

Fukuoka Women's University



My WJC

The World of Japanese
Contemporary Culture
Program



Journey



Julia Kim

Seoul National University (Republic of Korea)

Batch: Fall 2022 (one semester)



Why FWU?

In 2018, I had my first experience in Japan, and it was a profound one. I fell in love with the country, its culture, and, most importantly, its people. I had been eagerly searching for a chance to return for years, but due to the pandemic, I had to delay my plans for a full four years. Therefore, when my university announced a collaboration and the opportunity to join their program post-quarantine, I couldn't contain my excitement. This program was perfect for me because, in addition to language learning, I had the opportunity to actively engage in my areas of interest and conduct research.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?

It was an exceptional opportunity in my field, allowing me not only to immerse myself in Japanese culture and language but also to exchange scientific insights, perspectives, and opinions on various issues. It provided a platform to evaluate and discuss the experiences of our countries.

Most memorable experience

One of my fondest memories is from the English Village camp. We collaborated with our mentors to organize this event, and it truly brought us all together. It was not only a fantastic experience but also a lot of fun. We had the opportunity to connect with students who, on regular days, were too hesitant to approach foreign students. I can honestly say that I've never had as much laughter and enjoyment as I did on that day.

Favorite food and places



Ramen restaurant near to University campus



Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

I'm genuinely delighted to have been a part of this program. It was a truly fascinating and diverse experience. Sometimes it feels like I've lived multiple lifetimes during my stay in Fukuoka. Fukuoka is an exceptional city, known for its quality of life, but what truly makes it special are the people at FWU who go above and beyond to ensure this journey is unforgettable.



Naomi

KU Leuven (Belgium)

Batch: Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 (one year)



Why FWU?

I loved how FWU arranged our accommodation. It was a really nice concept to be able to share a dorm unit with Japanese students and not with mainly international students. I have seen that other universities didn't have this kind of concept, which made FWU more appealing to me. Apart from this, the location of FWU was also very convenient. The dorm and university is close to the center and hang out spots of Fukuoka, which are Tenjin and Hakata. Furthermore, the activities which were organised by the IC staff for the WJC students were very interesting and fun to participate. FWU has taught me a lot about the Japanese culture. Lastly, one of the main reason why I have chosen FWU, was because of the class about Japanese popular culture, which were essential for my MA thesis. I couldn't find such courses at other universities.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?



I have gained a lot from my one year exchange! Not only did my Japanese speaking skills improved, I have also made lots of friends. This may sound a bit typical but it's not always easy to adapt and make friends in a new environment. However, I was surprised how easy I could become friends with my Japanese roommates, JD-mates, ExS Students and WJC students. I am someone who doesn't like to travel or go shopping on my own, so I was happy to meet lots of friends who have the same interests as me and were willing to travel together or just casually hang out together. Spending time with such an international group, has taught me about many different cultures and habits. Also, the Japanese courses at FWU really did help me raise my self-confidence in my own Japanese skills. Before going on the exchange, I

was shy and scared to speak Japanese. However the teachers at FWU helped me find my confidence and improve my speaking skills by a lot to which I am very grateful!

Most memorable experience

Like I have said previously, I don't enjoy travelling alone. Before the exchange, I made a list of places I wanted to visit while in Japan and Okinawa was one of the top places I wanted to go. So, I was telling this to my WJC friends and turns out I was not the only one! Most of us really wanted to go so we all planned a big group vacation to Okinawa. It was kind of our "last" trip together before the program ended. Although it was a short trip, I had so much fun spending time together with everyone before we parted way.



Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

To students who are considering coming to FWU: don't hesitate just apply! Apart from the courses and program, one of the main concerns for choosing a university are usually accommodation and finance. Does the university have affordable student dorms? How much money do I need to commute? What will my monthly budget be to survive a year of exchange? These kind of questions won't be any of your concerns if you choose FWU. Beside the fun program and activities, the facilities are very well equipped. The dorm is spacious and affordable compared to others. The location is also ideal for people who don't like to wake up early to go to class. Also, the scholarship which you can receive each month is so wonderful for students who are worried about their financial.



