

2018 Fall 1 semester

From Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná

The JOY/ Individual Program provided by YNU was the opportunity that allowed me to immerse myself in the Japanese culture. Through the program, I could learn the Japanese language and understand deeper what some of the features of this unique nation are. During the six months that I stayed in Yokohama, I experienced their routine and traditions and realized how many lessons this society has to teach to others, in a sense of thinking in the collective to make things work for all. Furthermore, I could meet people from all over the world, with different backgrounds and this cultural exchange provided me new friends that became my family in Japan; a friendship that I will, definitely, take with me beyond borders.

Studying in Japan was the perfect opportunity that made me get out of the comfort zone and try to find different solutions and perspectives for the situations that I'll face in my life. The maturity that I got during this period abroad and the cultural knowledge that I will take with me back to Brazil are achievements that no one can take me away. I'm grateful for this opportunity and for all the people that I met on this journey and who welcomed me so warmly in this incredible country that is Japan.



**2018Fall 1 semester**  
**From Université Paris-Est Creteil**

I joined the JOY program during the fall semester that starts in October and ends in mid-February. And all I can say is that it was an amazing experience, a once in a life time experience that you shouldn't miss.

The JOY program offers a general formation that allows you to choose the classes that you are interested in, between multiple courses. So, you are likely to find courses that are related to your major. From science to economy, or teaching in a high school to practicing laido, the variety of courses is pretty rich.

If you don't speak Japanese, you can take Japanese language classes. However, I highly recommend to know a little bit of Japanese before joining this program because it will open so many doors. It will obviously make your daily life easier but also help you communicate with others students or professor more easily. When you don't speak Japanese, you miss so many opportunities to make friends, build your network or simply learn.

If you want to join a club at the university, I am sorry to tell you that the recruiting session occurs in the beginning of the spring semester. It will be very hard for you to join any club if you arrive in October. But there is a association called YNU105 that organizes a lot of events for foreign students and it will be the opportunity for you to meet the others students! Just pay attention to the posters displayed in the lobby of the international student center or on the wall.

The teachers and administrative members are lovely, they will always be here to help you. They are genuinely kind and attentive to each one of us so feel free to talk to them if you have any concern.

Overall, as I told you in the beginning, it was an amazing experience that allowed me to discover a wonderful country and meet some people I will never forget. I came here alone not knowing what to expect and now, I am leaving Japan with a head full of memories and knowledge and a new family in my heart.

**2018Fall 1 semester**  
**From Université Paris-Est Creteil**

I arrived in Japan at the end of September, to start the Fall semester of the JOY program. I came from France, where I study accounting, management and auditing in a master degree in the Paris-Est Créteil University. I chose to come to Japan during a gap year for several reasons: firstly, I wanted to discover a new Asian country and I chose Japan because of its tradition, landscape and contrasts; secondly, I wanted to discover the Japanese's educational system and follow classes in English; thirdly, I wanted to leave in very different country than France and meet international students. The Yokohama National University had an exchange program with my home university and that's why I was enrolled in the JOY program.

The JOY program was very attractive for me because of the classes I could follow. I studied in the Business Administration college and I could follow classes related to my major in my French university, which was very interesting for me. Other very different classes have been offered, such as "Homelessness", to patrol and distribute hot drinks and blankets to homeless people in Yokohama twice a month; or "Multilingual communication" to speak English or our mother tongue with Japanese students. I met a Japanese student who was learning French there, with the aim of studying a semester in Grenoble next year. It was very interesting to talk in French with her and her level was very good.

Another aspect that has been interesting for me was the "Japan in the World" project. It was asked to work on a subject linking Japan to our home country, thanks to a writing paper and an oral presentation. I chose to work on the diplomatic relationship between France and Japan, as they celebrated their 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. I also attended Japanese and Kanji classes in a beginner level during 10 hours per week. I never learned Japanese before arriving in Japan and I was very pleased to be able to learn this new language. It was not very easy at first but I found that the classes were well done, with different methods than the ones I used to have in France. The classes were divided into 3-hour sessions and were always very stimulating. I am now able to read the Japanese alphabet and ask questions in basic discussions of everyday life. I think I will continue to learn Japanese when I will return to France.

