

## **The exchange program in Kyoto University**

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I applied for this program since I hope that I can improve myself both in terms of academic and social skills. And this is a very good chance in my life to join in the exchange program in Kyoto University. I stay in Japan for only about 2 months and a week but I think I improved a lot.

I am running my thesis in the International trade field of economic. Thus, attending courses here can contribute to my own research. Since I register in three courses here including Comparative Industry Policy, ASEAN Economy and Sustainable Development and Political Economy. I found out that the content especially in Comparative Industry class related in my own research since it is about firms and integration in the industrial sector. I am also interested in the Political Economy class, too. Because it introduces me an alternative way of economic apart from a Mainstream one. Although my friends and I faced some problems in this class according to the way our professor conveyed his lecture. But I still have a positive aspect toward political economy.

Moreover, I found that this EA program not only focuses on the success in economic growth but it tries to convince us to concern more about the sustainable growth in the long-run. I realize that we should care about the environment, society and all the stakeholders. However, I still think that this is a challenging task for economist to deal with those kind of problems such as pollution and climate change. Since people who join in economic activities have a profitability as their main purpose. So it is hard to control all of their activities since they might lose their profit.

This year there is a Kyoto Graduate Seminar and I have a chance to join in this seminar. I think this seminar provided many benefits to my friends and me. Since I have a chance to listen to good lectures from professors who specialize in their fields. And I also join in the student workshops which let me think and exchange my ideas with others students. I learn how to compromise and find the final solution. And practicing group work skill. I also enjoy our field trips, too. I have a chance to go to Ohara which is the local area and this is a very good experience for me. I learn a lot during the period of the KGS seminar.

For my experiences in Kyoto, I am impressed with so many things here. I often lost the way to come to Kyoto University in the first and the second weeks but most Japanese tried to help me a lot. Even the old lady whom I cannot communicate verbally with her but she tried to help me by writing the map for me. And this impressed me so much. However, as days went by, I can went to many places in Kyoto by myself since I found out that the transportation system here is so nice. The bus and train are usually be punctual, so I can manage my time well. I also enjoy Japanese food. I think I eat a lot here. I try many new kinds of foods as much as I can especially the one with many people queue-up in front. I like to go to many temples here and for my most favorite tourist attractions in Japan are Arashiyama where I enjoy all the natural resources such as bamboo forest and another one is Kurama Onsen where I feel refreshing in a hot water. And when I got to Kurama Onsen, there was a thick snow on the mountain along the way to Onsen which made me feel so amazing. Besides, I get many new friends from here, they come from many countries. Some of them teach me how to cook Vietnamese food. And some teach me to speak their own language. This is a valuable thing I get from here apart from the education.

Finally, this program has an impact on my career plan since I am interested in economic field from the beginning and this program assure me that I still want to pursue my study and work in this field. And I think an economist can contribute more to the society than I used to think before. Therefore, I would like to say thank you for everyone who involves in this exchange program and for my family who always support me.