

Even though I was just an exchange student, I felt like I was a regular student of Waseda because I was in there for 1 year. I could experience all the weather, all the season. I left Tokyo only 3 days ago, but already miss so much. It's my honor to share what I learned, felt, and recognized.

## 1. Classes

As my major is related to international relations, I wanted to know the perspective Japan has toward the world, politically and economically. Fortunately, I could find lots of classes that addressed international issues in terms of Japan's position. Here's the list I took related to what I said: Contemporary Japanese Foreign Policy, Postwar Japan-US Relations, International Relations of Japan, Japanese Political Thought A. Among these, what I recommend is Japanese Political Thought A. Actually this is not a Taisi course but open course, so anyone can enjoy this class. Through this class I could find some issues I've never heard before like Iwakura embassy, Karayuki-san, and more. As a foreigner what I focused on was just related to what Japan achieved and failed or what rulers planned. Therefore it was good to see lower classes' life and what made them to think like that. Also it was interesting how that lower classes and intellectuals shaped the empire.



By the way, I took not only the classes about politics but also about Japanese culture. I hope every exchange students take these courses: Bon dance and Urban history of Tokyo. Bon dance is Japanese traditional folk dance. It's very simple so once you get used to it you can enjoy Japanese dance festival – Bon Odori. When I participated in my town's Bon Odori

festival, I really enjoyed and this experience became my unforgettable memory. Urban history of Tokyo is not just a class, it's a tour around Tokyo area! Through this course I could deeply understand the narratives the area had as the professor explained very kindly. We the class walked for 2 hours so if you have in mind to take this course, you need to prepare for hard walking. Here's the list the class visited for this semester: Waseda, Kagurazaka, Idabashi, Nihonbashi, Ochanomizu, Marunouchi, Ginza, Tsukiji.

## 2. School life

Waseda University is very appropriate place for students because it can fulfill what students expect for the school. I joined several events and I got surprised at the energy students emitted. Every month school prepare for many events so you don't have to worry about missing them. I visited Waseda festival, Sokei-sen(Waseda vs. Keio), and museum week. In these events students performed their work professionally! I was impressed by their dancing, playing, acting and more.



Also, Campus Asia gathering was very good chance to make friends and hang out! Thanks to kind Campus Asia program staffs and leader, I went to Karaoke, Bowling and Board game café in Tokyo. Moreover, we went many restaurants which led us to get closer. It was very lucky to me as I'm very introvert person who have difficulty in making friends.

## 3. Tokyo life

Not like other exchange students, I didn't live in dormitory. I rent a room far from university, so it was hard to meet and make friends. But this made me independent. I bought secondhand bicycle then ran across my town. As a result, I could be the master of 2 area – my town, Kita-gu and around Waseda. I invited many guests in my room and cooked for them.

We had perfect time as there was nothing to bother us!



Since Tokyo is a metropolitan, interesting events were held every day. In spring I was busy to see blooming flowers. I visited many parks – Shinjuku Gyoen, Yoyogi Park, Showa Memorial Park, Toneri Gyoen, Sumida Park – to enjoy spring. In summer, I was excited to experience well known Japanese festival! I enjoyed firework, and dance festival. It was really fun. In autumn, actually this season was also hot like summer, I found so many Ginkgo trees which made the city more beautiful. On the other hand, it's not directly related to the season, there was a Hawaiian festival in my town in autumn. It was really good, I felt happy when I saw Hawaiian dance. In winter, I saw many illuminations on the road which made the night beautiful. I miss the mood.



#### 4. Travelling

I travelled some prefectures. Here's the list: Fuji City, Kyoto, Nagano, Sapporo, Nagoya, and



Enoshima. As my home country is Korea, I had some rules to pick where to go. First, easier approach from Tokyo than Korea. In Japan, I could find many options to approach like express bus or trail. Second, cheaper approach from Tokyo than Korea. In some cases, from Korea is much cheaper. For these reasons, I didn't choose Osaka, Tottori, and Matsuyama. I will go there later. Exceptionally if there's a certain reason to go there regardless of my conditions, then I go. For example, it's not so difficult to go to Kyoto from Korea, but I wanted to see maple so I went there in my exchange period.

