

2019 Fall & 2020 Spring 2 semester

From Cairo University

Deciding to come to Japan has been one of the hardest and easiest decisions I ever had to make, as much as I knew how much I wanted to come to Japan as much as I was so scared. The thought of leaving everything I know behind and go to another country alone, a country that I know so little about, was so scary for me. However I decided to face my fears and to send my application.

When I first came here I spend one of the hardest couple of weeks in my life. I knew it was a different country but the fact that literally everything around me is different, or to put in a better way I was different from everything around me, made me feel like I didn't belong. However, when I started to get to know other exchange students, I realized that I was not alone, and that they also feel the same way sometimes. So instead of being different alone we became different together, and with time this feeling that I didn't belong became to disappear and I really felt like Japan was a second home to me. My point is if it weren't for the friends I made from the Joy program, I don't think I would have made it through this far.

And when the Corona virus started even though we could not meet, we made sure to check on each other every once in a while. I think it is safe to say I will not ever forget the people I met here, not just my friends but everyone who made it easier for me to have a life in Japan and to not feel like the odd one out, and that is including my teachers also, They were all very supportive to us and they also made sure to always check on us during the pandemic and made sure that we were all okay. Which really made me feel that I was part of a great program.

Although this year has had a lot of hard times and not to mention the online classes, I always felt like if I had to take online classes I am glad it was at YNU with these great teachers and great instructors.

As this year is coming to an end, I feel really lucky that I applied to this university and that I faced my fears and decided to come to Japan, because if it were not for this experience I wouldn't be the person I am today. I came here looking to better my Japanese level. However, without realizing my whole personality also changed. I became more independent, more open to the world, and more my own person. I saw a side of myself that I didn't even know existed. Although this experience is already over, I believe that when one door closes another one opens, so I waiting for my next challenge, my next experience, and this time I will not be afraid.