

## Trailer from a movie

*KARACA Melinda*

I am sitting behind my table writing this on my laptop from my Airbnb that I am sharing with my family in Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan. As I am writing down these words and smelling the fresh smell of the lemon piece that is in my tea, I am thinking about the time that has passed in Japan. It all went like a trailer from a movie, that I wish I had, and I could replay over and over again. It has been an absolute dream and surreal reality to say that I have lived in Tokyo. My younger self would not have even believed that I would be here right now in this exact moment writing this article. Firstly, and most importantly, I would like to give the following advice to someone going on an exchange: dream big.

I would not have been here right now if I had not made the decision to do my exchange in Tokyo. So, the decision in the beginning of this process led to the results that I have now. There were so many moments that have brought me to the position that I am today. In special I would like to mention the following things:

- Everyone was so welcoming and helpful. For example, I was picked up from the airport by my buddy and brought all the way to my dormitory. This was such a pleasant way to be coming to Japan for the first time.
- The dormitory managers were friendly and helpful. Both of my dormitory managers helped me with a lot of things. I was for example provided with a vegetarian option for my dinners and breakfasts because I do not eat meat.
- The ESOP office at university did everything to make it easier and more comfortable for all of the exchange students. A lot of the events were a beautiful way to gain a better understanding of what the Japanese society and culture is like. The office was also there whenever we needed anything or had a problem. They were always helpful and prepared to help the exchange students.

Obviously, there were many more moments, experience and memories that I have had in Japan, which is too much to fit all into one small article. However, I really would like to say that Japan has mesmerized me and changed me in a lot of different ways. I think even though for me Japan as a country is on the other side of the world it did not feel like that. It feels like I have made a new family that was there for me all the time along my exchange period. I would like to say Arigatou Gozaimasu to everyone and Japan for having me.