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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: NUCB, Japan

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Exchange Experience

About the country and city

Japan is defiantly one of the most amazing countries I visited for it is the perfect combination of history, culture, nature, food, lifestyle and technology. Therefore, it is full of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Michelin stars wining restaurants, and it's famous for the Sakura views, parties and night life, Volcano Mountains, hot springs (Onsen) and shopping. The Japanese people are so polite and willing to help. There are not a lot of English speakers, but they are always try to help and together with google translate we communicated just fine.

Nagoya itself is not very touristic city but it has the benefits of a large city such has great night life in Sakae area, a lot of good restaurants and shopping places, and some touristic site as the Nagoya castle, the city aquarium and the Toyota factory.

About the Host University

The NUCB campus is located in a quite central location in Nagoya. The high NUCB building and its prestigious design cannot be missed. The atmosphere is great: the diversity of students from all over the world makes the experience even more global and multi-cultural grate. The global student are friendly and are motivated to get to

know and spend time together. The administrative staff is very helpful and cooperating. The campus offers large and convenient auditoriums in which the lectures take place, groups' working class rooms, dining room (including lunch on weekends), computers, printers and more facilities. Many restaurants and convenient stores are located closely to the campus. Beside the academics, NUCB offers social activities such as parties, trips, company visits and much more. The trips are together with other mates and allow you feel the traditional Japanese life for example: tea ceremony, rice harvesting, Toyota plant visit, and a trip to Ise.

Courses and professors

There are 3 types of courses: regular courses, which take place during the entire semester, one session once a week; and intensive courses: which are being held in 4 full days or 2 consecutive weekends (also total 4 days). This courses are equals to 1 YAS in TAU.

Because I stayed in Japan for a relatively short period (2.5 months), I took only 3 intensive courses, and between them I had time to travel around the country. However, please notice that the courses requires a lot of pre-reading and some pre assignments so be sure you planned time for that too. The pressure to prepper before classes gets even bigger considering the grading policy NUCB institutes and the fact that active and high-quality class participation constitutes 40%-60% of the grade of each course. The professors where also from very diverse origins: Brazilian, Filipino and American, and it was interesting to experience the differences in each one's way of teaching.

The courses I took were Entrepreneurship and Family Business, Business Model Innovation and New Age Marketing (witch I do not recommend due to a large final project). My favorite course was Entrepreneurship and Family Business, taught by prof. Francisco Roman. The subject was interesting and the professor was clear and nice. In addition, I liked the fact that prof. Roman focused more on critical discussions in class and on the expressing of real-life experiences by him and by the students.

Accommodation

I stayed in the Chiyoda Residence dorms. This residence are located in a quiet neighborhood with a lot of restaurants and supermarkets nearby, 10 minutes' walk from Sakae area, 4 minutes' walk from a subway station and about 40 minutes' walk from campus. The apartment is small but has everything including a small kitchen and laundry machine. There are no communal rooms but people are friendly and will always eat dinner together close by, and there are social groups in WhatsApp or Line app.

The rent includes a deposit and is payed completely in advanced, but you get refund if you decide to stay less time (1 month advanced notice is required). Rent is about 2500 Israel Shekels per month and if you stay more than 3 months you might get a scholarship from school or the government (read about JASSO).

The subway ride to campus costs 200 Yen and many students buy bicycle and ride together to campus or to Sakae to party. There is a special place to park your bice inside the residence, and it has a small fee. If you will stay, more than 3 months in this residence bice will be the best and economic option for city transportation.

Visa

Since I stayed for less than 3 months in Japan, no visa was required.

Transportation

For local transportation, please see the accommodation section.

Nagoya is the third largest city, located in the middle of the country, which is great for traveling. Furthermore, Nagoya has a great transportation system to connect you to everywhere ether by train or bus, and it also has an international airport which is very convenient for short flights inside Japan and to close countries like Korea, china, Philippines and so on.

If you are staying less than 3 months and on a tourist visa, I recommend reading about JRPass and the other JR area passes that will save you money when you travel long distance. These special passes are not possible to use on student visa.

Transportation out from Nagoya by Shinkansen (bullet train) are very expensive. The school offers 1 coupon for every month you stay, up to 5 rides. Each coupon provides 30% discount. I recommend checking the bus prices, before deciding on taking a Shinkansen because the ride is longer but much cheaper, sometimes even half the price. I also recommend rent a car and share the expenses with other students, pay attention you need a special driving license for Japan (you should do in Israel before the flight).

Insurance and Health Services

As a tourist, I did not need a special insurance, only the regular Israeli one for traveling.

Living expenses

Food and clothing are cheaper than Israel. You can find everything you need there. Hostels and hotels when traveling are about 60-150 NIS per night per person depend on how touristic is the place and the level of the hostel\hotel.

Food

Wow, the best fresh and delicious food, amazing country for foodies. The quality of the food is high so even the cheapest place will serve tasty and fresh food. Tokyo and Osaka are full of amazing and awarded restaurants. Lunch / dinner in a regular restaurant costs about 15-30 Shekels, but you have a kitchen in dorms and supers so you can prepare for yourself. 7-11, Lawson, family Mart were my favorite places. I recommend trying Sushiro restaurant in Nagoya and Udon and Ramen in general. Fancy restaurant are a little more expensive, around 120-200 Shekels for amazing Chef menu. You must try Kobe Beef.

Night life

Sakae is the place for all nightlife. You can find there everything, bars, clubs, best parties, karaoke, casino, traditional Japanese bars which called Izakaya and more.

General experience

The all experience was amazing. For me it was also a unique opportunity to take a break from the routine, to represent us in front of so much interesting students from all around the world, to learn from them and be more global minded.

Photos









