BERICHT

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

1. Gastuniversität (Land/Stadt/Univ)  
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

2. Studienjahr  
☐ Wintersemester 2012  ☐ Sommersemester 2013


3. Studienrichtung(en)  
Yapandologie  
Matrikel. Nr A-0802687

☐ Bakkalaureatsstudium  ☐ Diplomstudium  ☐ Lehramtsstudium  ☐ Magister/Masterstudium

E-Mail Adresse (optional) svelina.88@abv.bg

4. Stipendium bewilligt für 10 Monate bew. Stipendienbetrag 4000 €
weitere Stipendien ☐ bew. Reisekostenzuschuss ☐
Bezugsquelle ☐ Gesamtsumme Stipendien 4000 €

5. Wohnmöglichkeit (betr. bitte ankreuzen):  
☐ Studentenheim  ☐ Privat

6. Kosten Unterkunft 1400 € Reisekosten 1500 €
Lebenschaltungskosten 5500 € Visakosten  
Studienkosten (Bsp. Studiengebühr, Bibliotheksgebühren, Kursmaterial) 100 € Versicherungskosten 100 €
Gesamtkosten (Auslandsaufenthalt 8900 €

Verfassen eines persönlichen Erfahrungsberichtes über Ihren Studienaufenthalt  
Anhaltspunkte: Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft etc.  
(Bitte verwenden Sie ein extra Beilblatt: mind. 1 Seite; Überschrift des Berichtes: Ihre Matrikelnummer, Name der Gastuniversität und des Gastlandes, Ihre Studienrichtung sowie der Zeitraum des Aufenthaltes).

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

☐ Ja, ich bin damit einverstanden, dass dieses Formular zusammen mit meinem Bericht für Mitstudierende auf der Webseite zur Ansicht zur Verfügung steht (falls zutreffend, bitte ankreuzen).
Studying at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies I had the unique chance to choose among a variety of classes from the program for international students.

After the placement test held in the beginning of October I was placed in the class **Intermediate Japanese 2. Integrated 401**. I had classes every day, so I believe that I improved my knowledge of Japanese substantially. There were a lot of activities in class and I communicated a lot with the other students. A couple of times Japanese students came and we had discussions, which I found very useful. The book “Tobira” is the best textbook I had until now. The grammar explanations are simple and the texts had a variety of topics that I found interesting. I took also some Skill-Specific Japanese classes: **Reading Comprehension, Grammar and Vocabulary, Listening Comprehension and Oral Communication**.

One of the classes I enjoyed most was **International Communication**. We examined the field from its formation until nowadays and learnt many theories about how we can easily communicate in an international environment which is very useful in the globalized world in the 21st century. We learnt what are we supposed to do when we go to a new place and meet people from different backgrounds and how we can solve the problems that can arise. There were also a lot of funny activities in the class that all of us enjoyed. I chose the class **Corporative Governance & Culture in Comparative Perspective** because I admire the Japanese corporation, but it was the most difficult one I had. We examined the development of the Japanese corporation in the period of modernization, in the years of economic growth (especially after WW2), in the “bubble” period. We covered topics about Nihonjinron and the strong Japanese nationalism. The course **International Social Development** was closely related to my second field of studies, e.g. International Development. I was happy that I was able to go through some of the contents I am really interested in, such as the Millennium Development Goals, demography problems, gender issues, genital mutilation etc. At the end there was a speech contest in which every student had to present shortly his idea of how we can reduce the poverty in the world. There were some very good proposals and I was very pleased to win the second place. The teacher had prepared some wonderful presents for the winner. The next course I took was **Topic of Contemporary Japan**. The intention of the course was to provide a good understanding about certain important issues in current Japan. We concentrated on Japan’s international relations with countries like China, North and South Korea and Taiwan and the respectively the problems that arose between the countries in the course of time. We focused on some environmental issues like the nuclear disaster and the global warming. We also learnt about the political landscape in Japan nowadays.
In the second semester I got into a higher level of Japanese: Pre-Advanced Japanese. Integrated 501. In comparison to the previous level, this class was much more difficult. We had to learn a lot of difficult words and kanji. The grammar however was easy, we repeated a lot of things from 400, that I personally found unnecessary. The topics we discussed were above the level of a conversational Japanese: environmental issues, immigration problems, information improvement etc. The topics concerned not only Japan, they were international. The Skill-Specific Japanese classes I chose were Oral Communication and Writing.

In order to challenge myself and further improve my Japanese I took two classes that were conducted in Japanese: Religious Culture in Contemporary Japan and Japanese Society and Religion. In the first one all Japanese students had to hold a presentation in Japanese about a variety of topics and their connection to religion. For example anime and manga, movies, music, Japanese wedding’s and funeral’s traditions. After each presentation there was short time for questions and discussions during which international students were asked to participate actively. We also had to prepare a short presentation with religious topics concerning our home countries. I thought it was very interesting and useful, because religion is a topic I find really amazing. International Social Development was a continuation of the class from the previous semester. The topics we examined were education in developing countries, micro-credit programs, child rights convention, fair trade. In some classes we made convention or game simulations in which we had to put ourselves in the shoes of people who suffer from certain problems and respectively representatives of organizations who try to solve those problems. It was a very good experience that helped us get closer to the problems.

In the course Introduction to Japanese Politics we got very good understanding of the political and electoral system in Japan. We studied about the constitution, the parliament, the cabinet and the bureaucracy, pressure groups, civil society etc. It was not easy because there were a lot of reading materials. The professor asked us to read not only the papers he distributed but also to read newspapers and watch the news. The last class I chose is Media and Social Change. Nowadays media is one of the most important political and social tools so I think it is important to learn more about it. The professor examined the history of the Japanese media from its beginning until now. He presented different forms of it: printed and digital with respectively its problems and perspectives.

I lived in a dormitory that was in the campus of the university which was very convenient because I needed only 5 minutes to go to the classroom. In Japan the subway tickets are extremely expensive and I was very happy that I do not have to pay any money for transport
to the university. Furthermore, the room was very cheap and in good condition. There were two bathrooms on the floor and a common kitchen in the first floor. The only negative thing about the dorm was that there were no Japanese living there which limited my chances to find Japanese friends. However, there were people from all kind of countries and I became very close with many of them.

During the last year that I spent at TUFS I gained on a lot of valuable experience. I made a lot of new friendships with Japanese and people from different countries. I improved my Japanese and learnt a lot from the courses I chose. I am happy because I will have many positive memory for a lifetime at the campus. I had the pleasure to see and get to know better one new world I find truly amazing. This was the best year of my life.