Finally, by being registered at YNU I was able to benefit from the JASSO scholarship that I received every month. This scholarship has been very useful for me to live every day (pay my rent, electricity bill, insurance...) but it has also allowed me to travel and visit many cities like Kyoto, Nara, Osaka or Hiroshima.

I tough it has been very easy to integrate into the promotion of this semester because many events have taken place at the beginning and throughout the semester to bring us together and help us get to know each other. Club 105 has played an important role in organizing events such as a Welcome Party in October or the International Food Party in January. Other events such as the Astage Camp, Hosting Program or Ikebana workshop were also offered throughout the semester.

To conclude, this semester following the JOY program at YNU was an amazing experience for me. I learned a lot, met incredible people, discovered a very beautiful country and all this under very good conditions. I can only encourage you to come and experience this!

2018 Fall 1 semester  
From Federal University of Pernambuco

Since my childhood, I have had a special interest in the Japanese culture. Fortunately, an opportunity to go to Japan appeared and I decided to take it. At that time, I could not imagine how good this experience would be and honestly speaking, it surpassed my expectations. In the next paragraphs I would like to tell you a little about my experiences in Japan.

First of all, the beginning. When I first arrived in Japan, although I already knew a lot about the Japanese culture, I struggled a little to get used to my new lifestyle. Indeed, it is completely different knowing something by reading and experiencing it personally. However, I feel that new environment made me grow up as a person and it made me deal with new responsibilities.

A few days after arriving, I took part in a laboratory. My colleagues were very kind and helpful. They tried really hard to make me feel comfortable. We played soccer together, we drank together, we hung out together, we had fun together, we laughed together, and most important, we studied together. On top of that, the professor responsible for the laboratory taught me a lot and he also was very considerate towards me.

One of my friends from the laboratory invited me to spend six days during the New Year's holiday in his house in Nara. This experience was special for me because I could see how Japanese people spend the New Year's holiday and I could stay for almost one week living with a Japanese family. While I was in his house, we went to Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima. Overall, I had an amazing time there.

Furthermore, Not only Japanese people, but I got to know many people from all over the world. Since there are a lot of foreign students studying at Yokohama National University, I could get to know people with different backgrounds. As a result, I had the opportunity to understand better other cultures and become more open-minded.

Last but not least, apart from my precious friends and the astonishing experience I had in Japan. By talking to new people and living in a completely different country, I could find out what I want to be and what I want to do in the future. That was one of the best outcomes I could get from living in Japan.

I hope I could convey a little of what I lived in Japan to you. All things considered, I highly recommend anyone to come to Japan. Undoubtedly, there are some difficulties that have to be dealt with, but at the end of your journey, you will realize it is worth.



201Spring and Fall 2 semester

From University of Seoul

こんにちは、2018年4月から2019年2月まで韓国のソウル市立大学(University of Seoul)からJOY Programに参加をしました。

この交換留学の期間に本当に様々な経験をしました。



一つ目は、日本文化の体験です。日本文化の中で一番興味深かったのが茶道でした。そこで私は留學生活で実際に茶道研究会に入って、活動を始めました。メディア等で見たこととはちょっと違いました。お客様にお茶を点てることはたくさんの準備があって、手順があって、礼があったことです。気軽に感じた茶道もありましたが、先生や先輩方に教わった深くて細かい部分もありました。他にも茶道研究会の定例お茶会の一員として参加したこともあり、他のお茶会のお客として参加もしました。本当に楽しい時間でした。

二つ目は、私は昔の象徴的な建物が好きです。そのお陰で日本の中をたくさん回りましたが、今でもすごく思い出に残ったのは、姫路城でした。交換留学の前に日本旅行をする時、小田原城に行ったことがあります。小田原城もなかなかいいものだと思いますが、姫路城は遠くから見てもすごい圧を感じました。その日は丁度雨だったのが少し残念でしたが、それでも自分がいい所を選んだなと思います。



他にも横浜の近くの鎌倉や横須賀、みなとみらい、東京等々観光におすすめスポットはたくさん行けたと思います。また機会があればもう一度来たいぐらいです。話したいことはたくさんありますが、長くなりますのでこれにて終わりたいと思います。それでは。

