

My Experience During the JOY Program at YNU

Exchange Semester Experience Spring2026

San José State University, U.S.A



The time I spent as a student during the JOY program at Yokohama National University was truly amazing. The campus is beautiful, especially during cherry blossom season, and the students are very welcoming and kind. There are many stores around campus as well, which make it very convenient to buy essential items and food. Additionally, the classes at YNU are quite enjoyable. My favorite class throughout the semester was the beginner Japanese class, J101 because I was able to learn basic Japanese and apply it in the real world, such as in trains, restaurants, stores, etc.

The school works to provide many community events as well. For international students, there were hangouts arranged to allow students to get to know each other. In addition, orientations were provided to guide us through the enrollment and registration processes in the beginning, making the experience much easier. The school also offers a large variety of clubs, spanning from sports to Japan exploration quests. At the start of the semester, the club leaders lined up and handed flyers to students passing by, including the international students. I had some fun conversations with a couple of these students when handed a poster.

One aspect of the program that I really enjoyed was the sense of freedom it gave me. Although there are classes and studying to do, it was very balanced and flexible, allowing me to explore Japan alongside my studies. Every weekend, I had the opportunity to spend my days in Tokyo, discovering new areas and making friends with the local Japanese people. I was also able to take a trip to Okinawa, as well as the Kansai region during my four months on campus.

Overall, my experience at Yokohama National University's JOY program was very pleasant. I felt very comfortable during the transition to YNU, in the dorms, during classes, etc. I would highly recommend this program to anyone who is interested.