Krysta

Tamkang University (Taiwan)

Batch: Fall 2019-Spring 2020 (one year)



Why FWU?

FWU provides diverse chances for international student to interact with Japanese culture. Living with Japanese students, visiting Japanese school, and multiple study tours helped me understand and grasp the culture and history of Japan. Besides, with the help of the International Center, professors, and JD-Mates, I could do all of that when I barely spoke any Japanese! I also appreciate the culture events the dorm and the school holds when there's a holiday.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?

I made friends for a lifetime. After years, I still contact the my friends in FWU. This is the most unexpected gain! The experience of working with other exchange students is wonderful. You get to learn how to work with people from different backgrounds. The Independent Study Project (ISP) is also very valuable as it taught me how to write an academic paper and better prepared me pursuing higher education.

Most memorable experience

During Covid, the dorm provided those who still stayed there with food. The dorm manager told us some the food came from organizations in Japan that were worried about us so they donated food to the dorm and wish to help us. It was so heartwarming for them to do so. My JD-Mate's mom drove me to the Itoshima even though she is a career woman and barely has time for herself, just because that place is hard to get to by public transportation and I want to visit the torii there. I'm so grateful for her to do so. Japanese hospitality is subtle. They try not to make you feel like a burden and I only understand after experiencing it during my time there.



Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

The support I received during my time there was unmatched. FWU will prepare you better if you plan to stay in Japan in the future. The environment was friendly, the students, professors, staff in the school never once made me feel like I'm just an exchange student, they go out of their way to greet you, and interact with you.



Vicky

LMU Munich (Germany)

Batch: Spring 2023 (one semester)



Why FWU?

I chose to study at FWU for several reasons. First, I was drawn to the interesting courses they offer on Japanese culture and society. Plus, they also have additional Japanese language classes, which you can attend. Moreover, I was excited about the variety of extracurricular activities available at FWU. It's not just about studying; there are so many interesting and fun field trips organized for the students. Lastly, I liked that the program gave me the chance to live with Japanese students in a shared dorm unit. This felt like a great way to immerse myself in the culture and make new friends.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?

I learned a lot about Japanese society and culture. Not only did my classes provide valuable insights, but I also had the opportunity to immerse myself through interactions with Japanese students and teachers. One remarkable aspect of FWU was its dedication to connecting international students like me with Japanese peers, for example through the buddy program or with the Japanese roommates. We also participated in various shared activities that encouraged cultural exchange. This approach was different from other exchange programs, where students tend to stick with their fellow exchange students. I firmly believe that in another exchange program, I wouldn't have been able to immerse myself so deeply into Japanese life.

