

Why did you choose to study at KU?

There are three reasons for choosing Kumamoto University (KU). The 1st reason, of course, is due to KU has a high quality of education and a nice environment of research, particular in medical sciences. About 2nd reason, I think city of Kumamoto is more suitable for life than other metropolises. Such like the cost, the traffic and other aspects, those make me feel convenient and let me could pay more attention to my study. The last reason is about personal preference. I like Japanese manga very much since I was a child. Such like Dragon Ball, Naruto, Kimetsu no Yaiba and so on. I am much impressed with the Slam Dunk, and the author was also graduated from KU.

How is your student life in Kumamoto or Japan?

Study & Life in Kumamoto:

My life in Kumamoto (Japan) is challenging but worthwhile. My first impression of Japan is ‘this is a comic country’! The sea, sky, traffic and buildings here are exactly same as I read in the Japanese manga during my childhood. However, studying aboard is not easy for everybody including me. Language is the most tough problem I faced at the beginning. Japanese have their own language, and English is not commonly used in our daily life. In order to adapt quickly to life in Japan, I have taken some Japanese classes provided by KU as well as Kumamoto City International Center after school.

As a medical student, I have never learned about how to do research and I am getting stress and feeling lonesome ever than never. Luckily, my supervisor and all lab members always friendly and patiently teach me. Our lab set the ‘Journal Club’ in every two weeks, which allowed me to understand the latest advance of my research and to learn more experimental techniques. Weekly, I discuss about new results with professor as well as other lab members during progress meeting. Therefrom, I can get lots of crucial advises to improve my research. Besides, my supervisor managed some extracurricular activities in special moment, such like welcome party, cherry blossom viewing party and year-end party, which enriched my spare time and let me know more about Japanese traditional culture.



Since Japan has an extremely high cost for living, especially for some students from developing country, I had to struggle to solve the problem for living cost in Japan. Kumamoto is not a big city like Tokyo or Osaka, which leads to lower house rents and other cost in my life, as compared with those cities. Moreover,

bicycle is sufficient for school and daily travelling. Those have helped me for saving daily cost. On the other hand, I found some information of scholarship from student office of KU. With my professor's support, I tried my best and turned out to be achieved Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship, because I was able to conduct interviews in Japanese fluently and I had several achievements in research. At that moment, I really realized that 'no pay, no gain'. From then on, I began to enjoy the time of fighting for self.

Japan is definitely a beautiful country with profound cultural deposits. Apart from study, one of my favorites is travel and it was also a challenge for me. During visit to other cities in Japan, I tried to understand the local customs and culture via communicating in Japanese with the local people. It was not only greatly improved my Japanese skills but also broaden my vision. By this way, I found a ton of amazing things that are originate from traditional Japanese culture. For instance, hogaku (traditional Japanese music), kabuki (traditional Japanese dance-drama), shinto (a religion originating in Japan), and so on. However, I realized that some of these cultures are similar to some Asian countries, especially China. Indeed, I thoroughly enjoyed this culture-shock brought by traditional culture, and cannot help praising the innovative ability of Japanese.

Finally, I want to say 'What an amazing life in Kumamoto (Japan)'.



Current status:

Now, I am working as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) postdoctoral fellow, and my present research works are mainly focused on the infectious and inflammatory disorders. I am really would like to express my deepest and sincere gratitude to my supervisor, for his kind support and supervision throughout my study in Japan. I also would like to thank the Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation that provided me the scholarship with fully financial support and care. Because of them, I can successfully move to the next stage of my life.

Any message and/or advice to those who wish to study at KU?

This world is undergoing tremendous changes every second.
If you are unwilling to just accept its changes, try to be a factor of changing it.
A step forward, stay thinking, stay practicing, you will never regret going study abroad.
Fearless Youth!