

CAMPUS Asia journey

As a student from Waseda University, I had the opportunity to study abroad at Peking University through the CAMPUS Asia Program. Studying in Beijing was not only an academic experience but also a chance to engage with students from different backgrounds and perspectives.

Before participating in this exchange, I was already aware that many social and political issues in Asia, especially those related to history and regional relations are understood differently in different countries. However, it was only after living and studying in another Asian country that I truly realized how strongly education, media, and national narratives shape the way people interpret the same historical events.

Through my experiences in classrooms, and everyday conversations with Chinese students and international students studying there, I gained a deeper understanding of how perspectives are formed and why cross-cultural dialogue is essential for the future of East Asia.

Social Issues in Asia I Was Aware of Before Studying Abroad

Before studying abroad, I was aware that historical memory and national narratives remain important social issues in East Asia. Countries such as China, Japan, and Korea often interpret historical events differently, and these differences sometimes influence diplomatic relations and public opinion.

As a student studying in Japan, I had already noticed that the way history is taught in schools can shape how students understand international relations. History education tends to focus on national perspectives, and many students grow up learning events through the lens of their own country's experiences and priorities.

Because of this, discussions about historical issues can sometimes become sensitive or difficult. I knew that disagreements over history occasionally affect political relations between countries in East Asia, but before studying abroad, these issues felt somewhat distant from my everyday life as a student.

What I Learned and Discovered During My Exchange

Living in Beijing allowed me to experience these differences in perspective firsthand. One of the most valuable aspects of my exchange was the opportunity to talk openly with Chinese students about politics, history, and international relations.

Many of the students I met were studying international relations or related fields, and our conversations often touched on regional issues involving China, Japan, and other countries. During these discussions, I realized how strongly educational systems and media environments influence the way students interpret historical and political topics.

For example, when discussing regional tensions between China and Japan, I noticed that my Chinese friends sometimes understood certain events differently from how they are typically discussed in Japan. At first, these differences surprised me, but over time I realized that they were natural results of growing up within different national contexts.

Rather than creating conflict, these conversations helped us better understand each other's perspectives. By explaining how we learned about certain events in school or how issues are discussed in our countries, we were able to see the complexity behind international relations.

These exchanges made me realize that misunderstandings between countries are often rooted not in hostility, but in differences in historical narratives and information environments. Dialogue and personal interaction can therefore play a powerful role in reducing these misunderstandings.



Chinese students I met during my study abroad!

How CAMPUS Asia Will Contribute to My Future Career

Participating in the CAMPUS Asia program has had a lasting impact on how I think about regional cooperation and my own future career.

In an increasingly interconnected world, many of the challenges facing Asia require collaboration across borders. Programs like CAMPUS Asia create opportunities for students to build mutual understanding before they become future leaders, policymakers, or professionals.

Through this exchange, I developed not only academic knowledge but also intercultural communication skills and a deeper appreciation for diverse perspectives. The friendships and networks formed during this program demonstrate how student exchanges can build bridges between societies.

In my future career, I hope to contribute to international cooperation in Asia by promoting dialogue and collaboration between countries. My experience studying at Peking University showed me that meaningful understanding often begins with simple conversations between individuals from different backgrounds.

CAMPUS Asia plays an important role in creating these opportunities, and I believe that programs like this will continue to strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding in East Asia for years to come.