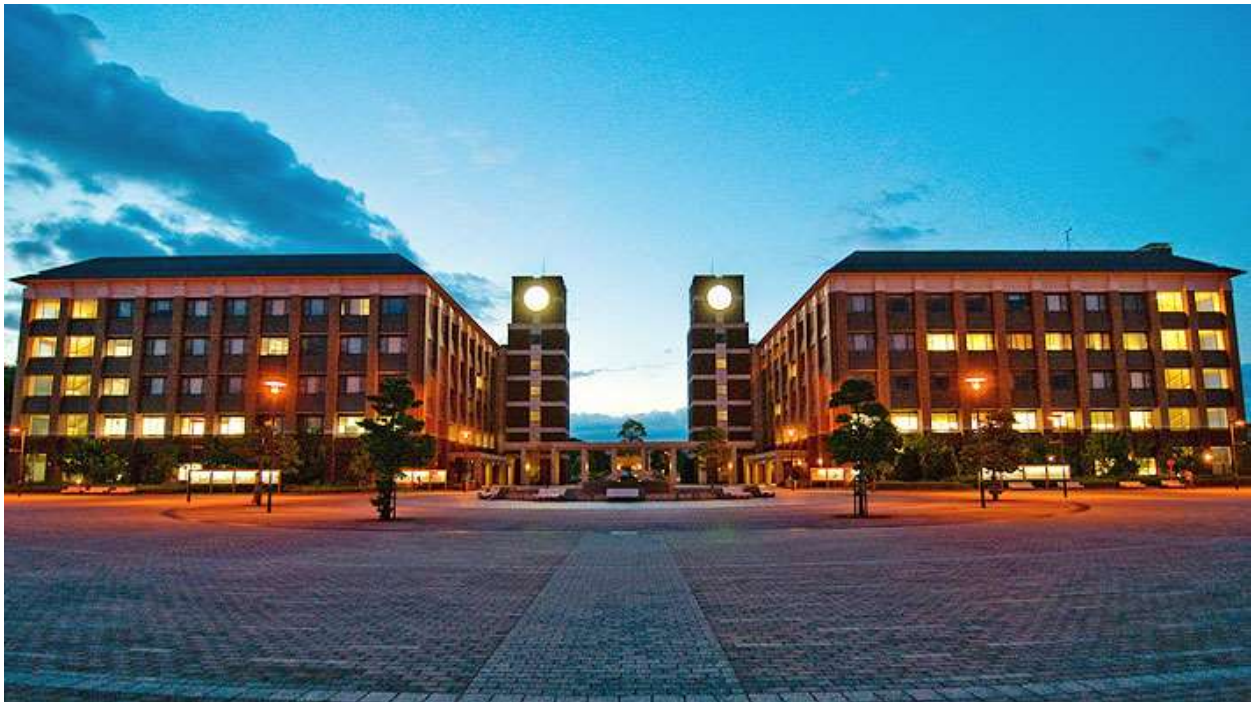


Spring 2018 Exchange Report  
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University  
College of International Management



Mau Wing  
Major in Finance & Accounting, Year 3

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# Monthly Activity Log

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## March

I arrived in the Fukuoka Airport at late March. The APU buddy program provide us airport pickup services and they were waiting us at airport. After 2hours of bus, I arrived in the AP House 4, which is my dorm for 4 months. All the room in AP House 4 is singe room with great view, which is really god compare to Hong Kong. In late March, before the start of school, APU organized several orientation activities for us to participate. The information they provided in the orientation is quite important so try not to miss it.

## April

The Study Abroad Fair was held at April, which is basically same as the one in UST. That exchange students are required to hold a booth for a day and answer local students' question. So remember to ask the HKUST exchange office to get the promotion material. After the Study Abroad Fair, I went to Kyoto with my exchange student friends. Although it's a 4 day short trip since we go at weekend. After that, we also visited the famous 7 hells onsen in Beppu, which is quite beautiful to watch.



## May

At early May, I went to Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe again with my family for 5 days to experience the old Japan culture. I went to Osaka by taking a ferry from Beppu which cost me 7000 yen for one way. The price of the ferry is discounted, and to enjoy the discount, you need to join the coop membership of APU at the beginning of the semester. And before the end of the first quarter, I went to Tokyo with my friends. Odaiba, Akihabara are really amazing and it really shocked me, the night life in Tokyo was also exciting.



