
Instructors
- **What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?**
The teachers were very nice but sometimes it was hard to communicate with them.

- **Could you call them by their first names?**
In Japan, you usually call instructors by their last name.

- **Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?**
The student/instructor relationship was more formal than UCSB.

- **Were they available for help during office hours?**
They were available to help during office hours.

Courses
- **Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?**
The courses did not seem more difficult than UCSB courses.

- **Was the grading system similar to UCSB?**
The grading system was similar. The course was divided into percentages like attendance, quiz scores, and test scores.

- **How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?**
They did voice recordings for language practice.

- **Did you have oral and/or written exams?**
There were oral language quizzes for the Japanese course that I took.

- **Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?**
I didn’t have any problem with exam flexibility.

- **What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?**
I received financial aid.

- **Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?**
I definitely had to become more independent while abroad.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
Yes, participation was expected.

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
For my language course, there was a group of teachers that taught us switching off on certain days.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
We did have a set time schedule (class periods). Classes ran for about 1-2 hours per day.

**What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
The class atmosphere was usually fun and interactive. It was also important to be punctual and eating during class was not allowed.

**Language**
- In which languages were the courses offered?
  They offered Japanese courses regular and intensive.

- What language did you take your courses in?
  I took the regular Japanese course.

- If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.
  The course was fast paced but a lot of the information at the beginning was review for me.

**Host University**
- How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?
  The campus is smaller than UCSB. It is located within a more suburban area.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
  Some local students lived on campus in the dorms.

- If not located in the city center,
  - How far or close is it to the city?
    The city was a short bus or bike ride away.
  - What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
    The bus ride was 210 yen one way.
  - Could students take cabs -cost?
    Students could split a cab ride and that came to around 460 yen between 3 people.
  - How long would it take to get to the city center?
    I would say about 10-15 minutes.

- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?
  There are many clubs that students can join. I participated in the Koto Club.

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
  There is a bookstore on campus. I bought my books through the school.

- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
  There are computer labs on campus. Computers are available in the library and language lab. I brought my laptop so I could Skype in private.

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
  There are really close stores in the neighborhood such as 99 yen store, McDonalds, Hard Off, and Don Quixote (Donkey).

**Housing**
- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  UC students can stay in one of the dorms or live off campus.
- **How close are they to campus?**  
The dorm I stayed at was in the center of campus.

- **How did you find your housing?**  
My housing was really nice and new. The room was pretty big compared to the dorm housing here.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**  
I lived in the Dialogue House dorms.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**  
N/A

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**  
They were nicer. It had AC, a fridge, wood floors and a really nice bathroom.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**  
I believe it was around the same price as the UC dorms.

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**  
You paid one lump some in cash or travelers checks once you get there.

**Food**

- **What was the food like?**  
I really loved the food. I got to try new things and had a lot of different ramen.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**  
I would eat at the cafeteria on campus or I would go out to eat in the city. If you wanted something cheap and good you could always go to McDonalds.

- **How much was an average meal?**  
The average meal cost around 900-800 yen.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**  
People ate lunch around 12-1 pm and people ate dinner around 6-7pm.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**  
I think it would be difficult especially because fruits and vegetables were more costly. We also did not have a kitchen to cook our own meals.

**Travel/Safety**

- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**  
People traveled on foot, by bike, by bus, and by train.

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**  
Usually I did feel safe in my host city. It’s still safer to travel with friends though.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
The train system is usually punctual. It can get very crowded during different rush hours.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
Many of the students for my program planned to travel to Korea and Hong Kong at the end of the program.

**Host City/Country**

- **What was the weather like?**
In Japan, you could experience the seasonal changes.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
I don’t really think it’s like California.

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
I went clubbing and karaoke singing with my friends.

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
My school was located in a more suburban area but the cities such as Ropponji and Yokohama are more tourist friendly areas.

**Culture**

- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality**
    I think being on time was important especially if you’re trying to catch a train. The train system is usually punctual unless there is an accident.
  - **Eye contact & staring**
    If you look foreign, people will stare at you and it maybe indirectly sometimes.
  - **Relationships**
    When I went out I could see couples together in public.
  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    When you’re on the trains, you will see business attire and other people in fashionable dress.
  - **Alcohol consumption**
    It is very acceptable to drink. You will usually go out with friends and colleagues to drink.
  - **What culture shock did you go through?**
    I think the culture shock I went through was the American assumption that everyone should be able to speak/ understand English.
  - **Other?**
    I recommend that you go to an onsen. An onsen is like a hot springs public bath. The one in Yokohama is really nice and reasonably priced.

**Banking**

- **Were credit cards widely accepted?**
In Japan you mostly use cash wherever you go.

- **Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?**
N/A
- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM?
  Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
I withdrew money on campus or I would get out money from the 7/11 (7 and holdings) that were located throughout the city.
- **Were there ATMs on campus?**
  There was one located on the middle of campus in the post office.