

# Thanks for Everything, Japan

*A Reflection on an Unforgettable Journey*

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## The End – Already

I never thought my time in Japan would come to an end so soon. When I first arrived, **my departure felt like a distant event** – something that belonged in another lifetime entirely. But now, finals have come and gone, friends have said their goodbyes, and **all that's left for me is to pack my suitcase and board a plane.**



## Where Did the Time Go?

I keep wondering where all the time went. But when I look back, the answer is clear: **it disappeared in the best way possible**, with every weekend trip exploring Japan, with every shared meal filled with laughter, with every moment I felt intimidated, but pushed through to **realise I was capable**, even in the face of fear.

## More Than Just Studying Abroad

But what I found here went far beyond the classroom. I learned about Japanese culture, yes, but also the many cultures of other exchange students. I learned a deeper appreciation of my own culture, and, most surprisingly, **I learned about myself.**

That's not to say my classes weren't incredible. **I was genuinely obsessed with every subject I took** – from the content, to the classmates, to the global discourse they sparked. I may not miss working for 100 minutes straight (it's still a challenge after fourteen weeks!), but I will absolutely miss the insights and inspiration those sessions brought me.

## Grateful for Every Moment

My time in Japan has truly been the experience of a lifetime. I've learned more, laughed more, and loved more than I ever imagined possible. **I know my gratitude for this place will stretch far beyond my stay here.** And yes – I'm already counting down the days until I can come back.



Thanks for everything, Japan.