

Final Completion Report of Exchange Student Programme
Two Month Extensive Course

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Attending classes at the Kyoto University was also a very worthwhile experience for me. This university is one of the most prestigious universities in the world. It was an honor to attend lectures taught by professors in this university. In addition, being in a small class of only ten students made it a much more casual setting in which we could get to know the professors and other students more on a personal level. At times, a few of the professors were a little difficult to understand and their lectures may have been far above our level in knowledge, but they were always welcoming and encouraging of our questions. They really cared about our understanding of the material as students and they were all very proud of their own research. I learned a lot about many different fields of sustainable development and, as a result, I have been able to discover what areas of research I am really interested in. It has always been difficult for me to decide what major and concentration I want to dedicate my studies to because I love learning about everything. But by learning about the life changing research that these professors are working on, I was able to realize what kind of field that I was most interested in. As a result, I have been motivated to get more involved with green marketing as my part of research at my university and hopefully contribute to a life-changing discovery in the future.

Studying abroad is a great experience that everyone in college should take advantage of, since the only obligation at that time is being a student. I have to say that studying in Kyoto University was really one of the best decisions I have ever made. The experience of going through culture shock, learning a new language and having new adventures every day was very enjoyable. I had the opportunity to meet so many great people. I really learned a lot about myself, the other people in my life, took my travel opportunities to neighboring cities and adapting to new ways of living. I have grown as an individual in many ways. There are so many more places around the world that I have always wanted to visit based on the information and the image of beautiful pictures I have ever seen, but I have learned that it is not just the aesthetic beauty of a foreign country that is valuable to me. It is the beauty of the feeling you get being there in a world unimaginable and indescribable that matters the most.

Meeting others in my program from various other countries around the world was also a great learning experience for me. We all had many differences and a few similarities, but there was one main thing that we all had in common we were all in a place completely foreign to us. By being in this international academic program, I was exposed to a variety of learning perspectives and differences in interests. I have come to realize that to really make a valuable contribution to the world, it is important that one addresses the needs and concerns of countries around the world. People around the world think in unique ways because of the differences in their everyday lives. The only way to really understand these differences and make a worldwide discovery is to study abroad in many of these countries. The program has allowed me to converse academically with international students and professors, who all have allowed my knowledge to expand to a larger extent by listening to them and sharing their own experiences and wisdom during our academic discussions in class. During this program, I also had an opportunity to join “Kyoto Graduate Seminar 2016”, an eight-day seminar that provided me more knowledge regarding Sustainable Development and also Japanese culture. I met many experts and graduate students from many universities around the world that will surely broaden my social capital. I also got a chance to visit Panasonic Eco-Technology Center (PETEC) office. This study abroad program has allowed me to gain a more complete sense of independence and a curiosity for the rest of the world, while eliminating much of the judgment and bias from my mindset that I had going into the program.

The two months went by much faster than I had anticipated, but I know that I have made friends and connections for a lifetime, especially with the online networking systems that we have all around the world these days. It will be a plus to travel to other countries around the world and have connections with friends living in those countries that I can meet up with to show me around.