

STUDY ABROAD REPORT

You should upload/send this report **within 2 months** after the end of your stay abroad to Mobility Online (Joint Study) /send via e-mail (CEEPUS). You should also upload the confirmation of your stay abroad from your host university as well as the equivalence list signed by the dean after your mobility to Mobility Online (Joint Study)/send via e-mail (CEEPUS). If you should not fulfil these requirements it is possible that your whole study grant will be revoked (see letter of acceptance). Queries: jointstudy@boku.ac.at or ceepus@boku.ac.at

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of student: **Anonym**
- Study programme: **H UH 066 450 Animal genetics and breeding**
2. Host university: **Kyoto University**
 Host country: **Japan**
3. Your period
 of stay: from **01. 10 2022** to **31. 03 2023**
 Study year: **2022/23**

FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

4. Information about the host university. How helpful were the following sources of information?

(Please enter a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful):

Homepage of the host university	3
Students / friends	4
Teachers at BOKU	2
Curricula	3
Host university	5
BOKU International Relations	4
Other:	

5. How would you evaluate your ability in the language of the host university?

(1 = weak to 5 = excellent)

	Before your stay abroad					After your stay abroad				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Reading	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speaking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Languages of care/support at the host university and their use in percentage:

Language of care was German: Yes No

1.) English	100 %	3.)	%
2.) japanese	100 %	4.)	%

What recommendations would you give to future students about the host country and university? (Questions 7 -14) Please give tips, sources of information, contacts, and links

7. Host country

If you have the chance to learn some japanese before you come to the country, do it. Some phrases are already helpful, because their english is sometimes not the best. Also inform yourself about the "japanese behaviour". Some things are different there and you want to make sure that you are polite. Although you have some kind of foreigner bonus, which means they think you do not know better.

8. Host university

The host university helps you a lot. Make sure you stay in touch in visit all the information meetings. They are not very strict with international students, so you do not have to worry about anything before.

9. To what extent did you feel socially integrated?

(1 = not at all to 5 = very well)	1	2	3	4	5
in the local culture/community in general	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with international students at the host university	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10. Which contact person (at BOKU/the host university) helped you organise your stay abroad?

I had the help from BOKU joint study (.
international student affairs at the Kyoto University
and International house (dormitory)

11. How would evaluate the general advice and help given in administrative matters?

(Please give a number between 1 and 5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful

at BOKU International Relations	4
from teachers at BOKU	2
from the host university	5
from students at the host university	4
from others: international house (dormitory)	5

12. Registration process, financial support, other requirements

Registration process: Everything will be provided and supported from the host university; just do what they tell you and everything will work fine

financial support: I got the support from Joint study, Austrian "Auslandsbeihilfe" and I probably will get support from my Bundesland

other requirements: I was there in COVID times, so I had to have either vaccines or a negative PCR test,

13. Can you give advice and suggestions regarding the social aspect of your host country/university (cultural differences, importance of language ability etc.)?

there are a lot of cultural differences in Japan. Make sure you inform yourself before. It is not necessary to learn japanese, although I would recommend it. If you are fluent you can also participate in japanese courses. In the daily life it is also very helpful.

But even though if you do not know any japanese, it will not be the end for you.

I also did not have any knowledge about it. But the people there are very friendly and try to help you. But normally you will somehow succeed with english only. But in the end I could speak some japanese because I took a free language course offered at the faculty.

14. Were there events organised especially for exchange students during your stay?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate which ones:

Even though there was COVID at these times. We had some meetings where you could meet other international students.

We also had 1 day trip to some regional spots (farms, markets, companies, research)

ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, AND COSTS

15. What was your primary residence during your stay?

- Student dormitory Hotel / guest house
- Room in a private apartment own private apartment
- Flat share with other students

16. Who helped you look for accommodation?

- Host university Friends/family
- Housing market Other:

17. How helpful was the host university in looking for a room?

(1 = not helpful to 5 = very helpful)

- 1 2 3 4 5

18. How would you evaluate the quality of the accommodation? (1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1 2 3 4 5

19. How would you evaluate the availability and/or accessibility of assistance given during your studies (regarding for example the library, computer rooms, labs, equipment etc.)?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1 2 3 4 5

