



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Invitation Program for University Students the 1st Slot (Northwestern University) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】This program was primarily held to provide an opportunity for students from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, to deepen their knowledge of Japan's politics, economy, society, culture, history, and diplomatic policies, establish mutual friendships with youths in Japan, and strengthen their network of connections through a homestay experience, school exchange, observations, etc. Another objective was to have these students widely disseminate Japan's attractions.

【Participants】 Total: 8 university students and a school personnel from Chicago, Illinois, USA

【Locations】 Tokyo, Hokkaido

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Dec. 7 (Thu) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warnings, COVID-19 precautions, etc.
Set Period Prior to Arrival 【Video Viewing】 Lecture "Japan and the United Nations", "Lecture on Japan" (selected from Web Japan)

■ Inbound Program

Dec. 12 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport
Dec. 13 (Wed) 【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum & Kiyosumi Gardens
 【Observation】 Shibuya Scramble Crossing
 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu & Harajuku (Japan's pop culture)
 【Observation】 Tokyo Tower
Dec. 14 (Thu) 【Observation】 National Diet Building
 【Observation】 Imperial Palace & Marunouchi
 Travel from Tokyo to Hokkaido
 【Observation】 Mt. Hakodate Ropeway
Dec. 15 (Fri) 【Observation】 Motomachi (Old Public Hall of Hakodate Ward) & Goryokaku
 Park (Hakodate Magistrate's Office)
 【School Exchange】 Hokkaido University of Education Hakodate Campus
 【Experience】 Kodomo Shokudo Volunteer
 【Meeting with the Host Families】

Dec. 16 (Sat)	【Homestay】
Dec. 17 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 【Cultural Experience】 Making miniature earthenware (Ofune Site & Hakodate Jomon Culture Center)
Dec. 18 (Mon)	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans) Travel back to Tokyo
Dec. 19 (Tue)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans 【Observation】 TEPIA Advanced Technology Gallery Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
December 13 【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum & Kiyosumi Gardens	December 13 【Observation】 Shibuya Scramble Crossing
	
December 13 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu & Harajuku	December 13 【Observation】 Tokyo Tower



December 14 【 Observation 】 National Diet Building



December 14 【Observation】 Imperial Palace & Marunouchi



December 14 【 Observation 】 Mt. Hakodate Ropeway



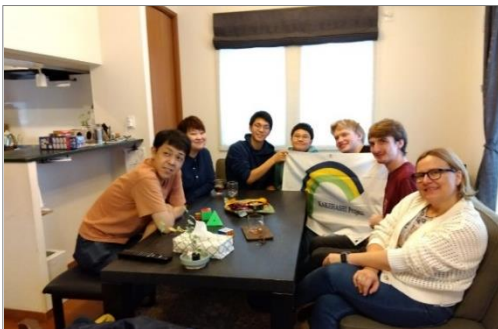
December 15 【Observation】 Motomachi (Old Public Hall of Hakodate Ward) & Goryokaku Park (Hakodate Magistrate's Office)



December 15 【School Exchange】 Hokkaido University of Education Hakodate Campus



December 15 【Experience】 Kodomo Shokudo Volunteer



December 16 【Homestay】



December 17 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】

	
December 17 【Cultural Experience】 Making miniature earthenware (Ofune Site & Hakodate Jomon Culture Center)	December 18 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session
	
December 19 【Reporting Session】	December 19 【Observation】 TEPIA Advanced Technology Gallery

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ University Student

The university exchange, the children's cafeteria, and the homestay were the most impressive parts of the KAKEHASHI program. It gave us a look into the everyday lives of Japanese people, which I have only heard about in lessons in Japanese classes in school. I felt like a resident and not just a tourist coming to visit and see the most famous sights. Though they were beautiful, participating in daily activities such as volunteering at a children's cafeteria had a large impact on me. Children are not necessarily "sympathetic listeners" so it was difficult to communicate with them, but it was also rewarding. I also learned about important social issues like poverty (especially child poverty) in Japan and the problems that university students face in terms of social life.

