

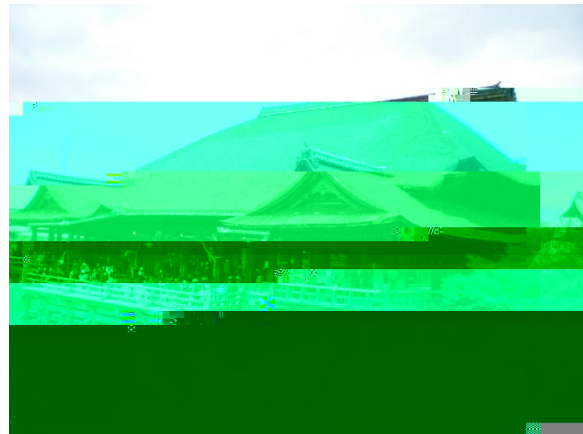
I major in Linguistics and I wanted to keep up with the three languages that I already know instead of learning a new language. Even though I was born in Canada, my mother is Japanese and I lived in Japan through age 4 to 8, so Japanese is the first language that I learned to speak. However, my ability to read and write is more limited. I wanted to be able to use Japanese in academic level so I decided to study Japanese in Kansai Gaidai, Osaka for the semesters in Fall 2011 and Spring 2012. This university happened to be located close to where I lived when I was little. I saw this as a good opportunity to see my grandparents and catch up with my childhood friends. Since I already have lived in the area of my study abroad destination, this report might not be much of a help to most future exchange students. Nonetheless, some parts of the report could be useful anyways and there might be other students like me.

I was already experiencing the exchange differently from most exchange students before even leaving Canada. Kansai Gaidai asked me to enter Japan with my Japanese passport because I have dual nationality. Even though I was intending to go to Japan as a Canadian with student visa, Kansai Gaidai wanted me to leave Canada with my Canadian passport and enter Japan with my Japanese passport so that they would have one less confirmation of enrollment to send to an exchange student. Kansai Gaidai told me that having Japanese nationality has advantages, such as not having to wait three months before looking for a part-time job and being eligible to Japanese National Health Insurance. But it turns out that Kansai Gaidai will discourage you from working during the first semester regardless you have Japanese



nationality or not. Also, you can

The most expensive expense in Japan will probably be transportation and the system works quite differently from Canada's public transportation. In B.C., you will only have to pay for certain zone and you can even get a day pass if you plan to use the transit a lot in one day. You also get to use the same ticket to get on the bus as well as



called Michio Housing that offers a no service charge to Kansai Gaidai students. Many

because Japanese students who participate in those kind of events are looking to meet exchange students that actually look foreign. I am half Japanese and speak fluent Japanese, so they were not as excited to meet me as other exchange students. Thus, I think clubs and circles are better ways to make Japanese friends that share common interests with you. However, I only went to the Aikido class for about a month and decided to join a Capoeira group outside of school because I was more interested in Capoeira as martial a