20. How would you evaluate the accessibility and/or quality of computers and email services at the host university?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent)

- 1 2 3 4 5

21. Expenses during your stay abroad (in Euros):

Travel costs (for a single return journey): 650 €

Overall expenses per month (inc. Accommodation) 730 €

Breakdown:

Accommodation	320	€ / Month
Food	200	€ / Month
Travel costs at place of study	150	€ / Month
Costs for books, photocopying, etc.	10	€ / Month
Study fees	0	€ / Month
Other: stuff ...	50	€ / Month

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

22. How would you evaluate your stay abroad from an academic point of view?

(1 = poor to 5 = excellent):

- 1 2 3 4 5

23. How would you evaluate your stay abroad from a personal point of view?

(1 = unsatisfactory to 5 = highly satisfactory):

- 1 2 3 4 5

24. Which aspects of your stay abroad did you like the most?

From an academic point of view:

you learn a lot about how the japanese university system works. I liked it a lot because the master programmes are going more in a direction of research compared to ours. You also have weekly seminars, where everybody is discussing their research progress.

From a social/cultural point of view:

I was very interesting to see how big of a difference the culture in japan is compared to the Austrian culture. You can learn so much, and it will never get boring, because you see so much new every day. Also the country is the most beautiful one I have ever visited

25. Did you have any problems during your stay abroad?

no

26. Will your academic progress at BOKU be hindered as a result of your stay abroad?

Yes

No

I don't know

If yes, please explain why:

Because of the obvious reason, that you will probably lose some time. You will not be able to transfer all your credits to compulsory or elective courses, which mean you will probably need 1 semester more.

27. How could the Joint Study and student exchange programme be improved in your opinion?

In my opinion, there is a lot do do for apply. For example the equivalence list, does not really make sense before. Because you will have diffent courses anyway.

General Report

Short feedback on your stay: attended lectures, seminars, excursions, etc.

Other things you found interesting, you think future students should know, problems, general tips and recommendations...

You could choose from some courses which were offered in English. If you can speak Japanese you can attend almost every course I think.
The choice is not that big and you will probably take some courses which are not really linked to your study programme.

I attended:

Topics in Advanced Plant Breeding
Applied Microbiology for Human Life
Applied Plant Sciences
Advanced Genetics 1
Biogeochemistry
Scientific Communication 2

I also attended other courses where I did not take it to the end.

We also had a weekly seminar in our division where I could participate. I did not get any credits, but it was very interesting.

Because of COVID there were not so many events and excursions, but nevertheless we had a few, but this changed already.

I travelled a lot in Japan, because it is such a beautiful country with a lot of variety in landscape and also the cities are wonderful.

The Japanese people are very kind and very helpful and sometimes a little bit shy.

I did not have a lot of Japanese friends, because you are more or less in this "international students bubble". But the people I met there were all so nice and are still my friends.

My general tips are:

Before you arrive, just do what the host university tells you, it worked perfectly.

Try to get a dormitory from the university, otherwise you have to look for yourself.

Visit every information meeting, especially in the beginning.

Japanese bureaucracy is even worse than Austrian bureaucracy. Maybe find someone who helps you in the beginning at the "Sakyo Ward office" (the authority where you have sign in as a citizen). --> I had a guy who helped me from the beginning. He contacted me via email and then via "LINE" (Japanese WhatsApp).

Visit as much as you can, or you can afford.

The last two questions

What did you gain the most out of your stay abroad?

I had the most gain in social or personal development perspective.

To interact with so many new and friendly people just brought me further as a person.

Which particular piece of advice would you give interested students?

If you think about a semester in Japan and you are not sure about it?

Just do it !

It was one of my best times in my life.

So many new experiences, meeting lovely people. gain a lot of knowledge and just be a part of a different society, is amazing.

Many thanks for your support!

Publication of this report

I agree that this report, including the above data (field of study, host university, year of study, length of stay), will be published on the website of BOKU International Relations for the purpose of exchanging information on the study visit, so that future interested outgoings can be informed about your experience at the host institution.

Yes No

The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time in the future without giving reasons. Any revocation can be declared at any time by e-mail to joinstudy@boku.ac.at.