

Studying abroad in China

1. Studying in PKU

I am a fourth-year student at Waseda University, majoring in Law. From February to July 2024, I studied mainly Chinese politics and international law at Peking University. In the international law seminar in Waseda, I researched topics such as the relationship between China and Taiwan, energy security, and the protection of submarine cables. In these studies, I realized the significant presence of China alongside the United States. For Japan, building good relations not only with the US but also with China is crucial. However, living in Japan, the media often portrays China negatively. I wanted to understand what kind of country China really is, which sparked my interest in studying at Peking University. Academically, I was able to learn about politics and international law from a Chinese perspective. I gained insights into China's struggles and ambitions to become a global power again, influenced by its historical experiences of humiliation before WWII. We tend to view things from a Western perspective and see differing viewpoints as negative. However, this experience reminded me of the importance of respecting and trying to understand different perspectives. Mutual respect is crucial.



2. PKU Life -Sports

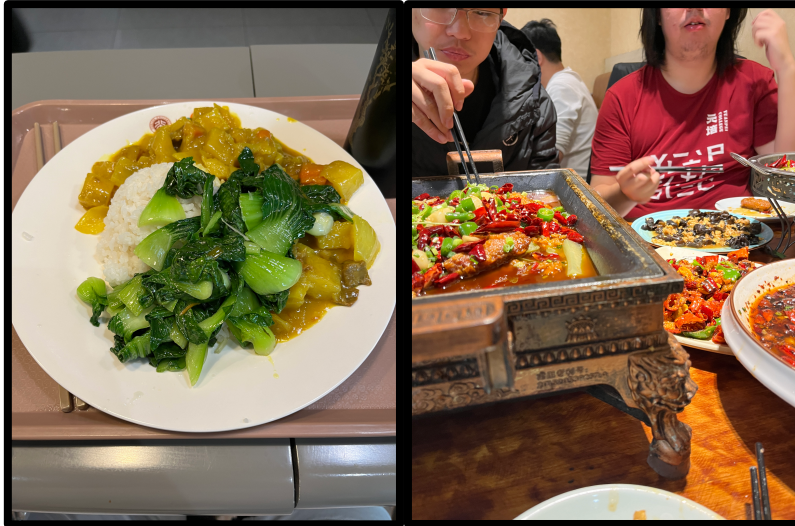


I enjoyed playing baseball and softball. I was the only Japanese student in the baseball and softball teams, but everyone was friendly and I quickly made friends. Besides being a player, I also got involved as a coach for the baseball team. I had been a coach for a high school baseball team in Japan, but the difference in experience levels was apparent. While it is common for Japanese students to start playing baseball in elementary school, many Chinese students start in college. This made coaching challenging at times, but the players' enthusiasm made it enjoyable. I was glad to contribute to Chinese baseball, though my contribution was very small.

Additionally, I joined a campus softball team at the invitation of my baseball friends. I participated in internal games and was selected for the all-star team, which was a lot of fun. Through activities with the baseball and softball teams, I made many Chinese friends. I realized the power of sports in connecting people.

From March to May, I enjoyed daily catch, batting, and fielding practice with them on the university grounds. It was a lot of fun.

3. PKU Life -Foods



I also enjoyed the food at Peking University. I had three meals a day at astonishingly low prices. The 7-yuan curry was particularly helpful for saving money. I also got hooked on having dan dan noodles for breakfast. I loved the cheap and delicious meals at the university cafeteria. I tried various foods. My friends from the baseball and softball clubs took me to many meals, allowing me to experience different Chinese cuisines like Xinjiang, Beijing, and Cantonese dishes, as well as Korean. Experiencing the daily life of local students through sports and food was incredibly enjoyable.

4. China Life



I visited various places such as Inner Mongolia, Beijing, Qingdao, and Shanghai. Seeing historical sites like the Great Wall and relics from the periods of Japanese and European domination before the war gave me a sense of China's past. Observing the prevalence of EV cars, vast solar power fields, and urban planning projects made me appreciate China's present and future. I also enjoyed the natural landscapes, including deserts, seas, and mountains. I was able to experience China from multiple perspectives.

5. Conclusion

At Peking University, I not only studied but also experienced various aspects of students' life, such as sports and food. Although a semester is a short period to fully understand China, I have come to like the country. I want to continue building friendships with Chinese people. In the future, I aspire to work to improve and develop Asia alongside our neighbors, including China, South Korea, Singapore, and other ASEAN countries.

I would like to appreciate the professors and staff at Peking University and Waseda University, as well as all those involved in the Campus Asia project.