

The Education Abroad Program office wants to hear about your experience abroad! Tell us about your experience by filling out the *Return Student Report for Exchanges/Summer Programs*. Your feedback will be used to help improve programs and services for future students and be a valuable resource for future students who are interested in studying abroad.

The Return Student Report consists of two parts:

- Part A: Participant Information
- Part B: Internship Information

Part A will not be made public. Part B will be made public and available online to future students interested in learning more about the education abroad process and program. Education Abroad Program will preserve your anonymity by not revealing your name or any personal details.

Part A

Participant Information

Please provide the following information.

Name:			
Student Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> International	Home Institution:	University Of Alberta
Faculty:	Arts	Degree Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate
Major/Minor:	Major: Economics/ Minor: Japanese		
Current Year of Study	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> 4th <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		

Part B

Exchange/Summer Program Information

Please provide the following details related to your Education Abroad Program.

Host Institution:	Meiji University		
City/Town:	Tokyo	Country:	Japan
Exchange/Summer Program Period:	From: 04/01/2013 (mm/dd/yyyy)	To: 02/05/2014 (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Did you participate on an internship during your exchange/summer program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
What immigration documents (e.g. study visa, residence permits etc.) are required to study at your host institution?	Student Visa		
What issues (if any) did you encounter while obtaining these immigration documents?	N/A		
What tips would you give to future students regarding their student visa and other required immigration documents?	Make sure your passport is valid 6 months before you come back to Canada.		

Languages

What was the language(s) of instruction at your host institution? <i>Check all that apply</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Cantonese <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> German <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Japanese <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Were there any adequate course offerings taught in English for your field of study?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Prior to your departure, did you take any language courses at your home institution? If yes, what courses (e.g. FREN 111) did you take?	JAP150, JAP 201, 202,301,302,401
How did taking a class in another language (that was not your first language) impact your learning experience? Did you instructor make any accommodations?	I took two courses that were taught in Japanese: Advertisement Industry B and Mythology of Mode B. I think taking courses in Japanese really did help me in my vocabulary and listening especially because the two professors spoke clearly.

Academia

What arrangements regarding pre-approval of credit transfer were you able to arrange with your faculty before leaving on your program?

You are required to submit a permission to participate form to your faculty before departure.

Please describe the course registration process at your host institution.

- Were you able to pre-register in Canada?
- Did you receive any assistance from your host institution?
- Did your course registration change upon arrival? If so, why?

I were not able to pre-register in Canada. An orientation regarding class registration was held after my arrival. You will receive a bubble sheet for class registration and a course scheule that has all of the classes info written on it. All you have to do is just put down what courses you want to take and submit the registration sheet to the international office.

Please describe your academic plan (e.g. number of courses per term, course name etc.).

For the first semester, I took Intermediate Japanese1- (Basic, Speech, Comprehension, Writing), Tourism Management A, Business Administration A, Cross Cultural Education A and Japanese News Media A -8 courses

For the second semester, I took Intermediate Japanese 3- (Basic, Speech, Cmprehension, Writing) Tourism Management B, Business Administration B, Cross Cultural Education B, Japanese News Media B, Commercial Studies B and Mode's Mythology B. - 10 courses

Please describe the credit and grading system at your host institution.

Classes are 90 minutes long, once a week for the whole semester and 1 credit will be awarded.

The grading system goes from "S" to "C" which "S" equals to "A" and "C"= "D" at the U of A

How was your overall academic experience (e.g. teaching style, class structure and sizes, amount of coursework, assessment) in comparison to your home institution?

Teaching style is quite similar to U of A, most of the classes are around 200 people. attendance goes from 20% to 50% of the course. Usually one/two report and a finally exam.

How did you obtain a transcript for coursework completed at your host institution?

A transcript will be mailed to the U of A international office. If you want more than one transcript for future purposes, you can order it through your faculty office. It is better to do it while you are still in Japan and do not order it during February because they will not have time to do it for you (Entrance Exams in Japan).

Student Services

Please describe the type of facilities (e.g. library, internet/Wi-Fi access, computer labs, bookstore, health clinic, counseling services) available at your host institution.

There are libraries in every campus, there is a huge library in Izumi campus which is newly built. You can get WIFI anywhere on the campus, there are also computer labs, health clinic, bookstore and Meidai-Mart (convenience store) as well as cafeteria.

To the best of your knowledge, what support and services are available at your host institution for:

- Students with disabilities or special needs
- Students identifying as LGBTQ
- Students of visible minorities

Please describe where you could find exchange student advising or receive academic counseling at your host institution.

