



KAKEHASHI Project (USA)

Inbound Program for University Students

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 175 university students who are interested in Japanese culture visited Japan. During the 8 days program from December 15 to December 22, 2015, the participants studied the Japanese government, society, history, culture, foreign policy, and much more. The participants aim to promote Japan through mediums such as SNS.

2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants

USA (172 Participants)

3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo, Nagano and Iwate

4. Program Schedule

December 15 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

December 16 (Wed) Orientation

【Lecture】 “Japan’s Foreign Policy” by the North American Affairs
Bureau, MOFA

【Keynote Lecture: Understanding on Japan】 Meiji University

December 17 (Thu)~December 20 (Sun) Local Program

*** Nagano**

【School Exchange】 Matsumoto University

【Courtesy Call】 Nagano Prefectural Government

【History and Culture】 Marukome Miso

【Environment】 Hakuba Ski Jumping Stadium

【Local Industry】 Daio Wasabi farm

【Homestay】 Meeting Hostfamilies, Farewell Party

【Workshop】

*** Ishikawa**

【School Exchange】 Iwate Prefectural University

【Courtesy Call】 Kuji City

【Local Industry and experience】 Kohaku Magatama Making

【Homestay】 Meeting Hostfamilies, Farewell Party

【Workshop】

December 21 (Mon) Move to Tokyo

【Reporting Session】

December 22 (Wed) 【History and Culture】 Meiji Shrine, Harajuku

Departure from Narita International Airport

5. Program Photos



12/17 【History and Culture】 Marukome Miso (Nagano City)



12/17 【Courtesy Call】 Nagano Prefectural Government (Nagano City)



12/18 【School Exchange】 Matsumoto University (Matsumoto City)



12/19 【Homestay】 (Hakuba Village)



12/20 【Environment】 Hakuba Ski Jumping Stadium (Hakuba Village)



12/20 【Local Industry】 Daio Wasabi farm (Hakuba Village)

	
12/17 【School Exchange】 Iwate Prefectural University (Takizawa City)	12/18 【Courtesy Call】 Kuji City
	
12/18 【Local Industry and experience】 Kohaku Magatama Making (Kuji City)	12/19 【Homestay】 (Kuji City)
	
12/20 【Homestay Farewell Party】 (Kuji City)	12/21 【Reporting Session】 (Tokyo)

6. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A. University Student

What impresses me the most is Japan's ability to preserve cultural sites, while still moving forward in the fields of business and technology. I also very much enjoyed all the food I had, as it was infinitely more delicious than the food in the United States, and I believe it to be healthier than anything I have had in California. I also was amazed by the scenery in Japan, as it seamlessly blends with everyday Japanese life.

◆ **U.S.A. University Student**

What impressed me most was the efficiency and organization of Japan's infrastructure and public services, in particular, the Shinkansen. Navigating Tokyo's Yamanote Line and riding the Shinkansen showed me how well technological and cultural factors can influence life in dense population centers.

◆ **U.S.A. University Student**

I was most impressed some of the contrast differences between Japanese and American culture. For example, there is police presence everywhere in America, but here in Japan it was seldom that authority was present. However crime rates are extremely low here. Also there are few trash cans, yet Japan is so clean. It seems our solutions to problems may add to the cause. I would also share of the beauty I experienced here – both in the landscapes and the people.

◆ **U.S.A. University Student**

I'd like to share how clean and safe it is in Japan. Even the public restrooms have good cleanliness compared to the United States. Most of the places we visited had the bidet for toilets. It's very nice when it's cold outside to sit on a warm seat. Also, wearing a mask everywhere is acceptable here where in the United States if you wear one it makes you look suspicious or like you're about to do something bad. Here it's to not spread germs and not get sick and it's widely accepted as a sort of common courtesy. What impressed me the most from this trip was switch from city to rural that we experienced on the days of the homestay. The early days of the trip we went to Tokyo and Akihabara and there were big electronic billboards and buildings very close together. Then we went to the Kuji City home stay where there was snow and farmland and a lot of mountainous area. To be able to see these two sides of Japan was really nice and I'd like to see many more.

◆ **U.S.A. University Student**




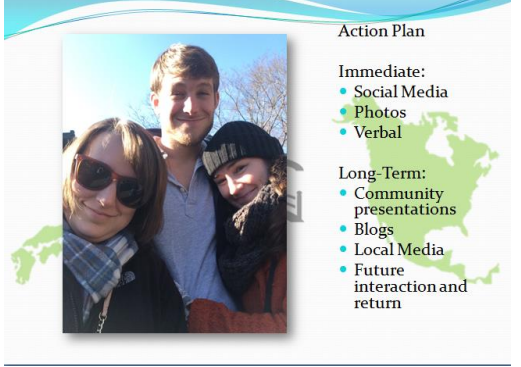


I was impressed by Japan's new policies created after The 2nd World War. I was surprised that Japan does not have a military but a self-defense force. Next, I was impressed by the architecture of the cities we visited. The structures are compacted and tall and meant to survive earthquakes. I was also impressed by the technologies such as the bullet train and the toilets. The homestay really gave me an eye-opening view to the cultural side of Japan. Our homestay family was extremely welcoming and generous. I felt very at home although we had just met and there was a slight language barrier. They showed us where they catch their fish, jinja, and the Buddhist temple where their parents were buried. It was interesting seeing these traditions first hand. All of these things that I've seen and experienced I plan to share once I return home. I

believe the knowledge I've gained is useful and will help strengthen the tie between the US and Japan.

◆ **U.S.A. University Student**

What impressed me the most was how the culture strives to achieve community goals. Japan has a strong sense of community and an openness to share that community with others. I was expecting the culture to be more closed and personal, but it is welcoming. Because of things like omotenashi and community awareness I felt that this trip has changes my outlook. I hope to emulate these cultural tenets when I go home.

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

	
Findings in Japan	Action Plan
	
Findings in Japan	Action Plan
	
Findings in Japan	Action Plan