have all sorts of new cultural experiences. Universities have clubs and circles you can join to meet people with shared interests and there will be events such as festivals where you can participate with your fellow club members. I really enjoy going on field trips organized by my school, they are a great opportunity to learn more about Japan and make new friends. Living here, you will learn to appreciate Japan's strong points, as well as help improve on Japan's issues. A benefit of studying here is that many stores, restaurants, museums and other establishments offer student discounts so I encourage you to take advantage of those! Although it wasn't required, I decided to take Japanese language classes and I would certainly recommend other students to do the same while they are here. Language and culture are tightly connected with each other so being able to learn the language will allow you to understand the culture at a deeper level. Whether you decide to live in Japan or to go back to your country, the skills you learn here will help you no matter where you go. I used the JASSO Honors Scholarship to pay for my basic living expenses such as rent, gas, electricity and water bills every month. The scholarship allowed me to focus and dedicate extra time to expanding my Japanese language skills.

#### (3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

When you come to Japan as a student, you might be on the fence about either staying long-term or going back to your home country after graduation. A big hurdle for most international students thinking of staying here is language ability. As a third-year transfer student, I knew that if I wanted to possibly work in Japan after graduation, it was necessary I put learning Japanese as one of my top priorities. To me, one of the challenging aspects of job hunting in Japan is that it differs significantly from job hunting in America in the way of resume writing, internships, scheduling, and the interviewing process. Furthermore, the Japanese language you might use at school with your friends will most likely differ greatly from the more formal Japanese that is used in workplaces. While I am aware of the difficulties, I also see that there is a lots of potential and opportunities here so I am hoping to secure a job in a field that deals with international or domestic social issues to which I can contribute with my experience as an international student.

### Advise to other international students

My advice to other international students is to prepare yourself as much as possible by doing proper research before coming here, and to come with a plan of what it is you would like to accomplish, as well as what you would like to do after graduation so that you can work towards that goal during your time here. Be willing to get out of your comfort zone. Learn Japanese and use that to enhance your social, academic, and professional life. Living in another country is not easy, but it can be really rewarding. If you have gotten this far, it means you have the motivation and also the ability to make things happen. Best of luck!
Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

1. Name: Yinan Guo
2. Nationality: China
3. Grade: 2nd year
4. Name of school: Keio University
5. Academic level: Undergraduate program
6. Name of (graduate) school, faculty: 
7. Period of scholarship: From 2018 year 20(xx) month to 2019 year 20(xx) month

(1) Preparation for coming to Japan
I have studied Japanese since I got the offer from PEARL program, the Faculty of Economics, Keio University. Since this is an English program, the level of Japanese is not part of the application. However, I am interested in learning a new language. I passed N2 before I came to Japan and passed N1 in Dec. 2017.

(2) Life in Japan as a student
As a student in PEARL program, I can strengthen my English and study Japanese simultaneously, and I am really appreciated for this opportunity. Next year we are going to have Japanese-style seminars in our curriculum, and I am looking forward to them.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education
Currently I am considering applying for graduate schools after graduation.

Advise to other international students
Dream big and work hard. Japan is a safe place for all kinds of individuals with different characteristics. I am so grateful to study and live in a country with such inclusiveness and kind people.
Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Mombukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

1. Name: FIGURA DANIELE
2. Nationality: ITALY
3. Grade: 2
4. Name of school: Toyo University
5. Academic level: Undergraduate program
6. Name of (graduate) school, faculty: Department of Business Administration
7. Period of scholarship: From 2018 year 20(xx) 4 month to 2019 year 20(xx) 3 month

(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

After deciding to come to Japan 4 years ago I had only 6 months to learn the more I could about Japanese culture and language (I knew literally nothing).

With the help of an Italian association that found me a house and a school in Tokyo, the visa and any other possible problem was solved, except for the language.

I started reading more and more books about Japan, even mangas helped me a lot with the understanding the so-different Japanese culture, compared to the Italian/European I was used to.

