

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

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Period of Exchange: October 2019- April 2020



I'm Natália Yumi Sato, 23 years old, I'm from Brazil and I study at the University of São Paulo (USP), School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. I had the opportunity to go to Japan and study at Tsukuba University through the Trans-Pacific Human Capital Development Program, a program aimed at exchanging students from Latin America and Japan. I chose Tsukuba University because of recommendations from friends and because I was very interested in studying at a university that is center and highlight of so many researches, besides the city itself being famous for its National Research and Development Institutes.

The 6 months I spent in Tsukuba were a great learning experience, not only for academic growth but also for personal growth. Getting in touch with people from different countries made me see the world in another way, it is very gratifying to know and talk about the culture beyond the borders we are used to. I was able to practice Japanese and English every day, which certainly added a lot to my academic and professional life.

At first, I had difficulties to communicate and to solve bureaucracies, such as registering on the City Hall, paying for health insurance, opening a bank account, but my friends and colleagues were always available to help with any doubts I had, often accompanying me.

I made great friends from all of the world, traveled, studied and also had a lot of fun. Tsukuba is a very welcoming city and very different from the busy and urban center of Tokyo, and even São Paulo, where I live in Brazil.

One little advice I want to give to future international students in Tsukuba is: know how to ride a bike, “she” will be your best friend throughout your stay in Japan. And of course, enjoy everything the University has to offer: clubs of dance, instruments, sports, seminars and cultural events. All of this will leave a special memory for the rest of your life.