◆ University Student

My favorite parts of the program were the school exchange and the homestay. I most enjoyed learning about the traditions, customs, and daily life of people my age at the university and my host family. I personally appreciate cultural customs and expectations in Japanese society more than American society. There is an overall level of respect for privacy, kindness, and cleanliness that is not common in the US. I really love some of these small customs—not speaking on the phone on the train, not eating food while walking on the street—that promote respect and care

towards other people.

◆ University Student

I really enjoyed visiting the National Diet Building. I was particularly impressed by the thoughts of unity that went into its design. Every prefecture contributed a plant to the garden and many prefectures contributed materials to make the building, which is very different from the competitive nature of the US.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Faculty Member at the Exchange Destination

I sensed that the program participants were interested in and held an affinity with Japan. It also seemed that our students were impressed with the positive attitudes of the participants who gave their best in trying to speak in Japanese.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

 Hey! I'm still around, and in Tokyo, no less. Today marked the first real day of our trip run by JICE as part of the Kakehashi Project. Last night, we got in late and decided to fight the jetlag and wander. But today, we had a packed schedule full of incredible visits. We started with the Fukugawa Edo Museum—we did our best to follow along with the tour guide's explanations, and he was very patient with our work-in-progress Japanese, haha. Through that and exploring the replicated town, we learned a ton. From there, we went to Kiyosumi garden, an absolutely stunning location. We took the rock path through, and met some very	 #kakehashiproject #kakehashi2023 @jice_exchange Tokyo Tower! the views here were stunning and we could even see Mt. Fuji from the tower. The sun was setting and it felt like a movie scene—so beautiful!
December 13, 2023 (Instagram) Today marked the first real day of our trip run by JICE as part of the KAKEHASHI Project. We had a packed schedule full of incredible visits. We started with the Fukagawa Edo Museum—we did our best to follow along with the tour guide's explanations, and he was very patient with our work-in-progress Japanese. Through that and exploring the replicated town, we learned a ton. ...	December 13, 2023 (Instagram etc.) Tokyo Tower! The views here were stunning and we could even see Mt. Fuji from the tower. The sun was setting and it felt like a movie scene—so beautiful!

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

Locations: Tokyo, Hokkaido (presentations by all two groups)

	
<u>【What we Learned】</u> • Differences in daily life between US & Japan • Historical revival • Environmental conservation efforts (water, resources, garbage sorting) • Preparation for winter <u>【Application of Insights】</u> • I plan to minor in Japanese studies and to continue learning the Japanese language. • I plan to make a scrapbook to share my experience with others. • Next year, I hope to study abroad in either Tokyo or Kyoto. • Strengthening of Japan-American political ties <u>【Action Plan】</u> In the winter quarter, we will give a presentation about KAKEHASHI and the summer study at Waseda within a Japan study abroad info session held by the Global Learning Office. It will be intended for students interested in or going to study abroad in Japan, to make their transition to life in Japan less daunting. We will contact Global Learning to request a time to arrange a schedule. <u>Other action plans:</u> • Kodomo Shokudo Project • Presentation about KAKEHASHI to an organization of university dorm students • Introduction to Japanese history	<u>【What we Learned】</u> • Politeness and respect • Daily life and university life in Japan • Differences between urban and suburban communities • Public transportation and consideration for the environment (including preservation of historical sites) • Awareness of social issues (children's cafeterias) • Japanese historical foreign relations, governmental processes and political structure, etc. <u>【Application of Insights】</u> • Motivation to study abroad in Japan and to continue studying the Japanese language • Making future plans (to visit or live in Japan, find a career in Japan, etc.) • Practicing Japanese cultural habits and customs even after leaving Japan • Active interaction with other cultures and people <u>【Action Plan】</u> During spring break, we will teach about the Jomon period and the Jomon style of pottery to a church youth group. <u>Other action plans:</u> • Writing an article about KAKEHASHI participants and sharing it via websites, print,

	and social media • Sharing information at the Japan Club, etc. • Promoting events and activities (such as calligraphy and onigiri making)
--	---

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)