

Exchange Report

Kansai Gaidai University

Since my toddler days growing up in Canada, those around me could sense my attraction to Japan and its culture. Mumbling my own interpretations of the Japanese language I caught from the television set, troubling mom and dad by choosing imported Pocky snacks instead of

the opportunities to speak to your future friends and go on exploration and shopping trips with the Japanese staff members.

(I actually ended up working as a staff member for the arrival period in the Spring 2013 semester, and leading students on neat little trips that I never had the chance to experience made me want to kick the Fall 2012 me for not getting on an earlier flight.)

After the arrival period comes orientation week, where everyone attends a variety of sessions that provide information, allow students to open bank accounts, explain various registration procedures, and sort students into appropriate Japanese language class levels after evaluations and sometimes even interviews.

(On the topic of evaluations, you may want to dig out your old Japanese textbook or obtain one and study before you depart, since being placed in a level lower than you deserve is not the greatest experience.)

Once everything is settled, classes begin, groups of friends are formed, restaurants and local attractions are discovered since the not-as-

Homestay students and Hotani Seminar House students can hold back until they know where they will be living and have thought about whether or not they really need one.)

Life in the Seminar Houses, either 1, 2, 3, 4, or Hotani, in your very own apartment, in a homestay family, or in share houses then moves on quickly. Each morning you will attend Japanese classes, have a nice

The reason why?

Because there are too many students who believe that their study abroad experience is some sort of endless vacation, spending all their time having fun somewhere far from their textbooks and assignments, and using all their money in the beginning of the semester, leaving them embarrassed

And I am confident that you will have an incredible experience yourself.

Go.

Learn.

Enjoy.

And please share with us when you return.