One of my favorite readings, if not my favorite, is a biography written by Fosco Maraini, an Italian photographer, anthropologist, ethnologist, writer, mountaineer and academic, who lived most of his life in Japan, as a university professor (at Kyoto University) and even as a war prisoner for some years, talking about his journeys, adventures, observations and feelings of the years he was in Japan, called Ore Giapponesi (1957) or better known as 『隨筆日本 — イタリア人の見た昭和の日本』 (2009年, 松獺社) in Japan.

I also studied the language too, but as anyone can imagine I didn't make many progresses self-studying for only 6 months. Actually, I came here knowing nothing more than just the hiragana (still much better than nothing!).

As a last thought, I don't think I should've studied more before coming to Japan, it would have ruined the feeling of living in such an exotic, new world.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

At first it was less hard than I could imagine, maybe because I came prepared for every eventuality and because even if the study of the language was hard, it was nothing compared to the excitement I had for like the first 6 months for being in such a beautiful country, starting from zero again.

Actually, the part-time was hard, no excitement could make me forget the days and the nights spent at cleaning the floor at the ramen shop just to pay the rent and afford to go for a trip, sometimes to Kyoto, some others to Hiroshima, to visit the splendid country I have the luck of living in. Nothing I would undo if it meant to be able to stay here.

After 3 years and an half of studying and working part-time I got my first scholarship and finally left (temporally) my job to study harder than ever, not that I ever studied that hard until now (due to the job, of course), I don't even know how I got the JLPT N1 or BJT J1.. Also I finally managed to buy a new computer! That's what matters, I couldn't even do the university's reports/homeworks at home because my old laptop turned on one time every ten.

Next year, using the scholarship, I hope I can go to Oxford University for 3 weeks to study business administration with a university's program. The goal is to get the Toyo Global Leader Gold certification by the end of the third year.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

After graduation I'd like to find a job here in Japan, maybe for a foreign company, that will allow me to someday travel between Italy, Japan, and maybe USA, Canada, Australia, so I can make the most of my language skills while achieving my dream of going around the world and see many different places.

In order to do so, last year I'm doing some internships at many companies, both Japanese and American, from big corporations to smaller companies, in order to understand the basis of the work here in Japan.

I still don't know what job I'll do or even look for, but for sure I'll do my best to stay here in the country I love the most, second only to my homeland, as long as I can.

Advise to other international students

Study is important, but don't forget the fun!

Make the best use of your time in such a wonderful country and it will pay off in the future. Carpe diem!
Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

1. Name: HWANG, Esther Jae Yoon

2. Nationality: USA

3. Grade: 1

4. Name of school: Waseda University

5. Academic level: Undergraduate program

6. Name of (graduate) school, faculty: School of International Liberal Studies

7. Period of scholarship: From 2018 year 20(xx) 4 month to 2019 year 20(xx) 3 month

(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

The JASSO scholarship helped me a lot when preparing to coming to Japan as it gave me financial backup when planning my studying abroad life.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

As it was my first time living abroad without my parents, the JASSO scholarship financially supported me when I didn't have full financial backup from my parents. Since I wasn't really aware of my spendings in a foreign country, I wasn't able to thoroughly plan out my budget during my first semester. In those cases, JASSO financially supported me. Also, the scholarship motivated me to work harder as a Waseda student.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

Advise to other international students

JASSO has helped me out a lot during my freshmen year in a foreign country. I strongly encourage international students to sign up for JASSO.
I have always dreamed of myself studying in a different country, and I made a somewhat brave decision to quit university that I had been attending in Korea. Since Waseda SILS offered English programs, I didn't really hesitate in applying to a university in Japan. Moreover, Japan wasn't a totally exotication to me since I lived in Ishikawa when I was a child. After I made my decision and got the offer from the school, I focused on finding information about life in Japan, as well as learning basic Japanese characters. There are a lot of Koreans who are studying or working in Japan, especially with the 'Working Holliday' system, so it wasn't hard for me to prepare for my life in Japan as a foreign student. Gaining a Visa to enter Japan - which Koreans usually do not need in order to travel Japan - was a special experience for me!

