

## **Encounter, stimulate and resonate with Kyoto**

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As a student majoring in foreign languages (Spanish Language and Literature), I've always been interested in international studies and joined programs to enhance understanding through personal contact in a social context, including Jing Forum (a joint program hosted by Peking University and Tokyo University students starting from 2005), Top China program (Chinese students and Brazilian students interchange program sponsored by Banco Santander), worked as a main organizer of the Syrian Refugee Children Art Exhibition in Peking University, and serve as the vice director of Public Relations Department in SICA (Student International Communication Association) in Peking University. Especially, I have a particular interest in Japan, partly because of the geopolitical importance of Japan to China, with deep-down attraction and influence of its culture as I grow up all these years.

Participation in this program is an excellent chance for me to gain a deeper understanding of Japanese society through multi-faceted, thought-provoking experience. Especially, we've been really lucky to attend inter-disciplinary lectures well-presented by Kyoto University professors and gain access to Kyoto University library resources. With information absorbed from books and lectures, combined with first-hand information gathered from daily observation and participation, not only can I get to construct the panorama of Japan, but more importantly, I feel deeply touched by some minute and subtle details in daily routines which strictly link to the core of Japanese spirit. When that happens, in the street, on the road, under the roof, I can feel an intoxicant moment where I can break through the ambiguity of the abstract, and set up firm linkage between the "sayings" and the "facts", with personal emotional factors involved, as company of the rational, scrupulous academic analyses. That is the moment where I get to shake off prejudices, presumptions and dogma, bravely go out of the comfort zone and make new discoveries. Breathing the same air as the locals, and experiencing every path as they do...I feel like something precious that I've neglected or taken for granted before start to show their values. That's the invaluable treasure from international exchange programs and I would sincerely thank the faculty of Kyoto University, especially professors and students in this program, for making it happen.

The program includes lectures on biology, literature, arts, history and political studies in the research fields of Kyoto University professors. After enjoying a whole lecture fully and absorbedly, we would later join the spirited discussion with professor and other students. We also have elementary Japanese language class for six hours and practice oral ability after class. We have the great pleasure of joining the well-organized field trips, to the Prefectural Assembly, to the sweets shop, to innovative companies, etc. During our free days, we are lucky enough to have the company of our Japanese counterparts to enjoy what the city has to offer.

This program further helps me build up confidence, follow my own passion and be consistent with it. I've long hoped to study the law, in a JD program, for my graduate studies. International law would be my pursuit, so this experience would be the start of a new chapter as it helps increase ability in this regard.