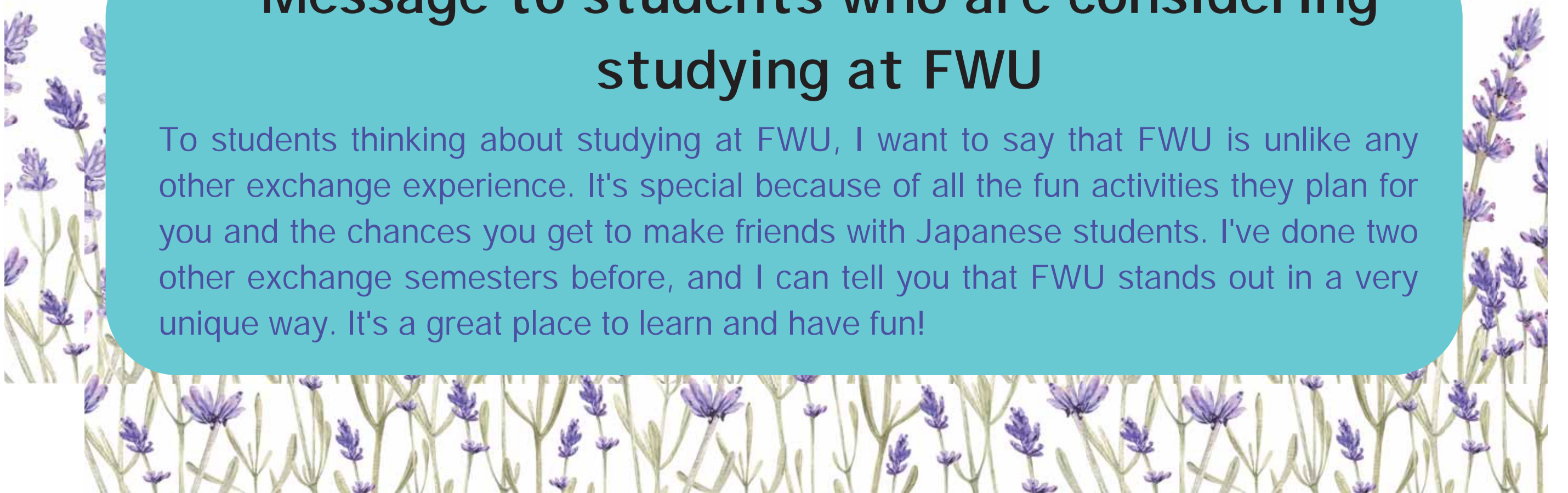
Most memorable experience

My most memorable experience during my time at FWU was the incredible welcome trip they organized for us. The day began with a visit to a small place near Fukuoka where we had the opportunity to make traditional Japanese Washi paper by ourselves. Following this, we ventured further into the Japanese countryside and enjoyed a delicious traditional Japanese lunch in a region known for its green tea. Our next stop was a small Wisteria flower festival, where we were surrounded by the beauty of the blooming flowers. At the end of the trip we went to a strawberry picking spot, where we could eat as many strawberries as we wanted (I ate around 50). And in between we were enjoying Ghibli movies on the bus :) The evening was equally fun as we all gathered on the beach near FWU to watch some stunning fireworks. And to conclude the day, some friends and I decided to continue the fun by heading to an Izakaya and then Karaoke. It was a perfect ending to a really fun day, which I truly never forget!



Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

To students thinking about studying at FWU, I want to say that FWU is unlike any other exchange experience. It's special because of all the fun activities they plan for you and the chances you get to make friends with Japanese students. I've done two other exchange semesters before, and I can tell you that FWU stands out in a very unique way. It's a great place to learn and have fun!

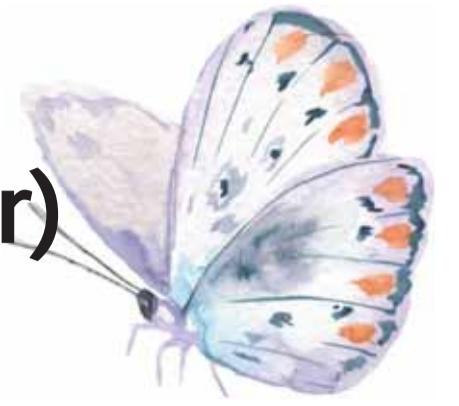




Farah

University of Malaya (Malaysia)

Batch: Fall 2019-Spring 2020 (one year)



Why FWU?

I chose to study at FWU because I was looking for a university that is not in the city centre as I wanted to be fully immersed in the Japanese culture. FWU also offers an interesting course with opportunity to brush up your Japanese skills to a higher level.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?

I gained a lot of experiences from this exchange study. Mainly connections, now I still keep in touch with my fellow exchange students and JDMates from various countries. I also learnt a lot about Japan as a country and I get to brush up my Japanese language skills

Most memorable experience

Most memorable experience was the field trips that we have taken throughout Kyushu prefecture and the most unforgettable one is when the exchange students have to survive on our own during covid in the dorm



Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

You will not regret coming here. You will gain more than you expect.





Matea

Juraj Dobrila University of Pula (Croatia)

Batch: Spring 2023 (one semester)



Why FWU?