International Lounge that are located in all campuses

Housing Information

To the best of your knowledge, what housing options are available to students?	Izumi International House, Komae International House
What type of housing did you stay in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus residences <input type="checkbox"/> Off-campus housing <input type="checkbox"/> With a host family <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
How satisfied were you with your housing choice?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 = Not at all satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 = Very satisfied
What should future students be aware of when choosing on-campus residences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Application process for housing</i> • <i>Utilities and furniture</i> • <i>Meal plans, cooking facilities</i> • <i>Housing rules (e.g. curfew, how early can you move in, closure during major holidays etc.)</i> • <i>Assistance from host institution staff (e.g. airport pick-up, orientation)</i> 	Prepaid electricity system for each room- 1000yen can last about 10 days in winter (7days during summer because of the air-conditioner) It also depends on how much water you use. Utilities and furniture are all inclusive. There is a kitchen in every unit and cooking wares are provided. The refrigerator could be messy depends on how many people are living in your unit. There are no curfew in Izumi lhouse, the move in dates are negotiable. No airport pickup and it could be hard to find for the first time since its located in residential area.
What should future students be aware of when choosing off-campus housing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lease agreements, deposits, tenant rights</i> • <i>Utilities and furniture</i> • <i>Location and neighbourhoods</i> • <i>Safety and security</i> • <i>Type of resources available to look for housing (eg: Craigslist)</i> 	Renting off-campus housing is really painful for foreginers since there are some restrictions and it takes more than 3 weeks to process you applications (less than a week for locals).

Student Life

What would you recommend to future students who are looking to meet other students at your host institution? (e.g. extra-curricular activities such as student groups, intramurals, residence events and activities, volunteering opportunities, etc.)

There is an organization called the Campus-mate, they are just local students who are volunteering to support exchange students' daily life. Activities are often held to bring together local students and foreign students. You can join different "CIRCLE" (clubs). There is also a volunteer group called the KIZUNA, which help to rebuild the north-eastern part of Japan from the 311 Tsunami.

What work or internship opportunities are available for students on and/or off campus?

Chatting host at English cafes, English tutors.

Health and Safety

Are there any specific health/safety issues that future students should be made aware of? What precautions can you recommend to mitigate or eliminate these issues?

N/A

Did your host institution require a mandatory travel/health insurance plan for exchange students? How did you arrange this?

You will have to pay for National health Insurance and Meiji university insurance. The Meiji one is only one-time but the National health Insurance requires monthly payment.

Cultural Adaptation

What cultural differences (if any) did you find particularly challenging?

Japanese people are too polite, I've had clothing store staff bowing to me outside the store after a purchase of a \$40 hat, same for my hairstylist.

What parts of your host country's culture did you most appreciate?

I like how Japan can preserve their own culture, tradition while being impacted by different kind of foreign medias. Also, their "Shokunin Spirit" (artisan spirit) of making sure that they are doing their best in what they are doing, no matter if it's a product, an artwork or their job.

Costs and Budgeting

Please describe your basic costs in Canadian dollars. This will help future exchange/summer program students plan their own budgets.

Airfare to host country	\$ 1800	Brief Description	Went to Hong Kong first before landing in Japan
Visa fees	\$ 0	Brief Description	Visa was free but I had to do it in Calagry.
Books/term	\$ 60	Brief Description	Mostly Textbooks for Japanese Classes
Accommodation/month	\$ 490	Brief Description	Best deal an international student can get
Meals/month	\$ 500	Brief Description	I dine out a lot, FYI FRUITS ARE EXPENSIVE in Japan
Health insurance/month	\$ 13	Brief Description	mandatory
Local transportation/month	\$ 90	Brief Description	\$60-\$70 depends on you commuter pass
Personal spending/month	\$ 200	Brief Description	It's Japan, there are temptations everywhere.
Communications/month (e.g. phone)	\$ 37	Brief Description	B-mobile, no contract but you need to use it for 5months+, or else you will have to pay extra for
Other travel	\$ 2000	Brief Description	Went to Hakone, Fukushima, Kansai (Osaka, Kyoto)
What unexpected costs did you encounter?			

Funding your International Experience

Please indicate how you financed your program. This will help future students plan their own budgets. <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from UAlberta <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships from Host Institution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student loans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family contributions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal savings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment while in host country <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
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Final Thoughts

What were some highlights of your experience abroad?

Did a PR shoot for Meiji and that ad was on the "Yomiuri Newspaper"-Japan's most popular newspaper. Went to a bunch of different " Hanabi-Daika" - Fireworks and " Matsuri". Lived in Izumi IHouse and meet amazing people from all around the world.

Would you recommend your internship program to other students? Why or why not?

I would definitely recommend this program to other students because this WILL be your greatest moment of your university life.

Please provide any final information/tips for students interested in studying abroad that you would like to share.

I went abroad in the winter term of my 4th year, which delayed my graduation for at least a year and half. At first I applied for a one semester program (4 months), then I requested an extension of my program for another semester which ultimately postponed my graduation date for another 6 months. I do not regret my decision because I know the things that I have learnt from this study abroad experience would be far more useful than the knowledge that I would of learn from my last term in U of A.