TOKYO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

This second edition of “TMU times” features TMU Japanese Summer Program and its very unique scholarship program.

TMU times News Letter

2018 Vol.2

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We give you a brief description of the above two programs and interviews of international students.

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Japan has cultural diversity. It can be seen in many aspects from traditional culture kabuki play, koto and shamisen music to subculture anime.
In fact, there is more than that. You will be fascinated by colorful seasons, delicious food, hospitality of people, etc.
There is something good about Japan you will never know until you visit it.
We would like you to feel it by staying here.

Japanese Summer Program, July 10–28, 2018

TMU offers students from universities on student exchange agreements a three / four week intensive Japanese-language and culture program twice a year.
This program has three main purposes, Development of Japanese Language Proficiency, Understanding of Japanese Culture and Society and Friendship Exchange with TMU students. It consists of Japanese Studies, Field Trips and Extracurricular Activities for understanding Japanese culture and society, attending Japanese language classes and building up friendship with TMU current students and people from the local community.
Since the Program covered 51 hours of language classwork including project works and many field works, we heard the feedback from the participant students that they could not only learn the language but also understand Japanese culture and society.
This Program will be held again this winter. For detail, please visit the following site.
http://www.ic.tmu.ac.jp/study_abroad/short_program.html

The following photos were taken during the field work as part of the summer program.
We welcomed 32 students from 13 partner institutions in 5 countries and regions to our summer program.

Puppet Theater

Students manipulate puppets to make a stage art.

Calligraphy

Students write Chinese and Japanese characters on the white paper struggling with the brush soaked in India ink.

Traditional Musical

At "SANKYOKUKAI"–TMU traditional musical instruments club, international students learn how to play the Japanese traditional musical instruments, shamisen (three stringed) and koto (oblong-shaped stringed instrument.)

Kabuki

International students try on Kabuki make-up.

Yukata

International students dressed in yukata! They put on yukata with a help from local volunteers.

International students dressed in yukata take a pause for a photo session.

Manga Park

International students make themselves instant artists to create an illustrative work at the Manga Park.

Completion ceremony of program

Program participants are awarded with a certificate of program completion.

Voice from International Students

Name : Xu, Chen Country : Taiwan

Q1. Why did you apply for the Japanese Summer Program of TMU?

For the past few years, I always stayed in my comfort zone, but I wanted to challenge myself and to experience different kinds of lifestyle. I wanted to broaden my horizon and to see what are my abilities and where are my limits. Fortunately, this summer, I had the chance to try these things by taking part in the TMU summer program. As a student with ambition, I wanted to be able to stay positive and aggressive and overcome any potential frustration. I was also determined to try my best to get used to a different lifestyle and truly learn the culture here. Meanwhile, I could bring up my experiences, culture, and values to interact with international students here.

Q2. What were your impressions on the Japanese Summer Program in TMU?

In the beginning, it took me a lot of work to study Japanese and I couldn't get used to the lifestyle here. However, professors in the university were so kind and patient that I could gradually be used to not only the university life but also the everyday life here. In the short-term program, you can really devote yourself to the life here and enjoy challenges every day in a comfortable and yet competitive atmosphere.

Q3. Can you give some advice to international students who are looking to participate in Japanese Summer Program at TMU?

First, in my opinion, you need to prepare yourself not only for the academic work but also for your mental status. Academically, it's necessary for you to understand what your professors are saying and to interact with them. So it may be suitable for you to come to TMU when your Japanese is at the JLPT-N3 level. Second, you are here to learn, not for fun and entertainment only. Although entertainment and playing are important, the original reason to be here is learning. In conclusion, you need to adjust your mind,to keep it open and to be willing to accept different cultures, staying confident and positive.

Mr. Chen focuses all his attention on his calligraphy.

Tokyo Human Resources Fund for City Diplomacy Scholarship Program

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) established the "Tokyo Human Resources Fund for City Diplomacy (THRF)" in 2015 in order to implement programs for the next ten years for fostering excellent human resources who will contribute to the promotion of intercity cooperation in the future.
One of the THRF programs is the THRF scholarship program, under which TMU accepts excellent international students from Asian Countries and Sister Cities of Tokyo. TMG and TMU collaborate to provide financial support including stipend, tuition exemption, and other benefits for international students who pass special selective examinations so that they can fully commit themselves to study and research.
The scholarship students are expected not only to complete their degree programs but also to contribute to intercity cooperation between Tokyo and designated cities.
For further information, please refer to the link. http://www.thrf.ic.tmu.ac.jp/en/

The Annual Meeting is held once a year, where current and alumni students on the THRF scholarship program get together.

