

First time in Kyoto

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(a) Academic outcomes

After studying Japanese-3, I have got much knowledge of various aspects of Japan. The first lesson was concerned with Kyoto and Tokyo which were the places that used to be the capital and continue to be so now. The next one was concerned with old-time and present Kyoto, and also with opinions of the famous writers in Kyoto. I studied these topics through reading the famous book named *Koto* and through watching the video version of this story too. In addition to such academic knowledge, I have also learned about other kinds of important aspects of Japan such as the environment and the old documents written in the Edo era.

(b) My experiences in Kyoto University

This was my first time coming to Japan. I got chances to make many friends not only of Japanese but also other students from many countries in Asia. After having chances to get acquainted with many Japanese volunteer students and to stay in Japan for 2 weeks, I have learned Japanese people's way of thinking and customs about which we cannot know only through reading books.

(c) The content of the program

After taking a placement test, I ended up taking Japanese-3 class. This class concentrated especially on reading skill. I tried to read various extracts from a famous book and newspapers. The contents of these sources were mostly concerned with the historical aspects of Kyoto. This class made me understand more about Kyoto, Japanese people and also many customs that may not appear nowadays. Moreover, there were many field trips during this program such as studying about Kyoto's environment at Biwa Lake and learning how to shape Japanese sweets at Yoshihiro. Therefore, what I have gained from this program was not only academic knowledge but also experiences of Japanese culture.

(d) The impact of the program on your career plans

The moment when I could not recall some words for my turn in a conversation or when I failed to convey what I wanted to say to other people always motivated me to try harder in order to be able to convey my thoughts. If there were more chances for me to learn about Japan and Japanese language, I would come to be skillful as soon as possible. I think it is worth challenging to find a job which requires Japanese skills, such like working with a Japanese company.