



BERICHTSFORMULAR

Non-EU Student Exchange Programm

2022/2023

BewerbungsID 16181

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 066/864 Studienrichtung Masterstudium East Asian Economy and Society

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: Momoyama Gakuin University - (Japan)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: SS 2023

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 12.04.2023 **Aufenthaltsende:** 28.07.2023

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ Rückforderung: nein Rückgeforderter Betrag: € Rückforderungsgrund:
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Ja <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipendium des Gastlandes: nein () • Bundesländerstipendium: nein • Studienbeihilfe: nein • Sonstiges Stipendium: <i>Host university scholarship</i>
Summe weiterer Stipendien:	€ 1.470,00
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien:	€ 1.470,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 1.470,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Studierendenwohnheim
Reisekosten:	€ 500,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 4.000,00
Studienkosten:	€ 400,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 100,00
Visakosten:	€ 0,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	€ 6.470,00

Bericht veröffentlichen:



PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT

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Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

Mindestumfang: Fließtext 1 Seite DinA4

Inhalt: Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

Host University:

The first thing that I want to point out is that Momoyama Gakuin University is NOT in Osaka city. It is definitely in Osaka prefecture but it's south, and a trip to Namba is long and pricey. MGU is in Izumi city, there are shops and restaurants near the station but it's not super exciting there, just convenient.

The university is quite small and in great condition. There is a canteen, a cafeteria, a library, a convenient store, a gym, a pool, a sports field, etc. There are also cherry trees on the campus that blossom during spring and it was quite pretty.

The International center there will guide you and assist all from day 1. They are kind and useful but on many occasions it felt like they were babysitting us. Basically they don't treat foreign students as adults and it can be frustrating. For example they don't allow exchange students to drive in Japan and I am not sure they could legally take that right away from us. Another time they evacuated all exchange students from the dorm because it was "unsafe" and confined us in a gymnasium nearby for hours because of a typhoon alert. There were no official local evacuation orders and the rest of the city/prefecture was still open to business. When confronted, they were not able to provide any document or information justifying their overzealousness. Their lack of transparency and overly protective rules was my biggest issue while I was there. MGU also has a "semester fee", it's 40000 yen. The International center was not crystal clear about it. But it didn't cover the Japanese books as we were charged for it as well.

Courses:

All exchange students have to join Japanese classes. On top of that, students have to join other courses to reach a minimum of 10 hours per week.

Exchange students are split by Japanese level before the beginning of the semester. They are not flexible or accommodating about it.

I was still at a beginner level when I started at MGU and joined the level A. There are 4 levels and there were 7 students in my level. We had 3 different native Japanese professors and they were all so kind, friendly, helpful and even funny. They were interested in us, our stories and our daily lives in Japan. The studying conditions were excellent and I wish the semester lasted longer just to have more classes with them. The weekly workload was perfectly fine, even if you get lazy or if you get a job/want to explore Japan. The final exams were a bit more stressful as we covered a lot during the semester but everyone did well at the end. Beginners have to take 9 hours of



compulsory Japanese classes, it's only 6 hours for more advanced students.

MGU offers courses in English for exchange students to join. The international center will only provide the list a few days before the beginning of the semester. We had access to last year's course list but there were quite a lot of changes and many courses were missing when we

received the official list. It causes troubles and disappointments to several students, me included. Basically all economics courses were gone with few others. Some adjustments were made to try to fix it. I ended up taking a 1 to 1 course of an almost retired Japanese statistics professor. He tried his best to teach me what I was interested in. It was very interesting to get his perspective on Japan's past, present and future. I also joined the ecology through animation course and it was way more deep than I actually thought. The professor really mastered her subject and it was very nice to learn about Japan and the western world in a different way.

At the end of the semester I felt like I really learned interesting facts about Japan and my Japanese proficiency clearly improved.

Others students

I was the oldest exchange student and probably the oldest student at MGU that spring semester (I went back to university for my master's after working several years). Being older definitely had an impact on my interaction with the other exchange students (and overall my experience is pretty different as well). It was not my first time in Japan and my expectations were slightly different. However, everyone was always kind and respectful. All exchange students have to live in the same dorm and share many courses together so naturally you meet a lot of other students. It's "easy" to meet Japanese students to a certain extent. There are also Japanese students living in the dorm. They have some sort of a contract with MGU and are here to welcome us, guide us in our first weeks and help us get a sim card or pay our bills. Technically they are also there to control that everything is under control. They were all friendly and helpful, they tried to organize some events but as they were also full time students and almost all of them had part time jobs, so they could not always be there to hang out.

MGU also has a "Buddy program" to connect Japanese students with exchange students. Sometimes matches were pretty odd and it was more like a hit or miss sort of gamble. I had 3 assigned buddies, one that I only met once, one that I shared a course with so we could meet at least once a week and another one that I connected more with and we tried to catch up from time to time when it was possible.

Most Japanese students have one or two part time jobs and lots of them didn't live nearby so they were way busier than us.

Dorm

MGU has a dorm for all exchange students, it's mandatory to live there during the semester, no exception allowed to my understanding. Rent was 40000 yen a month and bills maybe 6000 yen per month.

Rooms were like small studios with private kitchens and bathrooms. Rooms were convenient and all the basics were there. I have to mention the walls were paper thin and the bed/futon terrible.

The dorm was 20 minutes away from the nearest station and 30 minutes from MGU. Exchange students can register to have a bike and that was very convenient for groceries or to go to university. There were different stores in the vicinity. The trash rules were strict but it was well explained by the Japanese students living in the dorm with us and we could contact them in case of a doubt.

When we left the dorm at the end of the semester, we had to get rid of everything we bought for our rooms, we were not even allowed to leave hangers for the next exchange students. The amount of objects in perfect conditions wasted was sinful. It's sad the international center couldn't organize it better.

My room was on one of the highest floors and my view was lovely, especially during sunset.

Japan

I really liked being there, Japan is a great place to be in, it's beautiful, fascinating and super convenient. There is so much to do and see. One semester is actually not very long so it's better not to waste time and to explore from the beginning. Transportation can be pricey but the



Shinkansen isn't the only option and the Osaka/Kyoto/Nara/Kobe have a lot to offer anyway. I also want to point out that summer in Japan has been hot and humid since early June. It makes everything unpleasant so I highly recommend that you travel during spring.

Cost of living

Life in Japan is generally cheaper than in Vienna. The value of the Yen was very low during my semester so it was awesome. Supermarket's bentos are a great way to try tasty Japanese food for cheap. Daiso and other 100 yen stores are really nice to get everything you need, and for the rest, there is Donki.

Part time job

It was way harder than I thought to get one but it is definitely possible. Foreigners on student visas can not do all kinds of jobs but the international center holds a meeting on this matter and will provide necessary information.
