



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	26/09/2022 until 31/03/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Japan
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Kyoto
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Kyoto University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Economics

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience uni life in another country than the Netherlands. I also wanted to broaden my horizon, living abroad.

### What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

I had been interested in Japan for a while, and I thought the opportunity to go there for an extended period of time, within my study programme, was unique and would probably not be given to me again.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

If you want to go to Kyoto, you can either fly to Kansai airport (KIX) and take the train (Bullet train is also available, but more expensive) to Kyoto. You can also fly to Tokyo, but then you need to either take a nightbus (slow but cheap, between 50-100 euro) or the bullet train (fast but more expensive, 120ish euro)

## 4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Negotiation (ILAS course, by Will Baber)	6	Business Negotiation	2	The course can be interesting but was often chaotic. The teacher was nice but sometimes the course load was too easy.
2	Organisation Theory (wang tao)	6	Introduction on organisational theory	1	The teacher is passionate, but the class is hard because each session is a student presenting and that sometimes meant someone reading from a word document for 2 hours.
3	Research Design (wang tao)	6	Research design theory	1	The teacher is passionate, but the class is hard because each session is a student presenting and that sometimes meant someone reading from a word document for 2 hours.
4					
5					
6					

**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

For Kyoto university, I really got the impression that it matters at which faculty you take your classes, from whom you take your classes (Japanese or Foreign professor/teacher).

**What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)**

Teachers tend to be less approachable compared to Wageningen, but that is a side effect of Japanese Hierarchy. There is also a big difference between foreign professors (more approachable) and Japanese professors (less approachable). But with a good dose of Dutch directness, you will be able to talk to anyone – however sometimes this can be perceived as too much as well within Japanese settings.

**What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)**

Kizuna Lounge is a kind of foreign students support place – you can go there and find language exchange and clubs which are open for joining.

Kokoka International Centre is not from the university, but they cater towards foreigners in Kyoto, you can find lots of interesting things and opportunities there as well.

## 5. Housing-travelling-living

### **What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)**

The university offers good, relatively cheap (compared to NL) housing, but not everybody gets offered a place here. In addition to this, there are also private housing, which you can find through for example visiting kokoka and checking out the ads there. There are also some share houses which can be found on the internet.

### **What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)**

Japanese people are a whole lot less direct compared to Dutch people, a 'maybe' is should be taken as a 'no'. It takes a while to navigate this – and at the same time there are plenty of Japanese people who are more focused or 'open' to foreigners and do not mind if you don't understand the strict Japanese social rules. A often heard term is 'Gaijin Power' because you are foreign, Japanese people expect you to not understand and don't hold you up to the same rules Japanese people need to confirm to.

### **Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?**

Prices are cheaper, inflation has hit less hard. I paid less for rent (under 300 euro for a good room with shared facilities, provided through the university) and food was cheaper too. It is even cheaper to constantly eat out (in the good uni canteens mostly) than to cook for yourself. Outside of uni, dinner can be bought for around 1100 yen (roughly 8 euros) in most places, even Tokyo.

The expensive thing about Japan is the flight, and if you are an exchange student, then you probably want to travel a lot so you need more money for that as well.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)**

Busses in Kyoto have a flat rate of 230yen. This gets you around the whole city. Biking is also common, and you can get a bike in facebook groups like sayonara sales for example. I lived in Hyakumanben international house, so uni was 5 min away and I usually walked.

## 6. Free time

### **What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)**

Close to kyoto uni there is a good mochi place, where there is always a line because it is soo good. Its called Demachi Futaba, try it out!

### **What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?**

I recommend (as one of many things) Amanohashidate, a nice fishing village where they sell lots of silk products.

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)**

Eating out is cheap so I recommend doing it a lot. Don't invest too much in cooking gear. If you need veggies, visit the uni canteens.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Japanese hierarchy sometimes was difficult to deal with. Disagreeing with the teacher was not really a thing, which is something I missed from the Netherlands.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Visiting the country side and eating the best pickles veggies I ever have tried.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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