

Going to University in Japan

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Waking up eating rice dishes for breakfast, getting ready and going to university with the train is quite different then waking up, eating a slice of bread, getting ready and going to university with the bike usually through the rain. As you realize these two ways of waking up are quite different from each other. It is also quite understandable because one of them is in The Netherlands and one of them is in Japan.

My life has changed quite a lot in the past months, and it is still changing. It is unbelievable to say that nearly two months have already past, and I am nearly halfway through this exchange. These changes did not only take place in my environment but also in the courses that I took at Hosei University. I would like to talk a bit more about these differences when it comes to my courses and life at university here in Tokyo Japan.



First of all, Hosei University is a very big university in comparison to my own university. It has so many locations, classrooms, students and teachers on campus. In the beginning I was lost quite a lot but now I have gotten used to the campus.

A little bit more of an obvious difference is the fact that all my courses are very different then my own major. My regular major is in English International Teaching whereas Hosei I am following nine courses from various fields. This has been interesting and broadening my perspectives on a lot of different fields. Certain classes do require a lot of memorization and more of a test-based approach whereas other classes discuss more and are more critical thinking focused. The hardest challenge for me has been trying to memorize knowledge, since this is something that I am not used to do in The Netherlands. I do would like to point out that I am taking classes from various levels so there are third, first and second year classes. Therefore, the structure of the classes also differs and change. Another element that is very different is the fact that each class is only taught once a week. Therefore, my schedule is quite different and divided over three days.

Besides the classes being drastically different there are a lot of clubs and extracurricular activities. This is also mainly due to the fact that there are nearly around 40.000 students at Hosei University. This means that the number of possibilities and opportunities given are more and varied at the university. For example, two weeks ago, I was able to go to a local high school in Tokyo. This exchange between this local school and the university helped me to see and learn more about the locals. There are many other events that help you to stay connected and close with the local people and culture of Japan.

I have learned a lot of new knowledge and gained new perspectives about the world. I feel like my brain is literally growing in areas which I would have never taught. Mainly because every time I feel like I am doing something new or doing something out of my comfort zone. All in all, this allows me to grow and develop a better version of myself, a better Melinda.