

Experience of a Lifetime

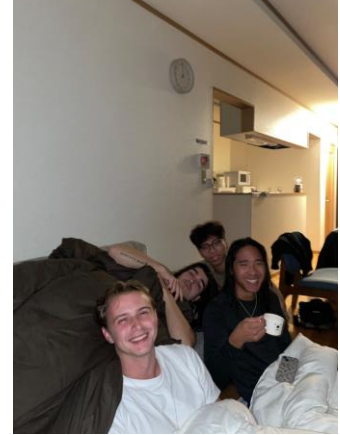
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Background

I believe I had a slightly different acceptance process than most of my peers on exchange. As someone who was initially rejected by all the exchange destinations from my home university (it is done through a lottery system) I was ecstatic when my hopeless email to Hosei University resulted in a last minute decision to fly to Japan for an exchange year.

Hosei University

Throughout my semester, I was constantly grateful for being at Hosei University. Whether it was their welcoming student body or the pretty campus, I consider myself extremely lucky to be finding myself at a university I felt at home at. I think a big part of this was thanks to the GEC team at Hosei, always so sweet and accessible, who allowed me to feel safe and taken care of during the entire semester.

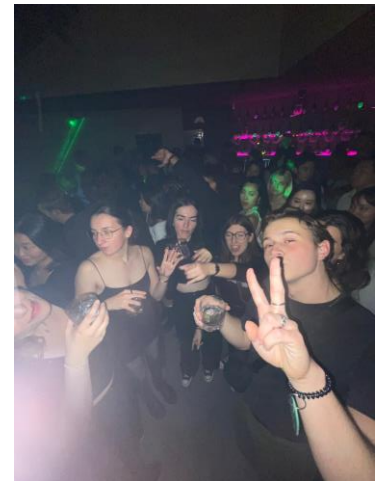


Overall

If I had to give advice or a recap of my experience here in Japan, it is to just do it. I was often told that a study abroad experience was hard to describe but that all I had to do was to go out there and to



experience it myself. I cannot emphasize it enough. The people I have met here, the new landscapes I have witnessed, and the sole act of moving to another country are not opportunities that are offered often. Whether you are a student interested in a country separate from your friends or are planning to



leave with friends, have worked your way through building a savings account or have your parents cover your expenses, have never lived alone or have been out of your parents' house for years, I believe an exchange semester can change your life in terms of learning just so much about yourself. Take the chance and fly away!

Thanks to everyone I met here, the GEC office, and the Hosei student community for making this the best exchange year ever <3