

HUSA (Hiroshima University Study Abroad) Program Report

/Date		(YYYY /MM/ DD)
/ Name		/ Student ID
School/Graduate School at HU	IGS / School/Graduate School 2	(Year) (When Started)
Name of Program	HUSA USAC UMAP	
Host University	University of /Country USA Minnesota	
School/Graduate School at Host	CLA	
Status at Host University	Exchange Student (ex. Exchange Student, Special Auditing Student)	
Period of Program	2023 8 26 2024 5 18 (YYYY /MM/ DD)	

/ Preparation for the Program	
Purpose of Study / Reason of Host Choice	I am interested in applying for PhD or master program in USA after graduating from Hiroshima University, so I wanted to experience the academic life there and get some research opportunities.
Commencement of Preparation for Application	I prepared for like one or two months to re-take the TOEFL test and studying plans
Preparation Completed Prior to Study Abroad	Housing and health insurance.

2 / Visa and Flight Information	
Visa	/ Visa Type F1
	/ Location of Visa Application Osaka
	/ Required Documents Passport, financial documents, academic records
	/ Duration of Visa Application Process one month
Other Required Procedures	It's all noted on the website of immigration
/ Date of Departure	2023 8 26 (YYYY /MM/ DD)
/ Route (Outward)	Tokyo-Minneapolis
	/Yes /Univ. Staff /Others

Pick-up Service	/No		
Orientation, Period, Contents	/Yes	(If Yes)	/Period <u>1 hour</u> / Indicate Content Covered during Orientation
	/No		
/ Date of Return	2024	9	2 (YYYY/MM/DD)
/ Route (Return)	Minneapolis-Tokyo-China-Hiroshima		

3 / Expenses

/ Expenses	Total Amount		/yen
	Details	/ Flight Ticket (Round Trip)	321234
/ Visa Application Charge		39851	/yen
/ Immunization Charge		4000	/yen
/ Travel Insurance		50000	/yen
/ Learning Material (Extra Tuition Fee)		0	/yen
/ Accommodation Fee		1024740	/yen
/ Utility Cost		25618	/yen
/ Meal Cost		1264861	/yen
/ Internet, Phone		38427	/yen
/ Transportation (Accommodation ~ Univ, Campus)		0	/yen
/ Social Expenses		300000	/yen
/ Others			/yen

4 / Courses and Study

/ Brief Description of Courses (Curriculum, Program, Registered Courses, Study Hours, Course Style)	<p>Courses: Cultural Anthropology, Pathway to civilizations, Anthropologies of death, Medical Anthropology, Topics in Chinese Literature 001 and 002, Digital Anthropology, Non-Western People in Movies, Directed Study (Independent Research)</p> <p>Study hours: 6 hours per course per week in class and 10 hours per course per week for assignments or readings at home.</p> <p>Course style: in-person</p>
/ Credit Transfer from Host to Home University	/Yes /No

Advice for Class and Study (Before and During Study Abroad)	Improving the ability for taking notes during the English-taught courses.
Challenges Faced in Classes Different from Japan (Teaching Style, Relationship with Professors/Lecturers)	More works to do after course. It's much more exhausting for finishing the assignments and exams.

5 / Lifestyle	
/ Accommodation	
Type of Accommodation	/ University Dormitory / Apartment / Others
Size of the Room	/approximately 27 Roommate(s) ? /Yes 3 /People /No
Facilities in Accommodation	/ Electricity / Gas / Water / Hot Water / Shower / Bathtub / Flushable Toilet / Heating / Cooling / Kitchen / Dining Room / Land-Line Phone / Internet / Others washing machine, microwave, washing-dryer, TV and public area for exercise or entertainment
Accommodation Fee	/ per month (/ local currency) / approximately 103612 /yen
Accommodation Advice	If you want a more connected social life with exchange students, or local students, it's better to live in the dorm. However, if you more enjoy with the privacy and better facilities in accomadation, you can choose to live in an apartment.
/ Medical Care	
Insurance (Who Designated)	/ Hiroshima University / Host University / Others
Insurance Coverage	/ Coverage / Death 0 /yen, 1 / per day of Hospitalization 0 /yen / Others
Immunization Requirement	/Yes /Acquired Immunizations I don't remember the name, but you can get the shot after arrive in your host school / Location of Immunization / No

Difference in Medical Service (Compared to Japan)	Not really experienced
Healthcare and Hygiene	Just be yourself? Try to utilize the insurance more since I didn't use it at all...
3 / Dangerous Situations and Locations Encountered, Possible Advice for Risk Management	
Don't go out far from the city when it's dark. Don't bring too much cash out.	
4 / Food – Related Advice	
Cook by yourself is the best way to save money and most delicious way to have a health life!	
5 / Advice on Local Climate and Clothing	
Minnesota is so cold, so you can bring a real thick and war mcoat there.	
6 / Available Resources (Library, Cafeteria, Campus Wi-Fi, etc.)	
Library, Cafes, Dining, Wifi, Studying areas, free transportations	
7 / Communication with Local Students and People (Available Opportunities?)	
So many opportunities during or after the class.	
8 / Care and Attention regarding Customs and Manners	
Be more cascual and more confident to speak and communicate with professors and local students	
9 / What Should You Bring? What Should You NOT Bring?	
Bring the daily facilities or tools and clothes from Japan, since the quality and price are terrible in USA.	
10 / Other Useful Information and Advice about Life Abroad	

Use the Office Hour with Professors! It's a good way to let them know you and build a great connection with them.

