



From the world to Kumamoto University

Teaching the joys of English communication to children in Uzbekistan

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Kulinaeva Anna Vladimirovna from Uzbekistan has been studying English Education in Kumamoto since 2011. She hopes to teach upper secondary school students the joys of learning English back in her homeland.

After graduating university, I taught English to students from grades 5 to 9 at a secondary school (※) in Uzbekistan. I came to feel that I wanted to further my studies so that I could help improve the communication skills of children in Uzbekistan. Using the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship program, I entered Kumamoto University as a foreign exchange student. I chose Kumamoto University because of its strong reputation of its Faculty of Education. At Kumamoto University, I mainly carried out research into pair and group work for enhancing English communication skills.

Japan's approach to English education is not limited to grammar and literacy, but also includes curricula that improve communication skills, as well as many other elements that can be effectively incorporated into Uzbekistani English education. Not only did we have classes, but we also visited a number of elementary, junior high and high schools to observe their classes, and even took part in the English Teaching Research Society for English Educators, "PIGATE", which at the time was chaired by Professor Nobuyuki

Takagi of Kumamoto University. At PIGATE, we talked with members who are currently working as teachers in order to explore effective ways of conducting classes.

I love the Kumamoto University Campus because it is like a small academic town. It is full of nature but also provides plenty of facilities such as cafeterias, medical centres, and libraries. Furthermore, once you step outside into the city, you can enjoy Italian, Korean and many other foreign cuisines at a reasonable price. In Uzbekistan, the price of foreign food is restrictively expensive and so we cannot eat it so readily.

I am currently spending my days preparing for my research report. I have been researching effective communication education by conducting comparative analysis of surveys collected from Japanese and Uzbekistani teaching staff. I cannot wait until the day I can utilise what I have learnt at Kumamoto University to teach English to children back in Uzbekistan.



Photo taken in front of the Faculty of Education Building.

As she approaches her final days in Japan, Anna feels that her enthusiasm is driving her to learn even more at Kumamoto University.



Participating in a grade 5 class at Kumamoto Jonan Municipal Elementary School.

"In Uzbekistan, team teaching does not exist. I would like to incorporate this fantastic Japanese system into the education system back in my country."

※Secondary school – Junior high school