Voice from International Students

Voice 1

Name : Joval N. Martinez (October 2016 -)
Department : Biological Sciences
Country : Philippines

Q1. What would you want to achieve through your research studies in TMU?

Doing research studies at TMU would enable me to attain my aspiration of getting a PhD degree in Biology. Aside from getting my degree, it has been my long-term goal to continuously connect with TMU and universities in other countries and be able to establish great collaborative projects in my field of study. Through my research studies, I will do my best to share with students and other researchers in the Philippines what I have learned at TMU, which would help in our nation-building.

Q2. What is your main reason for choosing TMU as a place to do research studies?

TMU is an excellent place to do research because it has a wide-array of experts in many fields. This is the main reason why I chose TMU. In the Department of Biological Sciences, for instance, excellent facilities and scientists in various fields enable microbiologists like me to learn more skills and gain more knowledge in my research interest, which I will be able to use and apply in various ways and help my home country and Japan in the future.
Your life in Japan

Q3. How is your daily life in Tokyo so far?

My daily life in Tokyo has been so challenging yet enriching and full of hopes. I appreciate how Japanese people have been so helpful in many ways especially when we do not understand the language. I enjoy the different seasons, especially I enjoy the snow in wintertime and the cherry blossoms in springtime.

Q4. Have you experienced any cultural/-customary differences that have surprised you since you came to Tokyo?

Since I came to Tokyo, I have loved the culture and tradition of the people but what surprised me most is their love for the environment and discipline in many ways. People do not throw garbage anywhere, which is worth emulating.

Q5. What kind of roles would you like to play between Tokyo and your home country in the future?

I would like to serve as a professor and researcher in the Philippines and be able to continue to keep the linkages I have started here between Tokyo and my home country in terms of education and research, as part of my long-term plans. Given the chance to establish a project involving Tokyo and my home country, I will be very much willing to be involved and share my expertise, for a mutual goal of building the nation and supporting its people.

Voice 2

Name : Kanyapa Aramraks (October 2016 -)
Department : Architecture and Building Engineering
Country : Thailand

Q1. Please describe your research theme in simple terms.

My research focuses on understanding the management and maintenance of condominiums in Bangkok. Condominiums are increasing in the Bangkok area thanks to the mass rapid transit system development. Therefore some of them will reach the time for maintenance or repair. However, condominiums are also new for Bangkok, which has no experience and knowledge of management and maintenance. In Japan, there are many condominiums or apartments built in the 1960s and '70s, and those are maintained well and repaired periodically. I think that Japanese knowledge and experience of management and maintenance can be useful in BKK.

Q2. What would you want to achieve through your study at TMU?

I want to earn a doctoral degree within the prescribed time. Anyway, I think about not only the degree but also getting valuable study and research experiences in a different culture and its context. All these things will give me new learning and knowledge.

Q3. How is your daily life in Tokyo so far?

Since I came to Japan for living and studying, I have seen the other side of culture and society of Japan whose looks seem different from sightseeing. I have seen and experienced the beautiful nature in different seasons, and also the festivals in each season.

Q3. What kind of roles would you like to play between Tokyo and your home country in the future?

While I'm studying in Japan, I have the opportunity to visit many Japanese architecture works. After I graduate, I will return home to become a lecturer at university in Thailand. I would like to teach and share my knowledge about Japan and its architecture with Thai students. Many Thai students love Japan and want to come to Japan, I will organize workshops and architecture excursions in collaboration of Thailand and Japan to exchange knowledge and culture.

TMU and City, University of London signed a Memorandum of Understanding

TMU and City, University of London signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at starting and considering the cooperation in research and education between TMU's Faculty of Economics and Business Administration/Graduate School of Management and City's Cass Business School this July.

The signing ceremony was attended by Governor of Tokyo Yuriko Koike and Lord Mayor of the City of London Charles Bowman.

