Major/Minor: ___________________ Global Studies ______________________

Country: Japan & China
Program: __________________________ Elementary Language Intensive and Global Studies __________________________
Term & Year Abroad: __Summer ’08 and Spring ‘09________

*What type of student should go on this program (ex: personality traits, major, etc)?
People who are patient and open to completely new scenarios and cultures.

Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  They were friendly and helpful.
- Could you call them by their first names?
  No. In Asia it’s still formal.
- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  Yes, very.
- Were they available for help during office hours?
  Yes.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  Easier.
- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  Yes.
- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  Basically just finals. But language classes had homework every day.
- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  In the language courses yes.
- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  Inflexible.
- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  Yes you needed to be more independent but there were people in your program to help you also.
- Was classroom participation expected?
  Yes, in most classes. In others, for example this one class I took, we were strongly discouraged from saying anything in class especially with regards to the lecture.
- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
They were generally easier but felt longer.

- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
  Yes there were set schedules and usually were an hour and forty-five min. long.

- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
  You could not eat in drink in class and you had to come to class on time. It is VERY formal here still.

Language
- In which languages were the courses offered?
  English.

- What language did you take your courses in?
  English and language classes of course. (Japanese)

- 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 language classes were pretty intense.

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?
  Not big really.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
  Most of them live at home.

- If not located in the city center,
  o How far or close is it to the city?
    About 15 min to the city center on train.
  o What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
    Trains and buses. Trains varied in price but buses were around $3 in Japan.
  o Could students take cabs -cost?
    You could take them but they were just expensive.
  o How long would it take to get to the city center?
    About 15 min.

- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?
  Yes.

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
  Yes.

- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
  Yes.
- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood?** (cafes, stores, etc)
  Convinient stores, grocery stores, and restaurants.

### Housing
- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  International dorm.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  45 min. walking.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  Provided by the program.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  In the dorm with other UC students.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
  All taken care of by the school.

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  Nicer.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.?  How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  a little more expensive

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  You paid the school for housing in cash.

### Food
- **What was the food like?**
  I made my own food in Japan.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  I mostly ate out or made my food

- **How much was an average meal?**
  Around $7.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  Lunch was around noon and dinner was around 5.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  Not too hard.

### Travel/Safety
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
  The bus and trains were very convenient.

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
  I felt really safe in Japan.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  Great, convenient, and reliable. Kind of crowded though.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  No, not at all. It was very difficult.

Host City/Country
- What was the weather like?
  Very humid.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  Japan is like New York, or a very clean SF.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  We would go shopping or exploring. All-you-can-drink restaurants and cultural activities.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  Very international. Very evident globalization.

Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - Time & punctuality
    Very important.
  - Eye contact & staring
    Try to avoid.
  - Relationships
    In Asia “relationships” are a big deal.
  - More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    In Japan fashion is big and no one wears jeans, t-shirts, and flip-flops.
  - Alcohol consumption
    Not a big deal. You can drink and be intoxicated anywhere. Literally. On trains too.
  - What culture shock did you go through?
  - Other?

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  7-11 ATMs would read cards and allow you to withdraw money.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  Yes I opened one because I got a scholarship.
- 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?
  Yes it was easy. There was English option on the machines.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  No but there were close to campus.