My life was busier than I have expected before, dealing with my language as well as my ordinary studies. My bad Japanese skill made my everyday life in Japan quite difficult, from dealing with city office works to talking with my dorm manager. My freshman year had just flashed by, taking Japanese classes and trying to get used to Waseda. I had homeworks everyday, and stayed up all night studying for exams. However, I felt that I was privileged to get a scholarship every month, so that I can fully concentrate on my studies. I have a lot of friends who do part-time jobs, and I always thought that I wouldn't be able to work and study at the same time as they do. This was basically possible because I earned the JASSO scholarship, and thanks to the scholarship I could gain a good grade in Waseda.

If possible, learn Japanese as much as you can before coming to Japan! Being fluent in English didn't help me a lot X) Also, setting a clear aim or objective of studying abroad will make your experience here much more valuable - it doesn't need to be huge: something simple like "I want to make Japanese friends!" or "I want to practice living alone!" still works.
Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

1. Name: Chang Hsin Wen

2. Nationality: Taiwan

3. Grade: Freshman

4. Name of school: Musashino University

5. Academic level: Undergraduate program

6. Name of (graduate) school, faculty: Faculty of Global

7. Period of scholarship: From 20 18 year 20(xx) 4 month to 20 19 year 20(xx) 3 month

(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

Before coming to Japan I had been studied only six months of Japanese, so my Japanese skill is not really good, but I studied really hard. I also did a lot of research on Japanese culture and studying environment. Before coming to Japan I was worried and afraid to unknown. That is why I have to study hard and be well prepared for my new life. My faculty is Global Business, I had also read some books about business and English.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

I really appreciate that I can have the opportunity to come to Japan to study. It is an unique experience for me as a Taiwanese student to come to Japan to study. I really like my student life here, I met a lot of wonderful people and international students. I am glad that I can have friends from all over the world. I really cherish these awesome experiences. I think that coming to Japan to study is one of the correct decision that I made. Studying abroad is not an easy task but Japan is a country that can make me feel safe and comfortable. I also think I grew up a lot during this year and become more confident.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

After studying global business I would like to work in the international corporation in Japan, because I want to improve my English and Japanese language ability and increase the experience in business area. I would like to do internship in some big corporation first and after internship I can have clear mind of what is suitable for me and find the suitable job.

Advise to other international students

Do not be afraid of challenge and have more confident with yourself. Do not afraid of failure and unsuccessful. Studying abroad is not an easy thing, but if you enjoy in it then you can lean a lot of things from this country or people from different culture background. It is worth to go outside the comfortable zone to experience the new life and new experience. You can also create some unforgettable memory in your life.
I went to Japan to continue my education right after my high school graduation, with less than 4 months gap, I did several things to prepare myself for my life in Japan. Before I came to Japan, I took a Japanese language class so that I will not be too shocked when I arrive by myself in Japan for the first time. Although I did not become fluent by just taking this class, it was very useful for the first several weeks of my life in Japan. I also have to prepare my visa, accommodation in Japan, and flight ticket. Lucky for me, I did not have to do all this by myself. As Ritsumeikan University has enough experience with international students, they help us by proving various accommodation options and visa accommodation. Moreover, knowing that JASSO provides first semester's students in Ritsumeikan University a scholarship, it really helps me to focus on my studies; the change from high school to university can be really shocking.

Because I am still a third-year student, I am still not sure what I want to do after my graduation. On the other hand, I know that before going back to my home country, I want to first experience working in Japan. Working in Japan will allow me to work alongside Japanese superior and colleagues, which will help me to become a good professional. Therefore, doing job hunting in Japan is very crucial. However, doing job hunting is not easy, especially for people who have not yet master Japanese language skill. Searching for the right company that will be able to utilize our English skill is very important but at the same time, very difficult.