6 / Your Career After Study Abroad	
Expected Graduation Month and Year	2026 / year 3 / month / Expected Month and Year before Studying Abroad / year / month
Reason for Extension of Graduation Month and Year?	/ Participation in HUSA during 4th Year / Amount of Credits / In order to graduate as a "new" graduate / Others / Specific reason:
Current Situation, Plan and Career	Applying for graduate school in both USA and Japan
Pre-arrangement by yourself for your future job hunting, acquisition of credits of required courses and practicum, etc.	

7 / Useful Books and Website for Study and Life Abroad		
Name of Book or Website	URL Details (Publisher, URL etc.)	Comments
I didn't really use...		

8 / Message for Outgoing Students who Desire to Study Abroad
Just enjoy it! To experience a different life!

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1,200

/ Feedback (English about 600 words)

/ Please give your feedback including the following points:

①

/ Please describe and evaluate your study abroad experience briefly.

②

/ What was the most impressive experience in your study abroad experience?

③

/ What is your achievement through the study abroad experience?

④

/ How do you want to make use

study abroad experience in the future including your career?

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Later, David became like family to me in a foreign land. He signed an independent study agreement with me, giving me one-on-one guidance each week and gradually introducing me to what real academic work looks like. During our first independent study meeting, I rambled on, full of overconfidence, and David immediately hit me with a reality check, making me realize my arrogance. Later, when I wasn't doing well enough, he quickly noticed my self-doubt and internal struggle, offering his cold jokes to encourage me. He acknowledged my efforts and would thank me in Chinese or Japanese, writing "xiexie" or "arigado" in short, seemingly emotionless emails. He's a very direct person, so much so that after we became familiar, his emails became short and to the point, often just one or two sentences with a period or a question mark. Yet, it was this terse, seemingly stern man who taught me how to sift through academic literature, how to write a good, proper paper, how to conduct interviews as an anthropologist, and how to analyze my research.

The memories created during that limited time were more than just about the professor. By chance, I found myself overwhelmed by loneliness in the U.S. and craved some spiritual comfort. I remembered a Chinese music club I had joined but never participated in. I asked if I could borrow a guzheng to practice, and by sheer luck, I ended up performing in the school's Spring Festival Gala. I picked up the guzheng again after not touching it for six or seven years, ever since I took my exams. Step by step, I got to know my fellow club members through rehearsals. We ate delicious food, chatted, met each other's friends, acted a little silly together, took Polaroids, and sat on the soft sofas in the game room of our apartments, talking about studies, internships, and gossip.

In Japan, because of the language barrier and the lack of a Chinese music club, I rarely felt a sense of belonging to any group. But in the U.S., every rehearsal and performance with the club felt incredibly precious. This was because of the adorable friends in the club, the fragments of youth we shared.

In sum, it really feels like there's quite a big difference between undergraduate studies in the two countries. In Japan, it feels like the whole society and the school community are like water at just the right temperature. You feel cared for by the environment—wherever you go, the staff will show concern for your life, and your classmates will bring you snacks and compliment you, saying you're "kawaii" tomorrow, and the day after. However, when it comes to academic thinking, I feel that it doesn't have the same level of freedom as the U.S. Or maybe it's *too* free, to the point where it feels a bit scattered. You can't quite tell if you're making progress or if you're just learning something. The course structure in Japan doesn't have the same detailed setup as in the U.S., where you can clearly see every step, know if you're earning points, learning something, and testing yourself at every turn.

In the U.S., academically and intellectually, it's extremely enriching. The professors, study materials, course design, and the learning atmosphere among classmates immerse you deeply in academics. But American society feels more like a bowl of polarized water. When people come together, it feels lively and exciting, but once the gathering ends, everyone goes back to their own space, and the connection disappears.

So, sometimes, in those countless nights without social interaction, I start to miss my mom's soups and home-cooked meals. I feel lonely, as if I'm the only person in the world. I often wonder how some of my seemingly well-adjusted friends make it through those solitary nights.



/ This report and its contents will be uploaded on website of the HUSA and Hiroshima University, browsed at the office and used for information regarding study abroad at Hiroshima University in order to provide information to students who desire to study abroad. (Student name and student number are not published). If the report and its contents are included inadequate contents to be published, it would be deleted or amended it by International Exchange Group.