



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Plant Science and Business research
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	31-09-2022 until 01-03-2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Japan
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Kyoto
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Kyoto University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Agriculture

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to live outside of Europe and experience a different culture. I was very interested in Japan and its culture, nature and people before leaving and wanted to explore. I hoped to find many different friends and colleagues who were from different places and contexts and still have a good time with them. This is definitely successful!

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

Japan really fascinated me for a long time. Its interesting history, language, modern society and agricultural situation was very appealing to explore and study. It is safe, clean, hygienic and friendly as well. Also, I was interested in being a real 'foreigner', by being a western guy among Japanese.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

From Europe of course via plane. Inside the country the public transport is excellent and relatively cheap. I really recommend buying an ICOCA or SUICA card, even better to put it on your phone, so you don't have to buy a ticket all the time. Some people found lifting/hitch hiking very successful and fun as well!

## 4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS (Japanese)	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
<b>1</b>	Agricultural Systems Engineering	2	Decision science/neur al networks	4	
<b>2</b>	Scientific Communication 2	2	Learning to read/write/di scuss academically	3	Nice to get to know other students, but not that informative
<b>3</b>	Topics in Advanced Plant Breeding	2	Reading and discussing literature about crop genetics	4	
<b>4</b>	Biogeochemistry	2	Learning about soil and water biologically/c hemically	5	
<b>5</b>	Special Lecture on Comparative Agricultural Studies 13	2	Learning about global agronomical issues and local agricultural practises	4	Very nice field trip to a local organic farmer's market
<b>6</b>	Applied Plant Sciences	1	Guest lectures about (Japanese) new research in plant science	4	

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

The workload is not that high, contact with teachers is very good. If you ask questions they are very happy. Academic level is decent, similar to the WUR but sometimes a bit slow paced for some. Lesson material could be better, it is a bit one sided and does not spark discussions or engagement from the students.

**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?)**

Lecturers are very approachable and kind, as well as the students. Students can be a bit shy but open up when spoken to. The students tend to attach more importance to studying long, and may decline social stuff because of that. Extra curricular activities are widely done and it is very recommended to also participate. For example the persimmon harvest in November/December is fun or you could join farmers, many student clubs or faculty related activities.

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

Cheap cafeteria food from 08:00 to 22:00, except for the weekends. Many student clubs on campus (sport, music, reading, studying, etc), housing, museum, shop with discounts.

## 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?)**

You can sign up for student housing a few months before your studies. Rooms are generally private, some with own kitchen and bathroom. Most are very close to campus. Rent rates are around 300 euros per month.

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

It seems a bit closed but when diving deeper the people and culture is very open and friendly. Especially Osaka. People drive left, bow a lot, say 'sumimasen' (excuse me) a lot, and are quiet in public transport. Bicycles are everywhere and people cycle everywhere. Beware of cycling rules though.

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

Like mentioned before, rent is around 300 euros per month, with extra costs (electricity, water etc.) varying between 0 and 50 euros extra per month. So a bit cheaper than in Wageningen

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

Cost is lower compared to the NL, buses are very cheap. Travel to university is done by cycling or walking. Some take the bus.

## 6. Free time

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

The large temples, nature. But talking to locals is recommended

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

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

Buy a bike, eat out a lot its very cheap and yummy.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Not being able to use my debit card from my Dutch bank. Therefore, getting a credit card (I used Revolut) is very recommended.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Of course the friends I made, they were awesome!

## 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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