

Travel and Transportation

I had researched transportation in Japan before I arrived and quickly acquired a Pasmo card, as taking the train would be my main means of transportation.

During my Experience Orientation and First Weeks

After settling into the dorm, we later had a dorm orientation to better acquaint ourselves with the amenities and rules of the dorm. A few days later we had our official orientation at the Shirokane campus, where I got to meet my Japanese buddies that the school had assigned me, and they showed me around the campus.

Accommodation and Living

After arriving in Japan, I made my way to my dorm and checked in. I was assigned to the Okusawa dorm, as I had chosen the Shirokane (The Tokyo campus) as my campus. The dorm itself is quite nice, each room comes with a desk, metal drawer and a large closet. The bed has storage underneath, and the dorm supplies a blanket, pillow & pillow cover, as well as a bedsheet. Each room is also equipped with an air conditionin

students. I also attended the school run programs meant for exchange students to experience Japanese culture, such as the Japanese cultural orientation day and the international bus tour, both were extremely fun and allowed me to learn more about Japanese culture.

Reflection & Tips

Reflection

During my exchange semester, I learned how to be more independent as I traversed a foreign country where I could not fluently speak the language. It was also difficult to adjust to the differences in lifestyles, for one I was a lot more physically fit during exchange, as I had to walk and take transit everywhere, as opposed to taking a car everywhere in Vancouver.

Most Valuable Aspects of This Experience

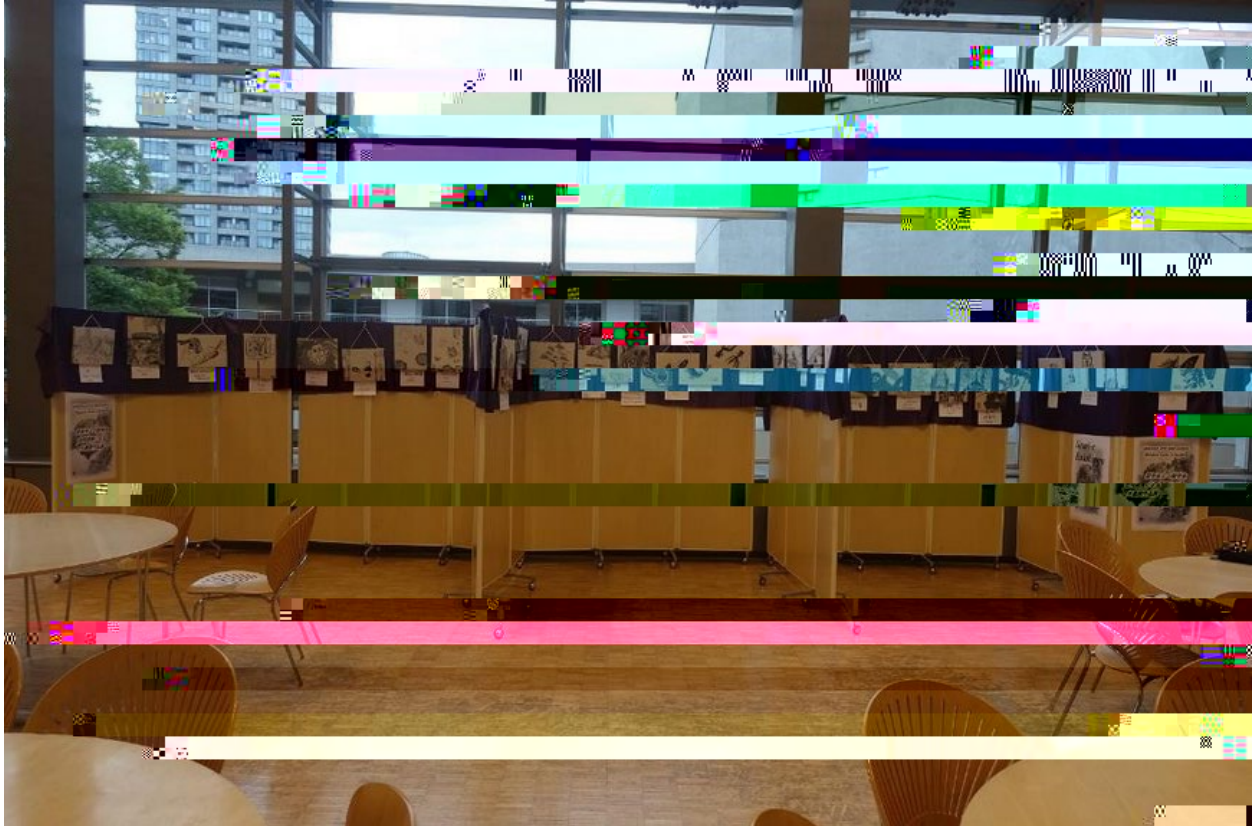
I wish I had known how much walking I would have to do while I was in Japan as if I knew I would have prepared more while I was still in Vancouver. For the first week or so, I was always physically exhausted, and my legs were in a constant state of pain from all the exercise I was suddenly doing after staying home for 2 years due to COVID19.

