



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BSc Biotechnology
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/10/2023 until 06/02/2024
Exchange destination: University	Kyoto University
Faculty	Agriculture
Country	Japan
City	Kyoto

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I have always told myself: if I ever have the opportunity to travel to Japan, I should do it.

Also, I like exploring different cultures and languages.

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

I have always been fascinated by the Japanese culture and language: so different from what I know.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

KIX (Kansai International Airport) is the closest international airport, but I would recommend going a few weeks earlier and fly to another airport (e.g. Haneda in Tokyo), so you can travel around.

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	Introduction to Quantum Physics-E2	6 (but now 4)	A bit of relativity (not in the exam), then black body radiation, different particle scatterings, quantum numbers.	4	Small class, difficult material, not given well, but kind teacher.
2	Chemistry of Sustainable Energy-E2	Same	Solar panels, wind turbines, geothermic power plants, biomass, properties of TiO.	4	Interesting material, easy.
3	Field Earth Science-E2	Same	Plate tectonics.	3	Boring, small class, easy.
4	Science on Water, Soil, and Ecosystems-E2	Same	Water mechanics, erosion, weather, winds, ecosystems, environmental impact assessment.	5	Interesting, given very well.
5	Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience B-E2	Same	Memory, communication, emotions, perception.	5	Interesting, easy.
6	Introduction to Immunology-E2	Same	Innate and adaptive immune system, maturation and function of immune cells, types of antibodies, intracellular immune receptors, inflammations.	2	Given poorly, more difficult.
7	Programming Practice (Python)-E2	Same	Loops, functions, classes, graphic user interface.	5	Interesting, comes in handy.
8	Advanced Calculus II-E2	Same	Different formulas to solve differential equations.	2	Boring, difficult.
9	Elementary Japanese I (Conversation)	Same	Sentences	4	NOT FOR CREDITS (language course), quite some homework.
10	Elementary Japanese I (Listening)	Same	Vocabulary, particles	4	NOT FOR CREDITS (language course), easy, fun, haven't learnt that much.
11	Elementary Japanese I (Reading, Composition)	Same	Kanji, grammar, reading.	5	NOT FOR CREDITS (language course), a lot of homework, hard, but very well given, I have learnt a lot.

What is it like to study there?

Overall a bit easier, but a larger workload (homework).

What is the culture of the university?

Very approachable lecturers (small classes), not much engagement with local students.

What does the university offer students additionally?

Good cafeteria's.

5. Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing?

Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, ~260 € (+ cheap electricity).

What is the culture of the country like?

Look it up online.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

Local public transport is cheap, but long distances are expensive. You can travel within the city by some tram lines, but mostly by bus near the university.

6. Expenses

Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.

Ticket there: ~560 € return ticket (WITH AIRMILES)

Visa if applicable: Yes, you should ask for it far in advance (ambassy is in the Hague)

Vaccinations if applicable: /

Insurances (extra, if applicable): Yes: national health insurance and university student liability insurance (both cheap)

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: small studio in dorm, ~260 €.

Groceries: A bit cheaper, but fruit is expensive.

Public transport: bus

Restaurant/going out for dinner: very much possible (and not very expensive)

Daytrips/sight-seeing: Very cool, but watch your workload!

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

Go hiking, visit small temples and shrines, speak with locals at Izakaya's

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

It can be very touristy at attractions, so I would recommend to just walk around.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

Bouldering, hiking.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

It can be lonesome not having good friends/family around. Do call them (even with the time difference). Also, make friends with other exchange students and locals.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

None in particular, but all of them are either while hiking or while visiting locals.

9. Contact details (optional)

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