

Exchange Report

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

College of International Management



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Professional Accounting, Year 3

Fall, 2016

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Monthly Activity Log

September 2016



I was very lucky that I have signed up the exchange buddy program. Since the buddies even provided us with airport pick up service and took us to off-campus hostel for exchange students – AP House 4. It was a very beautiful single room with independent bathroom inside and sea view. I joined a range of orientation activities, the official opening ceremony was taken place before the start of semester as well. There was a wide range of performances. It was also nice to learn more about the ‘circles’ in APU, more specifically, there was various clubs for extra curriculum activities.

October 2016



The semester has just started, it was interesting that they have two quarters in one semester, so in other words, it was my first quarter. Because of the freedom of choice in any courses, I have chosen database system, linux and vb, some computer courses for interest. I visited the hells which are eight famous hot springs in Beppu and Beppu Tower. It was good to spend time with new friends from all around the world as well as discovering new places near Beppu at the same time. I also joined a exchange fair and representing HKUST to give advice to students interested in UST.

November 2016



The examinations were about to start, it would be busier to prepare for project and meeting deadline. I still remembered that APU will have cultural week that means different countries will hold some traditional activities for one week. I enjoyed all the performances and traditional food that I could try out. After the exams, I went to Korea for 8-9 days for travelling solely. It was a great experience to go over other countries nearby.

December 2016



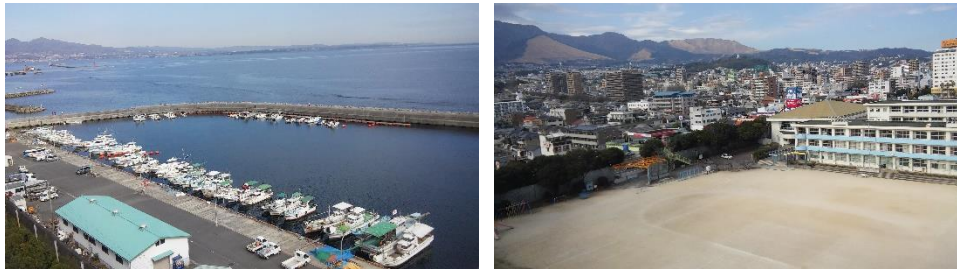
The second quarter has just started This was a month that I decide to cook by myself instead of eating out or buying lunchbox. This was my first time to try out to make dishes for myself. I was so glad that I could cook for myself a dinner and had some cooking gathering with friends. During Christmas, there was a firework show in Beppu, students could enjoy fantastic show on the beach outside our hostel. I went travel during the longest holidays I have had in here with my new friends. I travelled around Japan, including Osaka, Kobe, Tokyo, Hokkaido more than two weeks. It was a golden chance for me to understand and experience the difference between each city in Japan.

January 2017



My winter holiday ended with my very first new year celebration in Japan. I was preparing for final examinations. I booked the flight back to Hong Kong and prepare to cancel out the membership and health insurance there. APU also held some talks for predeparture. I joined a regional exchange at the time with some full time international students to Yabakei for 2 days held by the Visiting Council in the region. We all have had a memorable conversation and cultural exchange with local people and life there.

February 2017



I was staying there for one last week to finish my examinations as well as sending some of my stuff back by mail beforehand. It was never easy to say goodbye to my dear friends, teachers, school, the sea and all the precious pieces in Japan...

General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Every student going to Japan are required to apply for a one year visa even if you only stay for a semester. It is better to apply for the visa after receiving the CoE since you will need it for application purpose. You can go to Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong in person with application forms and documents.

Orientation Activities

There was a wide range of orientation activities both mandatory and voluntary. Since exchange buddies have a group on Facebook, there would be a lot of gathering and activities for exchange students to meet up.

International Service and Activities

Since there are more international students than locals in APU, you need not to worry about global events. They provided equal chances for people from each country to hold their cultural week. Although I have not heard about HK week there but it would be to have one in APU. There are a lot of regional exchange programs and homestay programs in APU that you may go to other cities around Japan with very low price or even free.

Accommodations

All exchange students are guaranteed to stay off-campus. Actually, it is a very safe hall owned by APU, it is called APU Oita Plaza, also known as AP House 4. It is a nine-floor building near Beppu Bay. All the rooms are single room with independent bath room inside. They also have kitchen, dining room, big locker, coin washing machine and lounge on each floor. It is downtown inside the community; the only drawback is you have to take 35 minutes' bus to go up to APU.

Course Registration

All exchange students will be registering for courses in APU together and the buddies are there to help as well. It is easy to understand the instructions. However, it is a game of fast and furious, all students are registering at the same time so you have to register for what you want the most first and others accordingly. Since you have to register for all courses in quarter one and two, you will have chances to drop the courses you do not like later, but it is not that easy to add later on.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Usually a course will be held twice a week. I would say the workload is not that heavy. However, some courses require high percentage of attendance. Therefore, it is better not to miss classes so often. Teachers are coming from all around the world and I have no difficulty in understanding to their English. The assessment methods are similar to UST.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

They have the gym room, you can also play different kinds of ball games. It is also recommended to go hiking in Beppu and the mountain in the campus. There are loads of sport circles that you can join including baseball.

Finance and Banking

You should open a bank account there if you are receiving the JASSO Scholarship. APU will help you to apply for a bank account when you need it there.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

There are a lot of clubs that you can choose to participate in whatever you like. They have academic, sport, leadership and service groups for students. You can also take the challenge to attend some career development workshops in APU, since this university is very famous for job hunting.

Health and Safety

There will be a health check before the start of semester and every student must take it and hand in a national health insurance fee afterwards. Japan is one of the safest places in this world, as long as paying more attention at night, it should be fine.

Food

You can find most of the international food in APU canteen, there is also a Pacific Café there. To be honest, food in Japan is a bit more expensive than in HK. When eating out, most of the restaurants are Japanese restaurants and a few Western restaurants that provide pizza, pasta etc. Sometimes it is better to cook because there will be great discount in supermarket after 5pm.

Transportation

You have to take 35 minutes bus to uptown for school. The most common public transport in Beppu are bus and JR.

Climate

It is cold especially on campus at night during November to January. It can go to under 0 degree Celsius at night when it is January. It rarely snows in Beppu, maybe a few times in January. Sometimes it will suddenly rain, so it is better to have an umbrella with you.

Communication

Locals have different level of English, some of them can speak very well in English, especially for buddies. But Japanese outside APU usually cannot speak English. So you can search on APU survival Japanese to learn basic vocabularies.

Items To Bring

Jacket	
Sweater	
Glasses	
Gloves	
Scarf	
Passport	
Key	
HKID	
Electricity Adapter	
Power Bank	
USB	
Laptop	
Medicine	
Hand cream	
Camera	
Charger	

Useful Links and Contacts

Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong

<http://www.hk.emb-japan.go.jp/chi/visa.html>

Official APU Website

<http://www.apu.ac.jp/home/>

Official APU Website for exchange program

<http://en.apu.ac.jp/academic/page/studyatapu.html/>

Beppu International Plaza

<https://biplaza.jp/>

Beppu Bus Information

<http://www.beppuni.com/bus/buslista.html>

Course Registration, Grade Reports, Examinations, Curriculum, APU Library

+81-977-78-1122

Study Abroad Programs

+81-977-78-1101