

Exchange study, exchange life

Wang Nianling
School of Economics,
Renmin University of China
October 1st, 2015 – March 13th, 2016

I am very lucky to be selected as the only exchange student from our school, Renmin University, to come to Japan, to experience Japanese life and study as long as half an year, thanks to this program. This program is an exchange program between the Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University, and School of Economics, Renmin University with Jasso Scholarship. Generally speaking, life in Japan for the last half year contains three main parts, namely, study, travel and independent daily life.

For the study, I have learned a lot, not only some theoretical knowledge. I selected and completed three economic courses, including also Japanese Language classes. Firstly, I have gotten costumed to read English papers, thanks to the teaching style here. For all the three courses I took here, English was used to communicate, and especially the course “Econometrical analysis of developing economy” which required a reporter and a commenter in every class, pushed me to read English papers every week carefully, and participation in discussions of the papers improved my understanding and research ability little by little. Secondly, I practiced my presentation skill. For all the courses, there was no test form of paper exam, instead, to complete each course, we had to do at least one report or presentation, which I think is actually harder and more practical for future study. Thirdly, in an international class, I came to have a wider horizon to view a problem; studying together with different friends with different nationalities could make a clash and a spark in my mind. Finally, I have come to be able to speak some basic Japanese and know some Japanese Culture. Even if you do not know Japanese, do not worry too much. Life here is not as hard as imagine because people are really friendly and be ready to help. With both English, Japanese, even body language, I finally survived here and got used to.

For other free time in Kyoto, I often came out with friends here and traveled around. I went to Nara, Osaka, Hakone, Tokyo and so on. I love the blue sky, clean streets and polite people here. Kyoto is quite traditional and precious treasure of the world. I also participated a sing competition held by the Chinese Student Organization and made friends with several Chinese students who also studied in Kyoto. What is unforgettable is the experience of New year here. It is a little bit different from Chinese New Year, people here celebrate new year with special food and visit shrines. I also visited a shrine and knocked the clock on the night of the last day of 2015. It was quite unique and interesting.

Now the program for me will finish soon, but its influence will persist in my life. In the future, I will go on study in Renmin University of China for the Master’s and Doctor’s degree. The experience equipped with me better research ability, better understanding of research life, better psychological state, better capability to live independently, and all in all can facilitate me face the future challenges more confidently.

Finally I want to thank all the teachers and staffs who spare no effort to contribute to this program, and hope that this program can be extended and benefits more students! Thanks!