



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Visiting U.S. Program for Inouye Program (Sophia University) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was conducted with the main objective of having Sophia University students travel to the U.S. to deepen their understanding of American society, culture, and history through exchanges with their peers, strengthen ties in U.S.-Japan relations, and actively disseminate the attractions of Japan. This program was conducted in cooperation with the U.S.-Japan Council.

【Participants】 Total: 10 students and faculty members from Sophia University

【Location】 Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Program Schedule

■ Online Pre-study Program :

Feb. 26 (Mon) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Program objective & mission, itinerary, travel precautions, COVID-19 countermeasures, etc.

■ Visit U.S. Program:

Mar. 16 (Sat) Departure from Narita International Airport, arrival at Los Angeles International Airport (Los Angeles, California)

 【Orientation】

 【School Exchange】 Loyola Marymount University

Mar. 17 (Sun) 【Observation】 Japanese American National Museum

 【Observation】 Go For Broke National Education Center

Mar. 18 (Mon) 【Observation】 Japan Foundation Los Angeles

 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. SONE Kenko, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles

Mar. 19 (Tue) 【Cultural Experience】 Workshop by FandangObon* at Loyola Marymount University

*FandangObon is a project that brings together the Japanese, Mexican, and African American communities into one circle to share participatory music and dance traditions in order to celebrate mother earth.

 【Observation】 Japan House Los Angeles

 【School Exchange】 Presentation at Loyola Marymount University

Mar. 20 (Wed) 【School Exchange】 Loyola Marymount University

Mar. 21 (Thu) 【 Workshop 】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program learnings and discoveries, preparation of action plans)
 【 Reporting Session 】 Presentation of program findings and action plans
 【 Farewell Party 】 Faculty of Loyola Marymount University

Mar. 22 (Fri) Departure from Los Angeles International Airport (Los Angeles, California)

Mar. 23 (Sat) Arrival at Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos



March 16【School Exchange】Loyola Marymount University



March 17 【Observation】 Japanese American National Museum



March 18 【Observation】 Japan Foundation Los Angeles



March 18 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. SONE Kenko, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles



March 19 【Cultural Experience】 Workshop by FandangObon* at Loyola Marymount University



March 19 【School Exchange】 Presentation at Loyola Marymount University

 March 21 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session	 March 21 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of action plans
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3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

It was great to hear about Japanese language education overseas and the JET Programme (a program sending American citizens to other countries, in this case to Japan) at Japan Foundation Los Angeles. I was able to learn that there are many organizations that promote Japan in the U.S. by distributing textbooks for free, selling Japanese goods, and holding exhibitions. It was also useful to learn about Japan House.

◆ Undergraduate Student

The best part was that I was able to learn things that I could not have learned just by studying in Japan. For example, I was able to learn about the thoughts of Japanese Americans actually living in California, politics from an American perspective, and how things are at universities in the U.S.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Exchange School Faculty

In a short period of time, students were able to deepen their relationship with each other, first during the program in Japan and soon after at our university in Los Angeles. It was also a great opportunity for the participants to learn about the connections between Japanese Americans and African Americans. I am sure that our students will continue exchanges in the future, and I hope that Japanese students will also visit our university to further deepen their learnings.

◆ Exchange School Faculty

Our students have learned much about Japanese culture, regional features and Yuru-chara, and etiquette. Even more so, our students continued to say, "Itadakimasu," before eating even after the exchange program. One of our students is interested in studying at Sophia University's graduate school program and might want to live in Japan. We will continue to educate our students about Japanese and Japanese American history.

