BERICHT

(Bitte spätestens 2 Monate nach Beendigung Ihres Auslandsaufenthalts vollständig übermitteln)

1. Gastuniversität (Land/Stadt/Uni) JAPAN/OSAKA/OKAKA UNIVERSITY


Aufenthaltsdauer (Tag, Monat, Jahr) von 15.01.2015 bis 01.08.2016

3. Studienrichtung(en) JAPANOLOGIE (BA) Matrikel. Nr

□ Bachelorstudium □ Diplomstudium □ Lehramtsstudium □ Masterstudium

E-Mail-Adresse (optional)

4. Stipendium bewilligt für 11 Monate weitere Stipendien 3328 €

Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt 2000 €
Bezugsquelle DA-Scholarship (OSAKA UNIVERSITY)
Gesamtsumme Stipendien 5328 €

5. Wohnmöglichkeit (zutl. bitte ankreuzen):

□ Studierendenheim
□ Privat

6. Kosten Unterkunft gesamt 2200 €

Reisekosten gesamt 800-1000 €
(An- und Abreise, öffentl. Verkehrsmittel)

Lebenshaltungskosten gesamt 4000 €

Visakosten 30 €

Studienkosten gesamt 20 €

Versicherungskosten gesamt 100 €

Gesamtkosten Auslandsaufenthalt 7350 €

Verfassen eines persönlichen Erfahrungsberichtes über Ihren Studienaufenthalt

Anhaltspunkte: Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft etc.
(Please use a separate sheet for personal impressions, name your university, study program, country, etc.)

Abgabe des Leistungsnachweises der ausländischen Institution (Transcript) sowie des Anrechnungsbescheides (Formular: Antrag-Anerkennung-Studienerfolgsnachweis)

□ JA, ich bin damit einverstanden, dass dieses Formular zusammen mit meinem Bericht für Mitstudierende auf der Webseite zur Ansicht zur Verfügung steht. Bitte bedenken Sie, dass Sie diesen Bericht auch anonymisiert ohne Name abgeben können.

□ NEIN, ich stimme einer Veröffentlichung nicht zu.
I have been studying in Osaka University in Japan as exchange student from September 2015 to August 2016. During this one academic year in Japan, I have made great progress in broadening my knowledge in my major Japanologie through taking classes actively in Osaka University. In addition, I have gained a lot of valuable experience regarding Japanese language, social and cultural studies through several school field trips and art performance organized by Osaka University. This is a very meaningful and fruitful year for my student life.

I have participated in the MAPLE program which is organized by Center of Japanese Language and Culture (CJLC) in Osaka University. In the beginning of every semester, we must take the placement test and personal interview to confirm our Japanese language level in order to assign to the right level. My placement test result is in the highest level. My studies mainly focuses in Japanese cultural, society, language and communication.

For Japanese cultural studies, I have chosen many interesting courses such as Seminar courses on Japanese Culture, Directed Research in Japanese Language and Culture, tea ceremony course, etc. In directed research in Japanese language and culture, students were working in group and could decide the research theme and direction which we all had interest in. After several rounds of group discussion with group members and professor, we started our research by various methods: surveys/questionnaire, interview, library, statistics analysis, etc. In the end, each group would present their own research through presentation with powerpoint. All presentation and discussion were held in Japanese language, which in my opinion is very helpful for the improvement of my Japanese language skills as well as intercultural communication ability. I have been doing research with 3 different groups and contributed in several research themes such as: the standards of beauty in different countries in compared to Japan, Life events in different cultures, etc.

For Japanese sociology studies, I have taken the course named Topics in Japanese Society II. This course was taught mainly in Japanese language, but students were also allowed to make comments or express their opinions in English. The professor would choose one social topic in every lesson such as the nuclear power development and its influence in Asia and the world, Japanese social attitude towards abortion, vegetarians and vegans in Japan, etc. In the first half of the lecture, we were required to watch a video or a discussion, or to read an article related to this topic, then in the second half of the lecture, all students were free to talk about their own opinions, comments or even arguments. We always participated in the discussion actively and enjoyed sharing different opinions of students from different cultural background. Every time, I not only gained new knowledges from the relative social fields, but also got new inspiration and broaden my thinking way. In the end of the course, all students have made an individual presentation in class, presenting their own research on the specific social research topic they have been chosen. My research topic is about the trend of plastic surgery in Japan and its social background and psychology reasons. In order to prepare for my research, I have read many professional articles and texts, contacted interview with Japanese people in different age group, social background and gender. Finally I have conducted my presentation for 20min in Japanese language in class. After my presentation, I answered the questions raised by the audience and professor. Through the interaction with students, I have improved my own research.

I have also taken Japanese language course such as advanced Japanese which has a sharp focus on speaking training. The professor created different daily situations or location scenes for us to practice Japanese speaking in different context. Most of the homework is required as group work, which gave us a very good opportunity to practice and improve our communication techniques. In
this course, we have also conducted several group presentations and reports.

Regarding accommodation, I have stayed in student dorm (K Dorm). The student dormitory has 7 floors, each floor has 6 single rooms with a shared kitchen and bathroom. Each single room has equipped with a private toilet, a bed, a desk, a chair, a closet and light. Normally, each floor has students from different countries living together. I was told that this arrangement by Osaka University is for the purpose of encouraging intercultural communication and improving Japanese language skills in daily life. However, the dormitory is arranged in single room in order to make sure that students have enough privacy space and make sure that no one is been disturbed while others practicing reading or pronunciation in their own room. Personally, I think this is a very ideal design for students who are majored in linguistic. Each dormitory building would have assigned a Japanese student tutor, who would help us solve our life or study problems. There are 2 general managers of the dormitory, who maintains the dormitory's security and safety in all regards.

Osaka University has organized several study field trips and art performance for us, in order to broaden our horizon and strengthen Japanese cultural studies. For instance, the first field trip is to visit a village which is famous for its pottery arts in Hyogo Perfecture. We have taken a lecture there about how to make pottery by the pottery specialist. Then we have made our own pottery bowl/tea cup there, which takes another one month to burn and color after this trip and was sent back to us in December as Christmas present.

Also, I have taken part in a field trip for 2 days visiting Shikoku island and Japanese traditional hotspring hotel. We have visited the most famous castle in Japan named Himeji Castle, many different types of museums and tasted local cuisines. The university even arranged special menus for vegetarian/vegan students upon demands.

Another field trip is to visit a traditional candy (Wakashi) making shop in Kyoto. The candy-making specialist from the shop first gave us a lecture on how to make Japanese traditional candy for the tea ceremony according to the season change. Then all students would have the chance to experience making candy under the guideline from the specialists. Afterwards, all candy made by ourselves were packed into a beautiful present box and were allowed to be brought home. It was really an amazing experience for us.

All in all, this exchange year is a very meaningful and fulfilling academic year for me. I even have been chosen as one of the five exchange student representatives among all students to take an interview regarding my studies in Osaka University was published on the university magazine which promotes MAPLE program of Osaka University. Due to my bad health condition, unfortunately, I had to return to my home country for medical treatment right after my final presentation in the summer semester in 2016, one month earlier than planned. Even though I could not finish all my final exams as scheduled, I still did my best to complete my final presentation and report. I have treasured every moment studying in Osaka University and this precious experience has given me a new motivation to continue my study and pursue my career in its best way.