

3. Report

Please write a report on your study experience, addressing the matters listed below. Your report should be more than 500 words in English. Matters to include in your report: (a) Academic outcomes (how participation in this program affected your motivation, university study and international understanding, and what interests and plans you developed for further study in the future); (b) Your experiences in Kyoto University; (c) The content of the program; (d) The impact of the program on your career plans.

*The information you provide may be included in Re-discovering Japan Project reports, or published in printed materials or on our website in pages dealing with the outcomes of programs offered by the Asian Studies Unit and/or Kyoto University. Please ensure that your report only includes content which is publishable in light of privacy considerations and the need to safeguard personal information. Also note that depending on the publication format, we may need to edit parts of your report.

[Experience in Kyoto University]

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I am very lucky to have been given the opportunity to take some classes with the Master's students of Kyoto University, Philosophy department. In addition to being exposed to more philosophers and schools of philosophical thought, I got to experience what a graduate seminar is like, and talk to graduate students about their experiences.

On an academic level, my time here in Kyoto University has helped clarify a lot of the historical and contextual background regarding my own research interest in Wittgenstein (e.g. Schopenhauer and Kripke are two very prominent philosophers related to Wittgensteinian studies). The graduate seminar on Hume has also cemented my knowledge of the skeptical school of thought, of which Wittgenstein has been painted as a main proponent of, and has generated my interest (and own belief) in Wittgenstein's anti-skeptical stance.

On a personal level, the experiences in Kyoto University have helped firmed up my interest in pursuing graduate studies in philosophy, as well as increase my exposure to graduate school opportunities outside of the United Kingdom and the United States. While I currently have sat myself down to craft out a concrete plan for the future yet, Kyoto University – bearing in mind the language barriers – is definitely a choice that will come up in the future. Part of this decision definitely boils down to the hospitable treatment I have received from Professors Yasuo Deguchi, Yumiko Inukai, Takeshi Yagisawa, as well as Mark Siderits, all of whom I have gotten to know better through their lectures and outside-the-classroom personas. It has been a week full of knowledge-sharing and lively conversation, and this gives me a glimpse into the kind of professor-student relationships that can be found in Kyoto University.

Additionally, Kyoto is a beautiful city, and in my time here I've had the pleasure of getting to know not only the tourist attractions of Kyoto, but also the laidback student life that goes on in this city. For example, I took the opportunity to visit the Philosopher's Path and various temples and shrines (e.g. Ginkakuji, Kiyamizu-dera, etc.), as well as local jazz cafes, coffee-houses, and the convenience stores that form part and parcel of every Kyoto University student familiar with this area. In my week here, and as my second time visiting Kyoto, I feel like I've gotten to know it a lot better as a liveable city – one interesting thing I've found is an increased English language competency within the city in general, e.g. the taxi drivers are willing to communicate in English, etc. which makes it easier for me to adapt to life here, and has given me extra incentive to improve my Japanese as well so as to be able to revisit Kyoto in the future.

All in all, I am thankful for the opportunity to visit Kyoto University, both because of the academic and personal benefits that classes in Kyoto University have given me, as well as the chance to get to know a beautiful city very close to my own home in Singapore.