

「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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The purpose of this paper is to report on my learning experiences and insights gained in Vienna, with a particular focus on the city and its arts.

During Professor Pippal's lecture on the emergence of the modern city, her remarks about Vienna's architecture left a lasting impression on me. She explained that the Ringstraße embodies over 2,500 years of European culture. In other words, the buildings along the Ringstraße reflect various architectural styles from across Europe. For examples, the Austrian Parliament resembles ancient Greek temples because ancient Greece is the birthplace of democracy. Similarly, the Vienna City Hall is influenced by Dutch and German Gothic styles, symbolizing autonomy and governance. During my stay, I explored the city and observed its diverse architectural styles firsthand. Compared to historic buildings in Kyoto, those in Vienna are more varied, which, in my view, reflects the deep cultural connections among European nations.

On the other hand, two cities have something in common. In Vienna, I noticed many people relaxing on the lawns or benches in parks and on palace grounds. Especially, Schönbrunn Palace reminded me of Kyoto Imperial Palace. Not only were both used as imperial residences, but they also serve as places of relaxation for citizens. I frequently saw locals taking a walk, chatting, and jogging on the palace grounds, which scenes are also common at Kyoto Imperial Palace. I believe it is essential for historical sites to be integrated into daily life, providing both a sense of history and a space for relaxation.

Studying abroad allowed me to experience Vienna's architecture and public spaces firsthand while observing the interactions of people within them.

In this seminar, I also learned modern art in Vienna, particularly the Austrian art movement known as Secession. The professor showed us a portrait by Gustav Klimt alongside an Edo-period painting, highlighting their similarities, such as the use of gold leaf and negative space. This comparison reminded me of a painting I had seen at the Leopold Museum a few days earlier. Although it was European, its resemblance to Japanese Ukiyo-e reinforced my realization from the lecture that Japanese art influenced European art in the late 19th century.

I viewed many of Klimt's works at various museums in Vienna, and noticed the difference between his landscape paintings at the Leopold Museum and those at the Belvedere. The former had a softer contrast and dreamy atmosphere reminiscent of impressionism, whereas the latter employed pointillism and vibrant colors. Thanks to the lecture, I was able to develop the idea that Klimt's stylistic evolution resulted from his exposure to diverse artistic movements and techniques. The insights gained from the seminar significantly enriched my appreciation of Klimt's works across different museums.

Beyond what I have mentioned, I learned about Vienna from multiple perspectives, including history, politics, and economics in the seminar. Additionally, my visits to museums, the cathedral, and the parliament deepened my understanding of the city. Naturally, I recognized not only similarities but also differences between Vienna and Kyoto. However, this experience enhanced my approach to international understanding, allowing me to perceive these differences as sources of cultural richness. Furthermore, my interactions with students at the University of Vienna were so invaluable. This experience would not have been difficult without support of Professor Mazal, to whom I extend my deepest gratitude. Building on this experience, I am eager to join another program in the future.