

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University building, a large, modern, curved structure with many windows. In the foreground, there is a large, abstract, orange sculpture that resembles a stylized flame or a sail. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

EXCHANGE REPORT

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, JAPAN, School of Management

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Operations Management Year 3

Fall 2018-19

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Part 1: Monthly Activity Log

September 2018

I first arrived around September 13 for the orientation on September 17. The people here are very friendly, when we arrived they assisted us with a free bus to the hall and once we're in the hall they gave us all we need for living the first few weeks in beppu including toilet paper, trash plastics and some small snacks. Once I was here I made some friends and immediately explored beppu and Oita which was 2 stations away. I also joined some orientations for exchange students and they tell you all that you need to know to live here and the procedures. The food here was amazing and I enjoyed my first month here.



(A picture of my first week here in beppu exploring the areas around)

October 2018

School semester starts on October 2. It was pretty difficult to get used to the surrounding areas at first since I could not speak Japanese and people here does not have decent English-speaking skills so its hard to order food and other stuff like asking for directions so I started to cook and walked around enjoying the sceneries. School itself is fun since it's a new experience to me. I get to meet my friends in class and enjoy the classes, but the bus fare to and from the campus hall to the main campus is expensive so I don't really go to school unless I must.



(A picture of one of the Beaches I explored during my stay in Beppu city)

November 2018

On November, I started to become more active in events around. I joined some welcome parties and events held by the school, and also some events outside of school. One of the most notable events that I joined is the Tanabata event which is also known as the Star Festival where it celebrates the meeting of 2 Japanese deities Orihime and Hikoboshi. It's an event where we carry around the Japanese temple believed to house a God around the neighborhood using wooden planks. Once we finished, we are given a free pass to an Onsen or a Japanese hot bath area just right beside it. It was wonderful experience.



(A picture of me and my friends getting ready to carry around the temple)

December 2018

December is the end of the 1st quarter of the semester. During this time I mostly strolled around Beppu and cooked food while looking for new types of food. Other than that there are also festivals during this season, one of them is the Christmas vestival that is held near the hall. They sell all sorts of stuff there from food to white bunny hats. There are also temple decorations and bands performing. I really enjoyed the food and festivities during this time.



(me posing in front of a festival lantern during Christmas)

January 2019

At January, I went on a bus trip to a neighboring city called Fukuoka. It is one of the main cities in this area. There I meet up with my high school friends and some new friends along the way. One of the main things to do there is eat, especially Ramen. Fukuoka is the birthplace of the famous ramen shop 'Ichiran', so we went and ate in the original Ichiran store located there. Food around Fukuoka is amazing and is the main attraction. You could choose from either sushi or other delicacies like entrails hotpot and also horse sashimi. Food here is really delicious and if you exchange here I would totally recommend going here during breaks.



(me and friends eating Ichiran at the original Ichiran store in Fukuoka city.)

February 2019

I was only here for 8 days in February but the most notable thing to see is the snow since its my first time experiencing snow it was a wonderful experience.



Part 2: General Information Log

Visa Procedures

APU mostly provides the materials necessary for the exchange, we only need to submit it to the embassy and make the visa

Orientation Activities

APU makes several orientations to help the student understand most of the things to know about living around the area and there are also various events that while some may cost money some others do not

International Service and Activities

APU does not provide many activities

Accommodations

A single hall around the size of hall 7 with an inside shower room and bathtub for about 13000 hkd 1 semester. APU provides all necessities and all we need to do is pay

Course Registration

Course registration is done online like in HKUST, students are not preregistered so they should look for the courses they want to take

Teaching and Assessment

Like HKUST except that there is no bell curve. Some teachers are pretty decent and some others can't really teach well

Sports and Recreation activities

There is a football field and a GYM

Finance and Banking

Expenses depends on how much each student travels. I spent around 300000 Yen which includes a 5 day trip to Fukuoka. I recommend bringing around 500000 since I mostly cook my own food so my living cost is considerably lower. Most of the money goes on food and travel expenses. I recommend bringing cash since making an account is not necessary to live.

Social and Networking clubs

I did not join any social clubs except for the APU buddy program events.

Health and Safety

Japan is strict about their health issues and prompts everyone to make a health insurance and run some health checkups before attending university. All of this is compulsory.

Food

I mostly eat on campus and self-cook

Transportation

The most convenient method to go to campus is by bus which costs 666 yen back and forth with a ticket. With no tickets it costs around 1000 yen or more.

Climate

Climate is mostly cold to freezing winters, so I recommend bringing winter clothes or buying them here

Communication

Communication is one of the main problems here since most Japanese people can't speak English well.

Part 3: Items to Bring

- Sweater
- Winter Jacket
- Gloves
- Scarf
- Beanie (recommended)
- Long John
- Pillow
- Charger
- Lip balm (it will be cold and dry here so your lips will crack)
- Moisturizer
- Medicine
- Passport
- Water bottle (drinkable tap water)
- Laptop

- Charger
- Router (they provide cable WIFI)
- Camera (recommended)

Part 4: Useful Links and Contacts

Course login page similar to canvas:

<https://manaba.apu.ac.jp/ct/login>

Campus Terminal:

<https://portal2.apu.ac.jp/campusp/top.do>

Course registration website:

<https://cmate2.apu.ac.jp/campusapu/top.do>

Bus stop list:

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

Live bus timetable:

<https://buscatch.jp/rt/top.php?lang=en&serialkey=apu>