Connection to Academic Studies or Career Goals

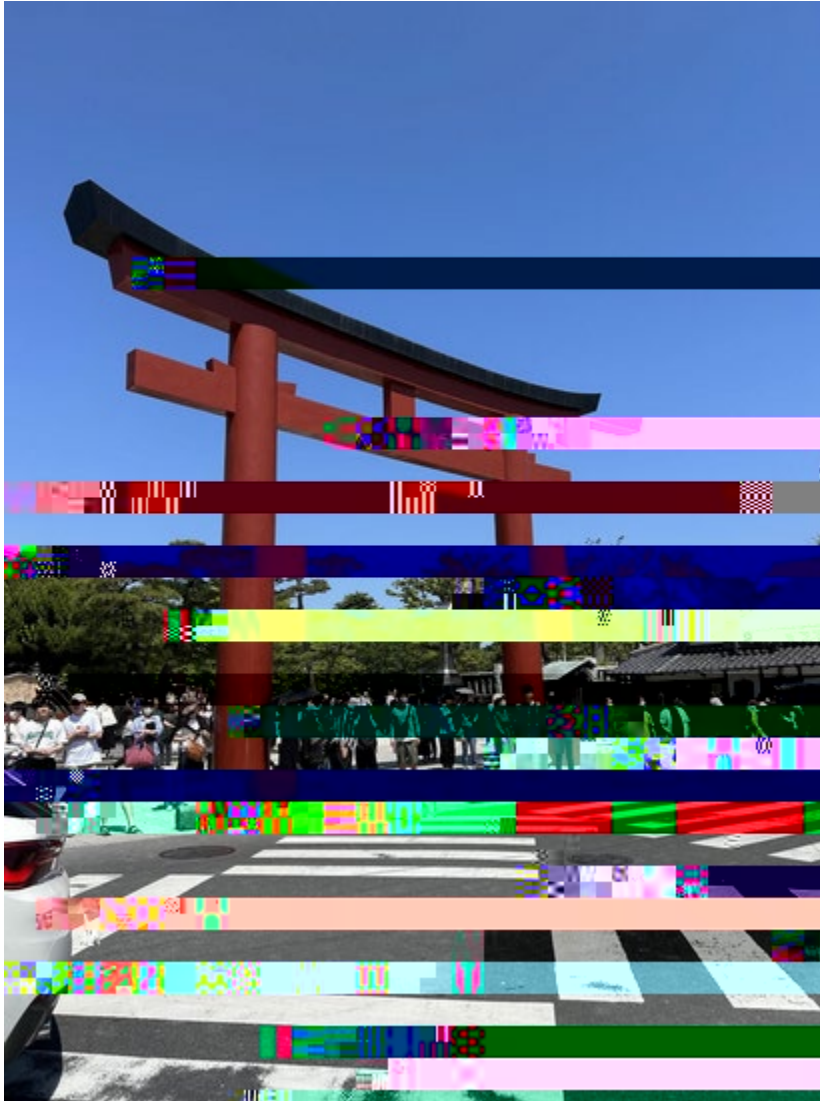
I also had a bit of difficulty with navigating and communicating with the locals, as there were many characters I could not read, and many words I would hear that I could not understand.