Before studying in Japan, as an international student, we have to make sure that we are open to any experience that will happen in our life. There might be a culture shock as every country has different culture. But, if we are open to anything, this culture shock will not be a problem.
**Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students**

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<tr>
<th>1. Name</th>
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<td>7. Period of scholarship</td>
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(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

I came to Japan after graduating from high school, intending to spend a gap year studying the Japanese language before returning to America. Although I wanted to study in Japan longer, I didn't think that I would be able to study at a Japanese university due to the language barrier and financial constraints. However, eventually the doors opened for me to fulfill my dream of studying at a Japanese university. I was able to afford it thanks to scholarship money that I received, including the JASSO scholarship in my second and fourth years. I'm very grateful that I was able to have this opportunity, because it has been an amazing experience.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

I have really enjoyed my experience as a student in Japan. I have been able to make many friends, not only Japanese friends but friends from all over the world. I have also made a lot of progress in my Japanese language skills, and I have learned so much about Japanese culture. I feel like I am a much more well-rounded person than I was four years ago because of the experiences I have had studying abroad. Of course there are always difficulties that come with living in a foreign country and trying to communicate in a foreign language, but the effort is well worth it in the end. And it is a lot of fun!

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

In my second year, I decided to take the teacher training course to get a teaching license. I was able to complete the program, so in my fourth year I applied to several private schools for an English teaching job. In the end, I was hired for a full-time position at a private junior high school. Since I was applying for a full-time licensed teaching position, I had to write my resume in Japanese and do interviews in Japanese. The application process was quite stressful, but I found out that it is important to be positive and keep trying, even when you face rejection at times.

Advice to other international students

Although there might be many challenges and obstacles along the way, you can achieve your dreams if you believe in yourself.
Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

1. Name: FAANUNU Kalolaine Launga
2. Nationality: Tonga
3. Grade: 2
4. Name of school: Ritsumeiken Asia Pacific University
5. Academic level: Undergraduate program
6. Name of (graduate) school, faculty: Asia Pacific Management
7. Period of scholarship: From 2018 year 20(xx) month to 2019 year 20(xx) month

(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

Preparing to come to Japan was quite difficult for me because it was a little too fast and I was not really aware of what kind of environment I was coming to. I had never lived anywhere on my own and just thinking about how I can adapt to a totally different environment, I was afraid. I did some research on student life experiences in Japan, especially concerning the costs of living. I made sure to collect as much money as I could to be able to survive my first few months. I read and used all the information and resources sent and provided by APU to make sure that I would be able to make it by in Japan until I could really settle down with a way of receiving money from home. I started studying Japanese on my own so that it could make my life a little easier when I came. I think that another thing that I prepared before coming to Japan was realizing the fact that I had to leave my family and so, the need to fully prepare myself and my heart to leave.

It is very important that someone is ready to leave when it is time. I have had friends and family who could not really focus in school or do much because they missed their families so much. I believe that that is one big part of my preparation, to accept the fact that I am leaving, but also determined to one day provide for my family.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

After coming to Japan, I realized that it is not as bad as I thought. Being a student is hard but it also has many good points. We have to study Japanese and all these subjects to be able to graduate. However, I have experienced more good here in Japan as a student than I think I would elsewhere. I am enjoying every moment that I am here in Japan. Japanese people and their kindness are simply amazing. I can say that I have made friends here that I can call family. This has become my home away from home. Especially in a university like APU, everyone is so different. We all come from different countries. Realizing our differences and taking advantage of that to learn from one another has just been a great experience for me until now. I have had quite some hard times especially concerning my financial needs. I am so glad that we international students are able to apply and get small part time jobs and scholarships like JASSO to help with our expenses and costs of living like food, rent, school materials, etc. I am very grateful for this scholarship so that I can take off a little burden from my family’s shoulders of the need to always support me financially.

