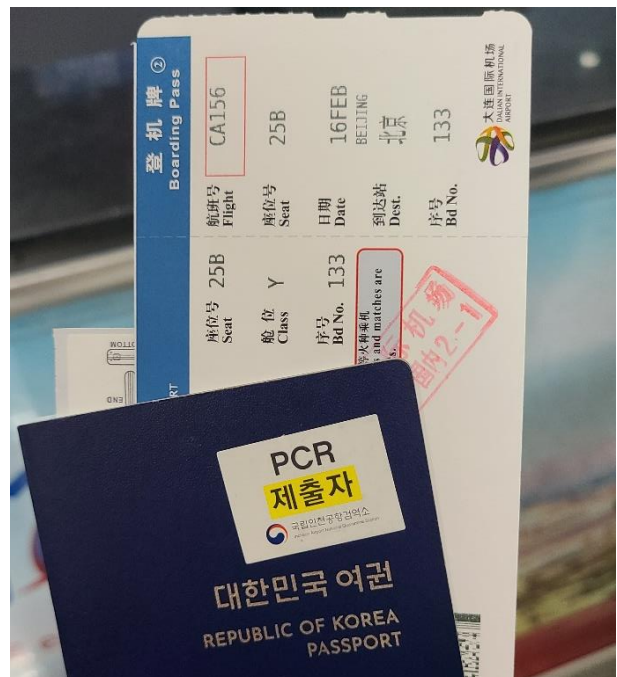Campus Asia Program and experiences at Peking University

Waseda University

Choosing the right study abroad program is crucial for personal and professional development. The Campus Asia program, a collaborative initiative of four Asian universities is one of the best learning experiences. I studied at Peking University for last 1 semester as a participant of the Campus Asia program. It feels like when I arrived in Beijing was yesterday but now, I've already completed a semester. I'm overwhelmed to share my study abroad experience in PKU.

On my first day in China as a Campus Asia student, I felt a kind of responsibility as I stepped on China. Because the Campus Asia program is different from other exchange programs, where the purpose of studying abroad is freely determined by the individual. However, our program focuses on Northeast Asia and aims to "foster innovator who contribute to the development and problem-solving" Therefore, I spent the semester prioritizing interaction with students from all three countries and understanding China's cultural policies as a culture and arts major.
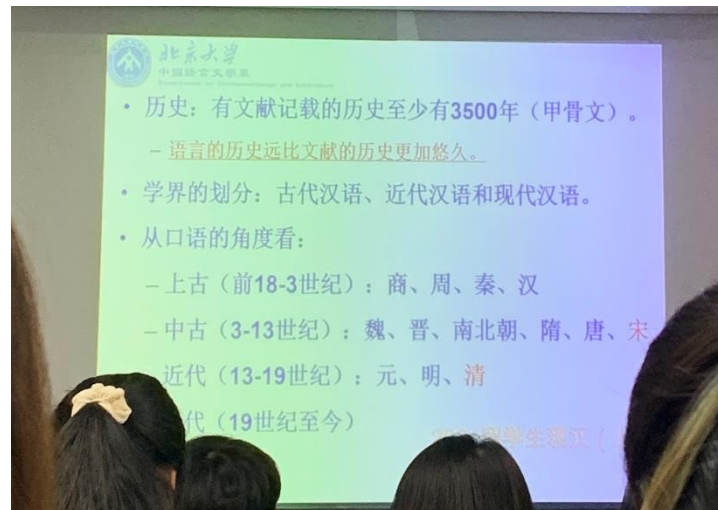

The most valuable thing I have gained from Campus Asia is lots of connections. All Campus Asia students in Peking University belonged to International Relations department, which is an invaluable place to meet so many different people. Studying the complexities of international affairs and China with friends from all over the world pushes the boundaries of your intellectual boundary and fosters a sense of cooperation. The Japanese and Chinese friends I met through the program were open-minded, generous, and unbiased in sharing their thoughts on

topics such as history and politics, which can be sensitive for East Asians. But because all of us are friends, they honestly shared their thoughts. In addition, the department of International Relations has many European students who were sent to Peking University under a program called "Future Leaders" from European universities. Interacting with them gave me the opportunity to stay involved in campus Asia activities, but also to be exposed to different cultures beyond Asia. I think this kind of networking is invaluable, a thing that money can't buy.

Secondly, I would like to say that the Campus Asia Program is not only a great program for cultural exchange, but also for developing academic skills. Peking University has excellent professors and high quality of teaching, which expands the

depth of academic research infinitely. I was able to gain insightful knowledge and incisive advice from my professors and I could learn a lot from outdoor classes such as special lectures and field trips. For example, in my "Introduction to Philosophy"

class, we had two professors who rotated the class passed on their research field. Apart from the class, we had group discussion session once a week, where you could discuss your understanding and questions from the lecture with your classmates.

In addition to classes, during my time in Beijing, I attended many external events and domestic trips. I visited Beijing international film festival this year, and travel around many places in Beijing and watched lots of movies from different countries. Although my Chinese is not very good, I felt that all of the audiences including me have deeply connected each other through the film. Because we shared the same emotions and experiences with while watching the movie.

Not just in Beijing, I traveled several places and other cities such as Great wall, Chengdu, Tianjin, Shanghai, Inner Mongolia, Xi'an, and Chongqing. during these 4 months. Through my travels, I was able to learn more about the local culture, history, and customs of different regions in China. Each city had its own unique charm and character.

In this way, through this program, I have grown a lot since my first step in China. I would like to thank the many professors who organized and supported the Campus Asia project and hope that more talented students from all over the world will be able to contribute to Asia's bright future through this program.