

Reflection on the exchange study at Naruto University of Education, Japan

English major

The exchange study at Naruto University of Education (NUE) during the past semester was a wonderful life experience for me. Although located in a rural and remote area, NUE is definitely an excellent place to find the peace of mind and focus on learning.

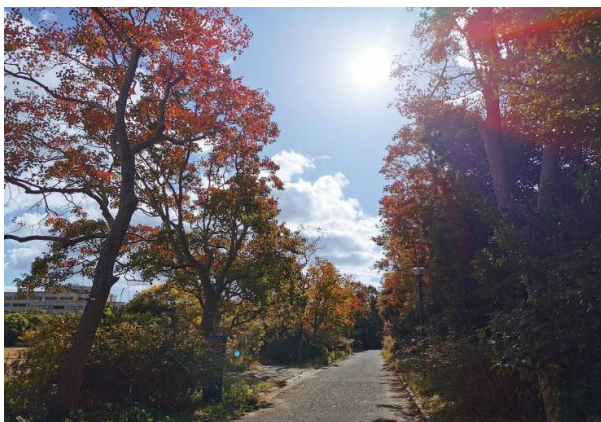
The lifestyle is pretty simple at NUE, but the daily life may not be an easy task for international students. While studying and living here, there are difficulties and problems you might have never imaged before, but these are good opportunities to experience a different life and to learn something new. For example, the transportation is one of the issues for international students. Most Japanese students have cars, so it is not a problem for them to leave the island where the university is located and go to the downtown area of Naruto City for buying daily life necessities. On the other hand, international students only have the bicycles borrowed from the university. There are only three options to go to the downtown area. The first option is to take the bus. The bus stop is just in front of the school gate. It is the fastest way, but it costs 210 yen one trip. The second one is to cross the narrow bridge connecting the island and the downtown area. This might be a little dangerous, but it is faster than the last one, which is to take the ferry and cross the river to the other side of the island. It is free to take the ferry but there are time schedules. As you can imagine, taking the ferry is the most popular choice because it is safer than cross the narrow bridge and costs none. However, in this case, it is necessary to be punctual in order to the ferry; otherwise, the next ferry will not be available until thirty minutes later or even longer. This is just one example that shows you the different lifestyle here. Nevertheless, such experience is definitely worthwhile for broadening your horizon. Just a reminder for those who don't know how to ride the bicycle. Please do practice it before you come here, so you can take the ferry with the bicycle and cross the river to go

shopping. It would be rather inconvenient if you don't ride the bicycle.

Besides the daily life at NUE, another important part is the campus life. From day one, you'll have frequent interaction with the International Student Office (ISO) at NUE. It is the main window of contact with all international students. You'll make acquaintance with many kind and warm staffs at ISO and receive their e-mails constantly. If there are any problems or questions, you can always seek the staffs there for assistance. Also, you'll meet many international students on campus. I have met students from El Salvador, Pakistan, Thailand, Mali (Africa), and Senegal (Africa). Don't be surprised to find many students from China. Actually, they are very friendly and kind. Of course, it's unavoidable to meet international students who are not so friendly while interacting with them, but just open your mind and enjoy your life and study here. With regard to the academic study, almost everyone will attend Japanese language classes based on the result of placement test given during the orientation week. It is strongly recommended that you improve your Japanese before you come here so that it would be easier for you to understand the class contents entirely taught in Japanese. In Japanese language classes, you'll only meet international students. If you want to interact with Japanese students, you need to take other academic courses. In my case, I took three courses taught in English by an American professor because my major is English, and these courses are for Japanese students. So, I had the chance to make friends with some of them. Japanese students are actually very shy, so you need to approach them first to break the ice; otherwise, they will not approach you actively. Again, like the way you interact with other international students, simply open your mind to anyone you meet here. Don't worry about and be afraid of meeting unfriendly people. You'll gradually find your own way of handling that sort of situation.

In closing, NUE is not in big cities like Tokyo or Osaka, and it is in a countryside, that's for sure. However, that is exactly the reason why you should come here because it

is undoubtedly a rare chance for you to learn and experience a great deal of new and unexpected things along the way while you live and study and enjoy life here at NUE.



黒崎渡船運航時刻表 平成23年4月1日～

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| 4 | 7:40 | 7:42 | 7:45 | 7:47 | 22 | 18:30 | 18:32 | 18:35 | 18:37 |
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| 7 | 8:20 | 8:22 | 8:25 | 8:27 | 25 | 19:50 | 19:52 | 19:55 | 19:57 |
| 8 | 8:40 | 8:42 | 8:45 | 8:47 | | | | | |
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※土日、祝祭日は8:10は運航しません。