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

For me, I am not going to be doing job hunting for now. After graduating with an undergraduate degree, I am expecting to continue into higher education here in Japan. The diversity in APU has been teaching me a lot about other people, their cultures and perspectives. I cannot say for sure but, I would actually love to continue and do graduate school in APU. After graduate school, I am also hoping to find a job here to serve the people of Japan and hopefully be of help to my people and country as well. As for my job, I do want to work for a good company but more than that, I just want to be able to help people.

Advise to other international students

I would advise other international students to really research and look into what they need ahead of time because we can never have too much preparation. Being prepared just makes things so much easier for everybody. I think that the most important thing to look into is the financial resources so that the individual can be able to live by before they can be able to access any financial aid from home. Also, being prepared to leave home is important because being homesick can have so much effect on an individual which can eventually affect their education here in Japan. This is especially for students who come from countries that are really far away. So overall, just mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially prepare oneself before going to a whole different environment.
Report on study in Japan by the recipient of Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students

1. Name: K.A

2. Nationality: Kyrgyz Republic

3. Grade: 1

4. Name of school: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

5. Academic level: Undergraduate program

6. Name of (graduate) school, faculty: College of international management (APM)

7. Period of scholarship: From 2018 year 10 month to 2019 year 3 month

(1) Preparation for coming to Japan

Before coming to Japan it is essential to have at least minimum knowledge of Japanese language. Even though, there are intensive Japanese language classes, once you come to Japan in order to handle various situations related to academic studies, life in Beppu, knowledge of the language will help you to handle these kind of problems. In my country, I took 6-month language courses, to at least be able to handle very basic conversational level. Moreover, once I came to APU, because of my foundation level of Japanese language, it was easier for me to cope with daily situations at university, keep up with an intensive classes.

(2) Life in Japan as a student

Life in Japan as a student is definitely not an easy one. Living in foreign country, especially for students who’ve never lived apart from their family might be challenging. This is a time, when you have to cope with all of your problems by yourself. It is not an easy step, but challenges make people stronger. For the first time, it was hard for me to adapt to a different culture, language. However, step by step I learned how to communicate with Japanese people, learned about their culture, and customs. Also it may be quite difficult to live apart from your family, friends, but gradually I am getting used to new environment. It’s been already 5 months since I came to Japan, now I should say that I’ve experienced and learned a lot of important things. One of them is that I became an independent person and can make my own decisions.

Sometimes I have difficulties communicating in Japanese language, however people in Japan are very kind, and patient and always try to help you if you do not understand language. Although I make some mistake when communicating in Japanese language, I always try to improve it and try learn on my mistakes. In order to enhance language skills, I invariably communicate a lot with Japanese friends, teachers, cause I think only a lot of practice can strengthen your language ability.

Furthermore, living in Japan taught me time management skills and perseverance, patience and interpersonal skills. Once classes at university have started, we had tons of assignments, presentations, group projects that taught me how to stay organized to finish projects and how to effectively work in a team. Also, at university there is always a competitive environment that makes you to work harder, to constantly improve yourself in academic studies, extracurricular activities and so on. There are times, when I have difficulties reaching deadlines of assignments, or understanding a subject, and at that time I always remind myself of reason why I came to Japan, future goals and dream that I want to achieve. After that I instantly return to work and try to stay motivated and devoted to work. In the end coming to Japan was the right decision that I’ve made and during these 5 months I’ve gained tremendous experience and I am very grateful for this opportunity to Jasso that gave me a marvelous opportunity to pursue my aspirations in Japan!

(3) Job hunting in Japan or entering the next stage of education

Advise to other international students

For international students I have one advice: never give up on your dreams and goals! Once you come to Japan, there will be failures and disappointments like hard times in understanding Japanese language, pursuing academic studies, homesickness, but you can overcome all of these obstacles on your way. By working hard, believing in yourself eventually will help to accomplish anything you want. Have faith in yourself and never give up on your aspirations and always be persistent if you want to achieve success. Japan is a wonderful country and I hope you can accomplish here all of your goals and find happiness. Wish you a great luck in pursuing your dream!