## June

In June, the first quarter of spring semester end and we got a 4 days quarter break. We decided to go to Okinawa for the beach. It really didn't disappoint us and Okinawa is now my favorite place in Japan. The beach is incredibly clean and the water is just like glass. If you have time, be sure that you put Okinawa in your travelling list.





## July

This is the last month of my exchange trip, the deadline for moving out of the dorm is 31<sup>st</sup> July. After attending the moving out guidance held by APU, I was prepared for canceling my health insurance and the moving out procedure. The farewell party was held in 22<sup>nd</sup> July, which is quite fun and at the same time really sad. By the end of July, The summer festival of Beppu was held on the beach in front of APU House 4, and marked a perfect end for the exchange experience.



# General Exchange Information

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## Visa Procedures

After Receiving the Certificate of Eligibility, student can apply for the one year Visa, which is required no matter you are going for one year or one semester. The applying procedure wouldn't take long as long as you prepared all documents. I strongly suggest student to apply as soon as possible since the processing time can be over 2 weeks.

## Orientation Activities

There is an Orientation Week before the start of the semester, including both mandatory and voluntary, which provided the solution for most of the problems you may encounter in Japan, and also provide a good chance to meet with all your new friends from different countries.

## International Services & Activities

Since half of APU students are foreigners, international service in APU need not to be worried. Most of their student clubs welcome both international students and local students so it would be a good chance to experience the Japanese student club. Moreover, APU have the cultural week activities which allow students from different countries to show their own unique cultures, students even not from that country can also feel free to join it.

## Accommodations

All of the exchange students will be assign a hall place in the down town Beppu, which is AP House 4. AP House 4 located on the Beppu coast line, which is 30 minutes bus from APU main campus. All the room in APU is single room, half of them have sea view, and each floor of AP House 4 provide us a well equipped kitchen, lockers, dining room, coin washing machine and a lounge.

## Courses Registration

Exchange students will be registering the courses together in APU with the exchange buddies, so no need to worry about it! The registration procedure is quite simple and straight forward, but since everyone is registering at the same

time, you need to be carefully arrange the priority of your courses and secure the most important courses at the very beginning of the registration.

### **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

There will be Japanese based and English based courses in APU, usually exchange student can only register for English based course, to be qualified for Japanese course, you need to provide all the document (e.g. N1 certificate) beforehand. Usually there will be two classes per week for one course. The workload is not heavy and exam is quite easy compare to UST. However, most of the courses have a high percentages of grading in attendance, so be careful if you want to skip classes.

### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

APU have a gymnasium, football court and baseball court. You can play various ball games in the gymnasium and they also have the weight lifting room in it. Although the equipment are not really up to date but it is good enough for normal people.

### **Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

If you are receiving a JASSO, you need to open a bank account in Japan, APU will help you to apply for it. Just remember to follow the Orientation event then it will be alright.

### **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

There are various social clubs and sport team in APU, and most of them welcome international students. It would be a great chance for you to experience the Japanese culture like Taiko, Yosakoi, etc. There are also plenty of cultural exchange club and even Japanese learning club with local Japanese people.

### **Health & Safety**

A mandatory health check will be performed before the start of school. You will also be required to pay for the health insurance that APU bought for you, which can provide you a discount if you need to go to the hospital. Beppu is quite safe, just beware of the drunk people at night then it would be ok.

### **Food**

Food in Beppu is quite cheap compare to Tokyo but it's still a lot. Therefore it would be a good choice to cook by yourself. The food in APU is quite cheap even in Hong Kong standard, and the taste is not bad.

### **Transportation**

To go to APU, you need to take a bus for 30 minutes. The ride would be quite pricy so it's better if you buy the bus triple ticket in APU, which cost 330 yen for one way.

### **Climate**

For the Spring semester, the temperature is quite cold at March and April, which can be around 15 Celsius degree, so remember to bring jackets. Starting from July, the temperature would become almost the same as Hong Kong. There is often rain in summer so an umbrella is necessary.

### **Communication**

For most of the students in APU, the English is understandable and they are quite willing to talk with foreign people. But in downtown Beppu, usually the locals are not very good in English, so bringing a friend who is good at Japanese with you would be a really helpful.

### **Cautionary measures**

If you are joining the Japanese circles, beware that to be part of them and know more about them, you have to follow the Japanese norms, including being very polite to the "senpai".



## Items to Bring

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Passport

HKID

Electricity Adapter

USB

Laptop

Medicine

Sunscreen

Umbrella

Camera

Charger

Jacket

Router and LAN cable

Cash

Souvenirs from HK

## Useful Links and Contacts

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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>