

# Great opportunity to advance Japanese skills and for cultural exchange

Exchange Semester Experience

## Osnabrück University , Germany



The JOY-Program is a great opportunity to experience student life in Japan, to advance once Japanese skills and for cultural exchange. To pass the program there is a minimum amount of credits/classes you need to pass. The amount of work is adequate so you are busy during weekday with studies and homework but if you can manage to get everything done you also have time to see Japan at the weekend. The seminars are often discussion based and finished by submitting a short paper in the end. There is also the option to attend sports classes which I would really recommend because it is a good chance to get in contact with Japanese students as well, even if your language level is insufficient for complex communication. One sport class also contributes to the amount of credits you need to pass. The JOY-program offers courses of different subjects such as business, Japan and culture, linguistics, etc. I really enjoyed going to the classes with the other international students and also get in touch with some Japanese students. The class I enjoyed the most was the intensive Japanese class as I could advance my language skills and notice my own improvement every day. In the beginning the class was really hard as I was missing some grammar knowledge which was treated as pre-condition. With time the class became easier and more fun. During my stay in Japan I needed to live in the dormitory which is right next to the campus. There was no option to look for an apartment yourself but I was glad about that as I did not want to do more preparation work. The dormitory was sufficient to live in. Paying about 50.000 Yen a month I live in an 8-people flat with 8 squaremeters space in my own room. There was a common kitchen and bathroom which were not always clean even though there is cleaning stuff coming once a week. For working at the desk the room is sufficient but I liked to spent time outside especially because the location is very nice. There is a supermarket quite close and for me the location in a living area of Japan was more appealing than being in the middle of city-life all day. There is a free-to-use gym on the campus which I learned to love during my stay and also Yokohama city and Tokyo are easy to reach withing under one hour. That makes traveling very easy and the citys themselves also have a lot of different attractions and activitsy to offer. Making friends with the international students in the dormitory and classes is a good option but you can also sign up for events from the 105-international club who organise christmas-, bowling- , international-food events etc. You can meet Japanese students who are interested in

contact with international students there or at the international talks organised by the university. I really liked to go to these. I also joined the Acoustic-club of the university and practised guitar there together with Japanese students. In conclusion what I enjoyed the most was the daily university life in Japan and the atmosphere of Japans nature and citys. It was a great experience for half a year and I would defenitely recommend it to anyone who is interested in Japan and Japanese language and has the opportunity to go.