Advice for Future Students

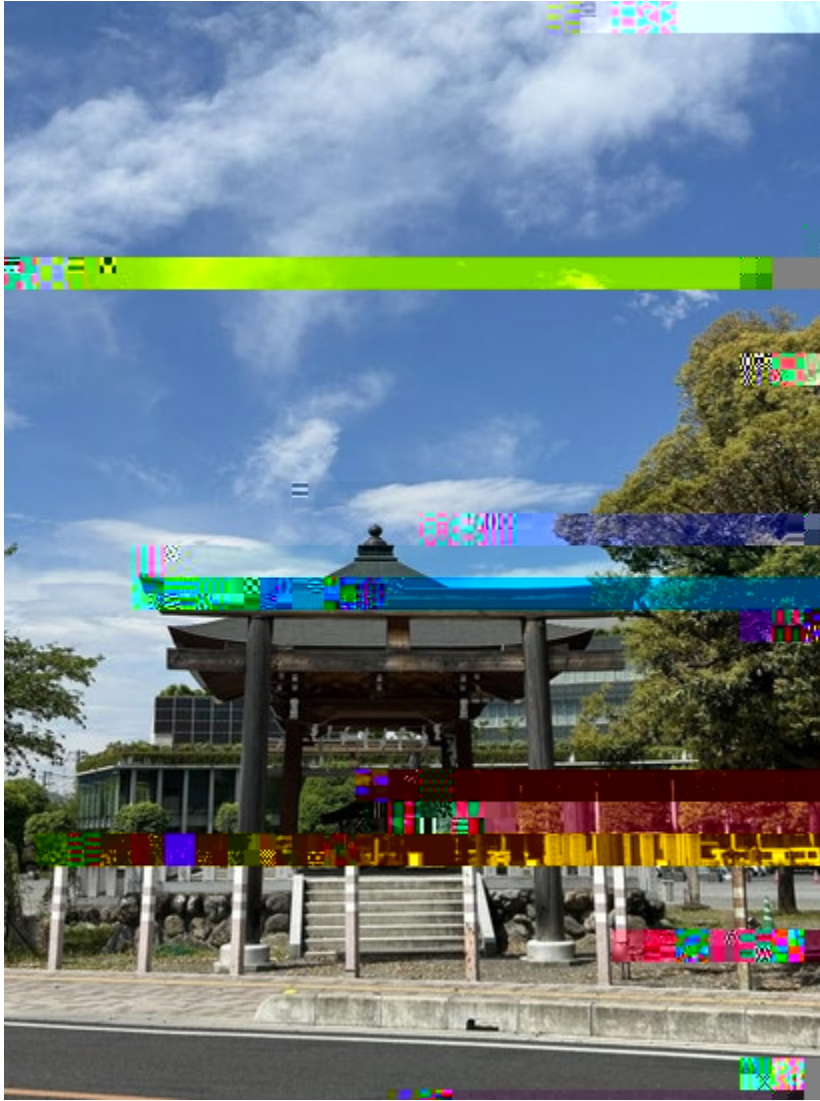
If I had to give advice to those who want to try studying abroad in Japan, I recommend spending the time and learning about the phrases used in day-to-day life, the ones not taught in textbooks. For the first few days or so I kept getting caught off guard by phrases I had never heard before, phrases I hear often in English but never occurred to me to learn in other languages. Another tip would be to not be scared if you are not fluent in Japanese, most can speak a little bit of English, and if you know a little bit of Japanese you can get around rather easily. Do not think that you have to be fluent in Japanese and or completely understand Japanese culture in order to enjoy life in Japan. Overall, I highly recommend studying abroad in Japan, it was an amazing experience that I will forever treasure.



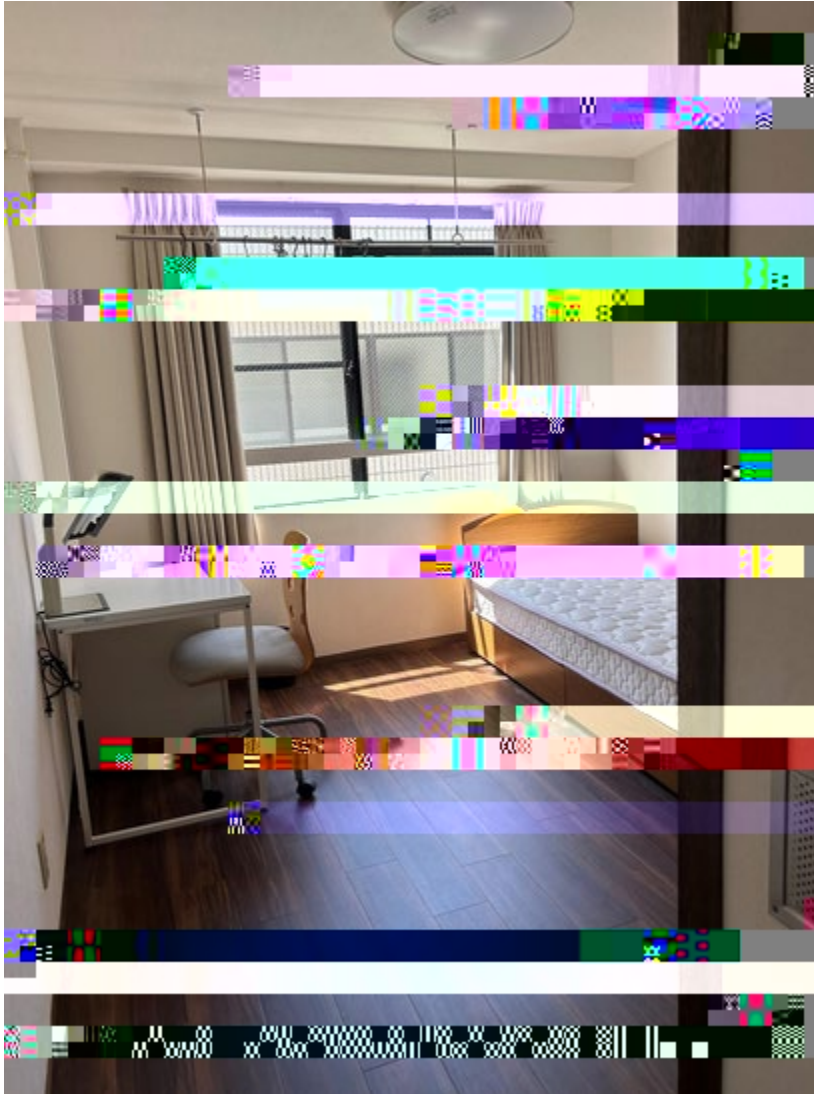
Campus Sumi-E student exhibition



Kamakura



Seen in Chichibu



Dorm room