



Tips on Studying Abroad at Tokyo Tech in Japan

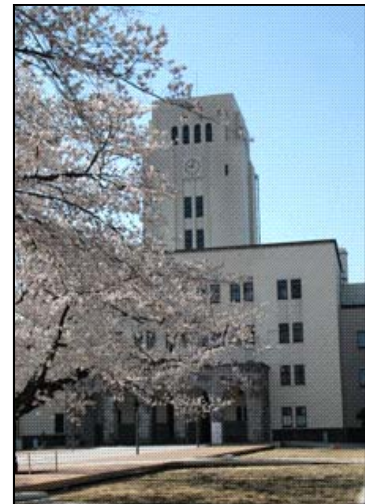
Want to know what it's like to study abroad? Want to know what your peers think? Your fellow Georgia Tech students who have previously gone on this exchange program gave their opinions so that future participants have the inside scoop on their host institution and host country.

Classes

- Classes were generally very small- my lab had 8 people and normal lectures had about 15 students
- The research is very free spirited and you learn at your own pace. There was never any homework but there is an important final at the end of each class
- I took a majority of classes taught in Japanese
- One can spend anywhere from three hours to twenty hours studying at Tokyo Tech. Some classes especially the language classes require more time studying.
- It is somewhat hard to find classes that one would need to fulfill the requirements at Georgia Tech unless you are certain majors. It would probably be best to take your electives at Tokyo Tech.
- There is an opportunity to do research at Tokyo Tech as well. You can either be preselected before you arrive in Tokyo to work with a certain professor or you can find a professor to work with once you get there. It is an easy process to find a professor and there are many different topics to choose from at Tokyo Tech. You spend about 15 to 20 hours a week on research. For research you utilize journals (mostly to read about similar experimentation), textbooks (background information explaining various techniques), graduate assistance (understanding computer programs or operating testing equipment), professor's guidance (pointing me in the right direction), and lab work (testing and simulations).

Preparation & Getting Started

- Getting classes pre-approved was a bit difficult because we were not sure of the content of the classes.
- Registering was a bit confusing and I had to end up changing out some classes at the last minute, but it all worked out well.
- I chose this program primarily because it gave me an opportunity to do research in engineering.



Housing

- I lived in a house that was 50 minutes from campus by train
- The rent was about \$100/per month (I lived with other girls and we split the rent)
- The house had great kitchen facilities!
- The dorms are clean and comfortable. However they are quite far from campus. About a 20 min walk to the train station and a 40 min train ride to campus. It is quite annoying but understandable since land near campus is very expensive. I would rather them have the dorms where they are for the current price(\$150/month) then have the price increase to what housing near campus costs (\$900/month).

Cultural Differences

- It was difficult at first getting acclimated to the culture.
- At points I was stereotyped, but people were generally polite.
- There was wonderful customer service!



*These comments do not reflect the views of GT's Office of International Education. They are based on students' individual opinions and, therefore, are not necessarily representative of all student experiences.





Lifestyle

- It was extremely easy to meet international students, but in my experience, Japanese students were more difficult to befriend.
- There are not as many campus activities and organizations as there are at Tech, but there are a number of sports teams to get involved in.
- It is easy to get involved at Tokyo Tech which is probably the best way to make Japanese friends. That is the best advice I have for you in terms for meeting Japanese people. You also meet a lot of Japanese people in your classes and labs.
- This a great opportunity to become a part of Japanese society- as opposed to just visiting and "seeing the sights". The laboratory work enables students to be a part of a "Japanese working environment" with peers, the classes further educational development, there are endless opportunities to learn the language, and so on...The list could go on forever because this program is amazing- as a growth experience more than as an educational/research opportunity.

Food

- Vegetables and fruit can be quite expensive.
- I spent about \$70 per week on food.
- It takes a while to get accustomed to the food.
- Eating out and preparing the food yourself will end up to cost about the same- so it is really whatever you prefer.

Communication

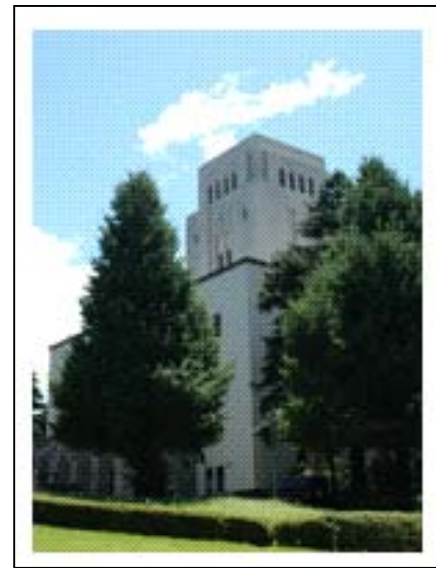
- I used SKYPE the most to keep in contact.
- When it comes to internet availability, it is easily accessible in the dorms and in lab, but it is fire-walled and highly protected.
- Facebook and e-mail are always good options too!

Transportation & Travel

- I took the train most everywhere I went- easy and reliable.
- Buy a train pass- very useful.
- Must see spots: Mt. Fuji and Kyoto

Packing

- Be sure to bring an umbrella and rain boots (may be easier to buy once you are already there).
- Bring a warm coat- it sometimes gets chilly!
- Leave kitchen appliances and house wear at home! It is provided where you will stay.



Finances

- I spent roughly \$15,000 in all (for an academic year).
- My budget was about \$70 per week for food, and \$20 for traveling other than train.
- Definitely get a PASMO for your computer pass- it makes everything much easier.

Participant Profiles

Please see information of contributing students below. If a blog or website is listed, feel free to take a look! Also, if an e-mail address is listed, you may contact that student if you have any questions about their study abroad experience.

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