◆ Exchange School Student

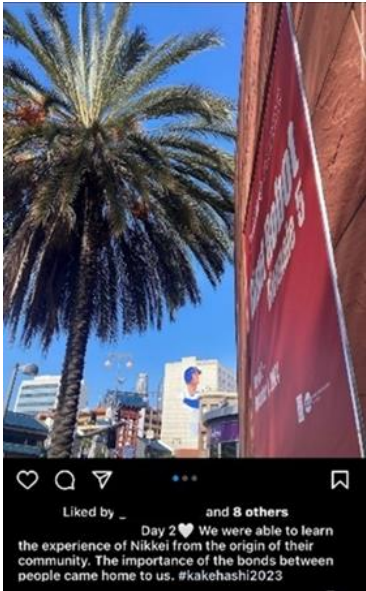
I enjoyed this international exchange with the students from Sophia University. The time we spent with the Sophia University students was meaningful because we got to experience what life was

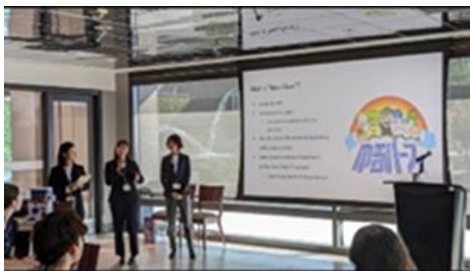
like for them in Japan and later show them around our school and immerse them in our lives at Loyola Marymount University as well. I hope that more people have the opportunity to engage in a cultural international exchange so that we can continue building bridges with students from around the world.

◆ Receiving Party

Participants from Sophia University asked us many astute questions and demonstrated a fresh and enthusiastic desire to learn more about U.S.-Japan relations and our work. The program is an invaluable method of fostering future leaders in U.S.-Japan relations and diplomacy, and it helps students develop wider perspectives of the world. Many were interested in knowing more about our organization and some were even interested in potentially working with us in the future. This was a great success and a joyous experience for all of us involved.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt), Articles, etc.

	
March 16, 2024 (Instagram) Our first day in California: Thank you for the warm welcome, nice seeing you guys again.	March 17, 2024 (Instagram) Day 2: We were able to learn the experience of Nikkei from the origin of their community. The importance of the bonds between people came home to us.

 Follow The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles 国際交流基金ロサンゼルス Liked by and others Day 3 🇯🇵 We were able to visit Japan Foundation Los Angeles and Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles. It was a day that we felt the passions and efforts being made to spread "Japan" in many ways. Thank you so much for welcoming us! #kakehashi2023 #kakehashi2024 #kakehashiproject #tomodachiinouye #lmu #loyolamarymountuniversity #sophia #sophiauniversity #上智大学 #国際交流 5 days ago	 Liked by Day4! 🇯🇵 We visited Japan JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. We learned about the events and how JAPAN HOUSE has been successful. At LMU, we participated in fandango and presented about Japanese culture (Yuru-chara, bento, origami). It was great seeing Japanese culture bringing people together! Thank you to everyone who joined the event!! Hope to see you on Thursday!! #kakehashi2023 #kakehashi2024 #kakehashiproject #tomodachiinouye #lmu #loyolamarymountuniversity #sophia #sophiauniversity #上智大学 #国際交流
March 18, 2024 (Instagram) Day 3: We were able to visit Japan Foundation Los Angeles and Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles. It was a day that we felt the passions and efforts being made to spread "Japan" in many ways. Thank you so much for welcoming us!	March 19, 2024 (Instagram) Day 4: We visited JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. We learned about the events and how JAPAN HOUSE has been successful. At the university, we participated in fandango and presented about Japanese culture (Yuru-chara, bento, origami). It was great seeing Japanese culture bringing people together! Thank you to everyone who joined the event. Hope to see you on Thursday!!

6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

	REDISCOVERY OF JAPAN
【What we Learned】 We realized that the United States is a multi-ethnic and diverse country and that organizations related to Japan are engaged in various activities to promote Japanese culture and understanding. We also realized that many	【What we Learned】 We learned about the history of Nikkei, the meaning of learning about history, and the fact that there are people who are not Japanese that are still trying to promote Japanese culture. Furthermore, we were able to rediscover Japan

people in the U.S. are interested in Japan. 【Action Plan】 By the end of June, we will hold an event at the Center for Global Education and Discovery for Japanese and international students on campus to watch and discuss anime and movies together to introduce the attractions of Japan that are not yet well known.	through exchanges with friends around the same age. 【Action Plan】 To share what we have learned from the KAKEHASHI Project, we will host an exhibition event on Japanese American history for Sophia University students during spring semester on campus.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)