

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

1.Name	HEW WOON XUEN						
2.Nationality	Singapore						
3.Year at school	1						
4.Name of school	日本学生支援機構東京日本語教育センター						
5.Academic level	Japanese language institution						
6. Department, faculty, school, college, etc.							Title: Months of preparation
7.Period of scholarship	From	20 25 year 20(xx)	4 month	to	20 26 year 20(xx)	3 month	
(1) (Required) Why did you come to Japan to study? What did you do to prepare? I chose Japan as the country to pursue my bachelor's degree to learn the communication style of the Japanese. I find that the Japanese place heavy emphasis on the choice of words for communicating an idea in a socially pleasant manner. This is in contrast to Singapore's communication style, where the focus is almost only on 'what' is communicated at the expense of how the other party. I believe that this is an important skill in building meaningful networks that cannot be neglected. For this reason, I have chosen to advance my career in Japan. For preparations, I self-studied Japanese to an N2 level with during my free hours and researched thoroughly on the route to enrolling into a university as a foreigner. Furthermore, I saved the income aggressively to fund towards my studies.							
(2) (Required) What are your goals for studying in Japan? How far have you achieved them? My goal of studying in Japan is to earn a bachelor's degree and in the process of doing so, professional fluency in Japanese. As of this report, I believe that I have reached that fluency level for the input aspects, but have room for improvement in the output aspects.							
(3) (Required) What was your class content? What was your learning environment like? What were your grades? The curriculum of 日本学生支援機構東京日本語教育センター has the goal of raising the Japanese level of someone from zero to the level where they can comfortably function in an academic environment. Aside from language lessons, other core subjects are also included. I think 日本学生支援機構東京日本語教育センター's teaching curriculum maximizes what is reasonably attainable with the time allotted. My grades were a result of doing prior preparatory work back in my country: researching the curriculum, understanding the EJU's format, and studying the subjects with materials provided by my friends.							

(4) (Required) What was your experiences of Japanese culture, language, and interaction with Japanese people? What did you gain from these experiences?

I did make some Japanese friends before formally beginning my studies, so I do have some background to use as introspection. While I understood that my country's communication style may be seen as blunt and direct, I didn't truly grasp the extent of it until I looked back at my previous conversations and caught myself doing so unconsciously. I realized that it was not an issue of linguistic ability, but adapting my communication style to what is suitable for my present environment. I hope that with more time spent in my university years, I will fully adapt Japan's communication style of showing more consideration towards the other party.

(5) (Required) How will studying in Japan affect your future career?

Mainly, I am looking at the communication style and consideration displayed by Japan as a learning point. I believe that Japan's method of communicating with consideration towards the other party is the correct way moving forward in building meaningful professional networks. This is especially important as a consultant, where understanding my client's needs comes before anything else. In addition, by studying in an international environment, I get to understand a little bit more about communicating with people raised in different cultural backgrounds.

(6) (If applicable) What was your job hunting and further study in Japan? What do you think about the differences between your country and Japan in terms of job hunting and further study?

(7) (Required) A message to those who are considering studying in Japan.

More than JLPT or anything else, study Japanese to a conversational level as much as you can before travelling here. If you can adequately communicate your thoughts, it would be so much easier to find a community and form friendships here. That is where you will get to elevate your conversational abilities at impressive rates and benefit fully from immersion.

If you are planning to go for advanced studies, start studying the syllabus back in your country in your native language. While deciphering the terminology used in Japanese may be difficult, things will be much easier if you have background knowledge about the topic at hand. It will provide you with an area you excel at, and the confidence to do well for the EJU. The latter will provide the motivation to keep working hard at areas where you struggle.