

The experience of our students Alumni Network Tsukuba Trans-Pacific Program

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For some years now, I have been interested in Japan and its culture, so when I decided to do a study exchange, this country was my first choice. In the case of my University, it has a student mobility agreement with 3 Japanese universities, so at the time of applying I had to decide between them. It was not an easy decision, all three were renowned universities, but I ended up leaning towards the University of Tsukuba for two reasons: the lines of research it has in the area of Sciences and the abundant nature that surrounds it.

Regarding the first, I must say that I was not disappointed, in truth the quality of science in Tsukuba and the infrastructure they have is incredible, not only within the University, but also in the city itself, where you can visit places like Jaxa and the Botanical Garden.

In addition, before making my decision, I looked for what natural attractions are around it, and the truth is there are not few. Among them the most striking for me is Mount Tsukuba since I am fond of tracking, there you can play sports and see beautiful sunsets. In addition, the surroundings of the city are quiet and safe

for running and cycling no matter what season of the year it is, although it is better not to do it when there is a typhoon.

In general, I had a very good experience in terms of treatment and studies, so I think that my great difficulties were the language and the shame it gives me to speak in another language, that is why the exchange was very important, to overcome my linguistic insecurities, something that improved a lot



thanks to this experience. Inside the university, speaking English was enough, but outside of it the need to speak Japanese was greater and I think it is necessary to force oneself to practice, something that was difficult for me to start doing, so if you are planning to go to study in Japan I advise you to speak all the Japanese you can, don't miss the opportunity. I know you may feel uncomfortable, but you have to try, Japanese are very nice when you try to speak in their language.

Something that I must admit that was constantly becoming a bit of a problem was eating because I am a vegetarian. Japan is not ready for vegetarians yet, for vegans even less. So you must prepare yourself to have few options when going out to eat, luckily I love Soba and Udon, dishes that in their base presentation do not have meat and that you can accompany with tempura vegetables (ñami), I think 50 % of my meals outside of my room were these two dishes.

