

## **Invaluable experiences in Kyoto University**

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Participating in the two weeks summer program organized by Kyoto University, I gained a lot of treasurable and unforgettable experiences and memories which influence my academic studies.

There were many different activities held during this program, including a variety of lectures and out-of-school activities. Attending the lecture, "Human mind viewed from the study of chimpanzees" provided by Professor Tetsuro Matsuzawa, I have learnt the differences and the similarities between human beings and chimpanzees. I greatly admire Professor Matsuzawa, who is so enthusiastic to study chimpanzees that he pays a lot of efforts to learn how to communicate with chimpanzees. It is so memorable to see the Professor imitating the sound of a chimpanzee. Not only did I enjoy the lecture of chimpanzees, but also the lectures on "Current situation and prospects of researches and technologies on food, environment, and life in the world" showing me many new and unprecedented technologies used on agriculture; and the lecture called "The Aesthetics and Sensitivities of the Japanese as seen through Classical Japanese Literature", which grants me the first impression of classical Japanese literature. Motivated by these lectures, I would like to choose some subjects not related to my major, particularly science and literature, as I find them interesting and helpful to widen my horizon. Taking part in the lecture of "History and culture of Kyoto" giving me understanding on Japanese traditions and information on the modernization of Kyoto as well as the lecture named "Space and Politics: Politician's Private Villas in modern Japan", which provides me a chance to acquire knowledge on famous Japanese politicians and their villas were the most enjoyable events for me, as a student studying history. I find Japanese history attractive after these two lectures. Yet, I only have some basic information on the history of modern Japan, so I would like to take the course teaching both ancient and modern Japanese history in my home university in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding on Japanese history. In addition, joining the basic Japanese class in most of the school days, I can simply introduce myself in Japanese and remember some Japanese vocabulary. However, it is quite difficult to memorize all the Japanese words in such a short time. If I get a chance, I hope I can continue studying Japanese in my home university so that I can chat with my Japanese friends I made during this program in Japanese.

Extra-curricular activities are also the focused part in this program so as to let student experience Japanese culture. Thanks to this tour, I have done many things that I have never tried before. It was an absolutely impressive moment for my first time to make Japanese-style sweets and cook the tempura after harvesting. Additionally, learning to pound the mochi was also a haunting experience as I have only seen it through animation.

This program becomes valuable in my life not only because of the academic lectures and the cultural exchange activities, but also the experiences I gained in Kyoto University. I found that many Japanese students participating in this program are determined to become a Master or a Doctor, whose attitude inspires me a lot. I have not decided whether I should receive postgraduate program after finishing my undergraduate studies at this moment. Nonetheless, positively influenced by their enthusiasm to learn, I started thinking my future.

Furthermore, the cultural differences I experienced in Kyoto University, which is also worth remembering. The western style campus is very appealing to me because almost none of the architecture was built in the style like Kyoto University in my home university. What is more, I got a special and funny experience as the campus is so big that my classmates and I were failed to reach our location before one of the lectures. Although it is tired for us to walk around

such a big campus under the hot weather, I enjoyed the atmosphere of the university very much. Last but not least, it is also an unforgettable experience to dine at the university canteen. The food sold at school is cheaper than that outside-school, it is blissful for me to spend only 400-500 yen to buy a tasty Japanese style lunch!

In conclusion, all the experiences I got during this summer program are extremely precious. I learnt more on Japanese culture and I made friends with Japanese these two weeks. This is an influential event in my university life as I have decided to have further studies on Japanese history and Japanese language. I am so thankful that I have got a chance to come to Kyoto University to join this summer program.