



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	BSc Environmental Sciences
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	April 1, 2024, until August 4, 2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Kyoto University
<b>Faculty</b>	Liberal Arts and Sciences
<b>Country</b>	Japan
<b>City</b>	Kyoto

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I chose to go on a study exchange because I wanted to gain new experiences and to put myself out of my comfort zone.

### b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

I have always been really fascinated by Japanese culture, and one of my parents lives near Japan which is another reason of why I chose it.

### c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

Kyoto University is well known in Japan, and I also preferred to live in Kyoto over Tokyo.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

## 4. University and studying

### a. 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	Python Programming	4	Learned the basics of python programming. There were assignments given every week and a final project.	5	I think this is a very useful class if you want to learn some of the basics of Python Programming, but the teaching pace is really fast.

2	Sustainable Forest Conservation	4	It was about how to manage forest environments, the soil, ecosystem, and farming wood.	3	
3	Data Analysis Practice I	4	Analysing and interpreting data using R-Studio.	3	This course teaches practical skills of data analysis.
4	Economy & Society	4	Learning how to use R-commander.	4	
5	Information & Society	4	This course was about the economics and law aspects about information, specifically information about AI.	3	
6	Fundamentals of AI	4	This course teaches basic models and function so AI. It requires background in mathematics.	4	

**b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): YES**

**c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): YES**

**d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): YES**

**e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): YES**

**f. What is it like to study there?**

*E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?*

The form of education is a little different from the system in the Netherlands. You take all the courses together at the same time and you have them once a week. The style of teaching is mostly through lectures. Aside from classes, I think that the environment was a really interesting experience because it is so different from Europe.

**g. What is the culture of the university?**

*E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?*

The lecturers are very approachable, and welcoming. There was not much engagement during class because it was mostly a lecturing teaching style. All the classes are taught as lectures, unlike WUR, there are no tutorials nor practical's.

#### **h. What does the university offer students additionally?**

The university has a cafeteria with very affordable meals, a gym, many student clubs, and several libraries on each campus.

## **5. Housing-traveling-living**

#### **a. What are the possibilities for housing?**

There are many accommodations offered by the university, however, not all the exchange students are lucky enough to get one. If not, apartments can also be found via other external agencies.

#### **b. What is the culture like?**

Japanese people are very polite and follow a lot of rules for etiquette.

#### **c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

There are 2 main public transport cards "SUICARD" and "ICOCA" which can be used for trains, metros, buses and sometimes even for purchasing items in the convenience store.

## **6. Expenses**

#### **a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Expenses (Euros)</b>
Travelling there	1400
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	50
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	440
Grocery costs per month	180
Public transport costs per month	70
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	190

**b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:** Equal because I had to pay a lot more rent since I did not get a student room that was offered by the school, (I think it would be lower if you lived in a student accommodation provided by the university).

#### **c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## **7. Free time**

#### **a. What are must-sees in the area?**

There are many shrines and temples that can be seen nearby. I think the area called "Gion" is a must-visit.

**b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?**

There is a hike located behind the campus in which you can get an extremely beautiful view of the entire city. It is called Daimonji.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

**a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?**

One challenge was how fast friend groups form. I recommend joining as many social activities as possible whenever you have the chance.

**b. Best memory?**

I had many good memories over my exchange, but one of the best would be chilling by the Kamogawa River with friends. It is a spot that we go to frequently in the evening.

## 9. Contact details

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name &amp; email address (if yes)</b>	Sonya, sonyalinssen@gmail.com	