

「2024年度ウィーン大学スプリングスクール派遣報告書」

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During this program at the University of Vienna, we learned about the history of Austria, focusing on “the glories and setbacks of Austria in the period 1880-1938.” The fields we studied there ranged from political history to social economies, academic histories, social securities and laws, and even architecture and music. Above all, the deep connections between musical history and political history strongly interested me. For instance, the satirical depictions seen in Operetta around the 1990s give us some ideas about the political opinions which were widely accepted then, since these art performances are basically created for the people of that time. The fact also interested me that the characteristic of Vienna as “city of arts” was deeply related to the transaction of political position of Austria. In the city of Vienna, we could see many traces of its architectural history and musical history, and I think these arts especially need to be experienced with a sense of presence rather than online. In particular, I could not have learned so deeply without kind guidance and lectures held in the University of Vienna and the museums. In this respect, I keenly feel that what maximizes learning in the field is the knowledge and imagination, which need to be cultivated on a daily basis. Therefore, I began to think that it is essential to acquire background knowledge of international situations, as well as the linguistic ability to express precisely what you want to say and to understand correctly what others mean. Given that, I decided to develop an interest to the wide range of context and to study language hard as a means of international understanding from the next semester.

On a holiday during my stay, I visited the neighboring country Hungary with my colleagues. I began to plan to go there only a few days before the departure, and was surprised how easily it was to cross the national border by train without any procedure. In Japan, which is an island nation, “abroad” immediately means “overseas.” I realized that in Europe, where countries are connected by land, physical and mental barriers to national borders should be lower than in Japan. This difference can greatly affect the way we perceive issues related to geography, such as refugee issues, for instance. However, since such differences are premises of our thoughts and are not things we usually take into consideration, it is difficult to notice such background differences until you actually experience them. I believe that this is another significant benefit of visiting foreign places.

I was able to have such numerous unimaginable realizations and enriching experiences thanks to my highly international-minded colleague, administrative staff and all professors at Kyoto University and University of Vienna, and above all, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mazal. I would like to thank all of them for giving me this wonderful opportunity, and I will make every effort to make the most of this experience.