

# A good education and wonderful experiences

Exchange Semester Experience

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering ,  
Faculty of Architecture ,  
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The JOY program is an exchange program at the Yokohama National University (YNU) that helps students from all over the world experience Japan for a semester abroad.

The YNU is, as the name suggests, located in Yokohama. Yokohama is the city with the second largest population in Japan and situated right next to Tokyo, Japan's capital. The University is located about a 20-minute bus ride away from the city center. In and around the city center one can find an activity for everyone, from amusement park rides to large shopping mall to the Cup Noodle Museum. Around the Yokohama main station and Yokoyama's famous landmark tower are many bars and restaurants that host Japan's magnificent night life. Close to the YNU one can find the nightlife in Wadamachi, about 15 minutes by foot. During the day all necessities are accessible by foot and there are wonderful food stations as well as Gyms, Japanese Onsen and other activities. When visiting nearby cities such as Kamakura, Enoshima, Tokyo and so on one can experience many different facets of the Japanese life and get a wide range of experiences. At the YNU University, most of the exchange students live in the International Residence of the YNU. Here the students live either in shared units or in private units. The shared units are very wide and offer a lot of space, even when shared with 7 people, the maximum number of flat mates. All facilities are clean and recently maintained. With a private fridge and optionally privately rented rice cooker, microwave, and TV the rooms facilitate everything that is needed.

The courses at the YNU in the JOY program are very interesting and the tests are not too hard so that one has enough time to explore Japan after studying. The teachers are incredible kind and happy to help with all kinds of problems. Especially Japanese classes are highly recommended. After taking a placement test, students are placed into different classes for different skill levels according to their score on the placement test. This ensures, that all students receive level-appropriate instructional content and can thrive in their classes. During the Japanese lessons, the students not only learn the Japanese language but also interesting information about Japan and its culture.

All in all, the YNU JOY program is strongly recommended since it not only provides a good education but also wonderful experiences with other students and flat mates that turn into friends during the stay. Many thanks to the staff and organizers for always being so kind, wonderful and helpful!