



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental Science
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	06/04/2023 until 21/7/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Japan
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Tokyo
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Tokyo University of Agriculture
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Plant Symbiotic and Parasitic Microorganisms

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to explore a different country and culture and I thought the exchange would be a great opportunity to do so.

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

I've always loved Japanese history, culture, and food so I wanted to do my exchange there.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flights are expensive so book it long beforehand!

## 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	Japanese Agricultural Development	4	Lectures in classroom about the history and current state of Japanese agriculture	3	It's interesting because we get to make a lot of comparisons to the agriculture in our own countries and we have discussions in class about this
2	Forest and Forestry	4	Lectures about Forests and forest management and forest therapy	4	Excursion in the end of the course to an open air museum showing the importance of wood products in the Japanese Edo era countryside houses
3	Planning and Design of Landscape Architecture	4	Many excursions to different important cultural and historical landscapes of the greater Tokyo area.	5	
4	Life History and Applications of Landscape Plants	4	Many excursions to different important cultural and historical landscapes of the greater Tokyo area.	5	
5					
6					

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

**The classes are mostly lectures but some courses have solely excursions which I really liked. There were no exams except for 1 course. You're mainly graded by the reports that you write and assignments you have to do.**

**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?)**

**There's quite a hierarchal difference between student and professor compared to Netherlands. You will be placed in a specific lab with your own professor who will show you experiments to do.**

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

Many sports facilities and activity clubs but as an exchange student you cannot join any of these (unless you speak Japanese). There's a great cafeteria on the campus which offers delicious cheap lunch.

## 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?)**

**I lived in the dorm of the university. The rent is cheap. The dorm is quite old and there's cockroaches but I think for 4 months it's okay.**

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

**Japanese people are very polite! There are not so many foreigners in the university or in the neighbourhood of the university, so you will get looked at as a foreigner. There's some unspoken rules about how to behave that I didn't know at first. I'd say ask questions to the Japanese students. Nobody really speaks English so learn some Japanese before going.**

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

**The rent was 285 euros for the dorm.**

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

**Public transport is amazing the trains are very convenient. You can use a suica/pasmo card to get around.**

## 6. Free time

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

**Setagaya (the area of the university) is quite far from the busy areas such as Shibuya or Shinjuku. I'd say you should go to any area and just do a walking tour and get lost.**

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

**Hachioji is a cool area in West Tokyo relatively close to Setagaya. Has shrines and small farm lands.**

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

**Eat, eat, eat. Food is cheap compared to Netherlands. It's difficult to be vegetarian or vegan in Japan.**

## 7. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

**Not being able to communicate well with Japanese people**

**What was your best memory abroad?**

**The clubs in Tokyo are amazing!! And the sunrises. And the food.**

## **8. Contact details (optional)**

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	Rittika/ Rittika.saha10@gmail.com	