TMU also pays a frequent visit to partner universities every year. This spring, our Vice President for Internationalization Takaya Ohashi visited the University of Leicester in the U.K. to exchange opinions about the promotion of more active and multi-faceted exchanges.

Through such efforts as signing new agreements and deepening the collaboration with partner universities, TMU has increased the number of international exchange partners to 179 as of June 2018.

We will move forward with more active international exchanges. The list of international exchange partners can be found on the website.
https://www.tmu.ac.jp/english/international.html

TMU won one of the "2018 Nihon-Ryugaku AWARDS"

TMU won one of the "2018 Nihon-Ryugaku AWARDS"

The winners of the "Nihon-Ryugaku AWARDS" are selected by the vote of Japanese language teachers across Japan every August, starting from 2012. The teachers vote for Japanese schools that they want to recommend to prospective international students.

The Awards are given to top-listed universities and professional training colleges every year. TMU took the award in the category of national and public universities. We enroll international students, many of whom have studied at Japanese language schools. We are convinced that TMU is recognized by many international students as one of the universities of their preference. That is the reason why we were honored by the "2018 Nihon-Ryugaku AWARDS".

International Student Seminar at Kawagoe & Nagatoro in Saitama

The International Student Seminar took place in Saitama this summer.

The Seminar is organized by the International Affairs Office for our international students and Japanese students. It helps build up friendship among international students as well as among international and Japanese students, and deepen the understanding of Japanese unique culture, nature and history.

We had 10 Japanese participants and 19 international participants of different countries and regions (France, the Netherland, Brazil, U.S.A., Turkey, Finland, Viet Nam, Sweden, China, Taiwan, South Korea) and they have got to know each other through the two-day seminar.

The seminar kicked off with the self-introduction in English on the bus, and at the first destination, Kawagoe, the participants enjoyed the atmosphere of little Edo, trying Japanese traditional food, tempura and kamameshi (cocked rice with other ingredients in the pot) and soaking in a big public bathtub together. That was a fabulous Japan experience for international students.

On the second day, the rapid shooting on the Nagatoro River and the ropeway climbing to the top of Mt. Hodosan overwhelmed the participants. We are sure they were marveled at Japanese nature. Friendship events like this take place all year round at TMU. You can look forward to it!

Special Program for Overseas High School Students

TMU Minami-Osawa Campus welcomed 45 high school students from Asian countries (24 from Indonesia, 11 from India and 10 from Bangladesh) on the "Sakura Science Plan" organized by the JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) established as an arm of the Japanese Government this past April in an effort to foster science in Japan.

TMU offered the students the opportunity to experience our education and research through class lectures taught in English by our professors and visit to research facilities and others.

We saw the high school students actively participating in the program as we received frequent and enthusiastic questions and ideas from them during the program.

They also enjoyed exchanging freely ideas and impressions about student life and research work at TMU over lunch with our international students.

"Sakura Science Plan" was a wonderful program in which TMU could give an opportunity to experience our education and research to Asian excellent students who are expected to take on a great role for the shaping of feature of Asian countries and regions.

Student Exchange Program

TMU has signed student exchange agreements with overseas universities and research institutions, and hosts incoming students through the student exchange program. The exchange program allows students to study at TMU for six months or one year, starting in either April or October.

Exchange students can live together with students from different countries and Japanese student Residence Assistants in the dormitory and take courses from among many offered by TMU.

TMU communicates directly with universities which it has signed student exchange agreements with, regarding the application procedures for the TMU student exchange program. For details on the selection, application deadlines and other information, please ask your university.

A Look at Numerical Facts (Data)

- Ranked 7th among Japanese universities (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019)
- Over 9,000 students(about 7,000 undergraduate and about 2,300 graduate)
- About 700 faculty staff and 450 administrative staff
- Over 500 international students from about 40 countries
- Over 200 Student Associations

Academic Composition (7 faculties and 7 graduate schools)

Faculty

- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Urban Environmental Sciences
- Faculty of Systems Design
- Faculty of Health Sciences

Graduate School

- Graduate School of Humanities
- Graduate School of Law and Politics
- Graduate School of Management
- Graduate School of Science
- Graduate School of Urban Environmental Sciences
- Graduate School of Systems Design
- Graduate School of Human Health sciences

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