I wanted to experience Japanese culture and tradition firsthand, as well as gain better knowledge of Japanese history. Furthermore, I wanted to improve my Japanese language skills. Lastly, I was hoping to meet new people and make new friendships. Because the FWU program seemed to have everything I was hoping for, I chose to study there.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?

The exchange study at the FWU helped me deepen my understanding of Japanese culture and traditions, especially when it comes to the Japanese festivals (matsuri). I also had the opportunity to participate in the Dontaku Matsuri, which was a truly fun and exciting experience. In addition to that, the program helped me broaden my knowledge about Japanese history, and I learned a lot about the approach to researching Japanese history and Japanese studies in general. During the program, I also found courage to express my opinion more often in the class, as well as to think more critically. Moreover, the time I spent at the FWU helped me improve my Japanese as well as be less self-critical when speaking Japanese. Even though I was kind of afraid and nervous to come to Japan for the first time ever and study there, in no time I was able to relax and enjoy myself thanks to all the wonderful people around me. All of the things I learned helped me in both academic and personal spheres and enriched my life forever.

Most memorable experience

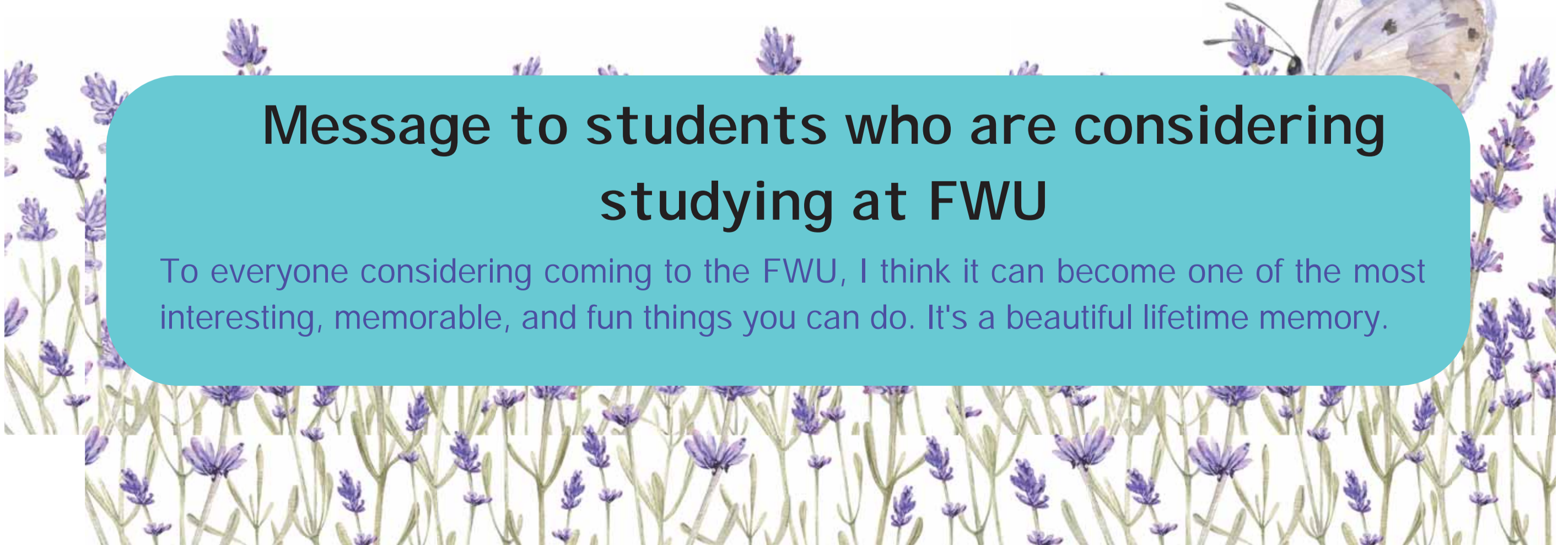


When I think about my most memorable experience, it is truly hard to choose. I had amazing professors, for whose teaching and guidance I am forever grateful. All of the JD-Mates were so kind and fun, and they helped make this experience even better. The girls in the program were also such wonderful people. I loved hanging out with them and especially exploring new places. Therefore, if I had to choose the most memorable experience, I would choose all of the trips I had with my friends, especially at the Dazaifu during the last weeks of the program.



Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

To everyone considering coming to the FWU, I think it can become one of the most interesting, memorable, and fun things you can do. It's a beautiful lifetime memory.





Belle

Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

Batch: Fall 2019-Spring 2020 (one year)



Why FWU?

I heard from my Senpai and a friend who has been here that FWU is very nice place. The staff, teachers, and Japanese friends would kindly help and support you during your time there. They will take you to visit interesting cultural places in Fukuoka. Also, they provide scholarships to support your finances.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?

After studying there, I gained much more knowledge from FWU courses in both Japanese society and language. My speaking and listening skills improved significantly in a short time. I also made many new Japanese and international friends there, and we spent time together, sharing and exchanging our cultural stories, thanks to FWU.

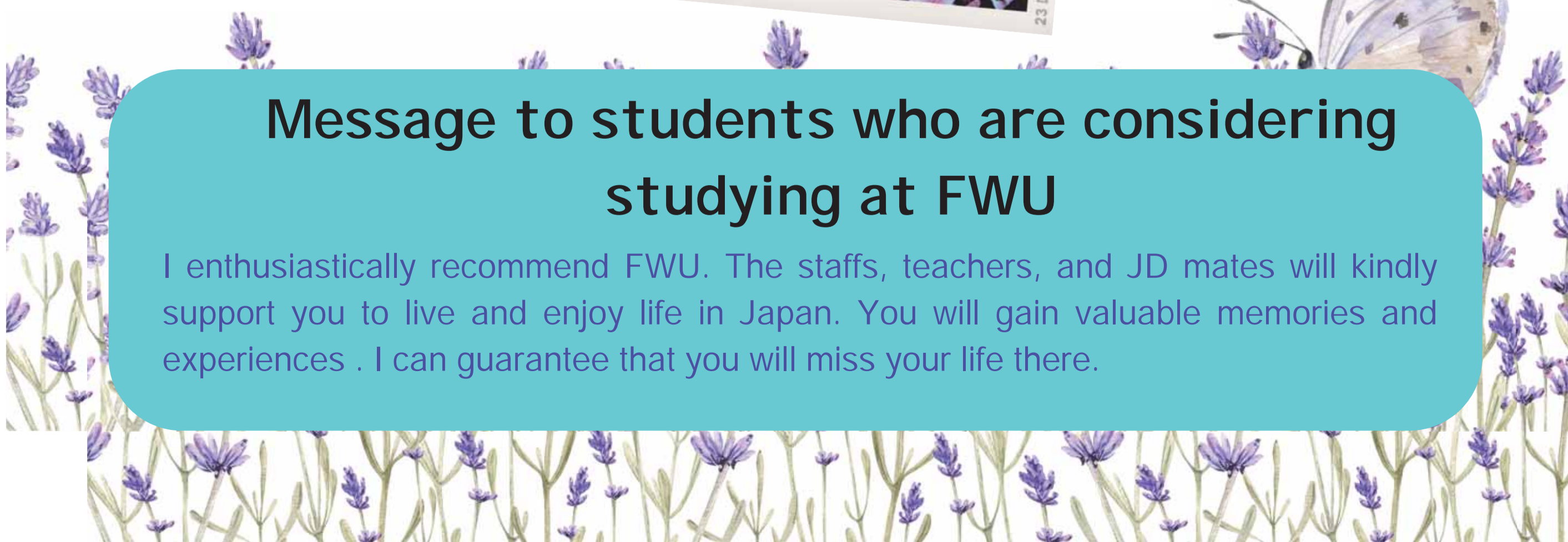
Most memorable experience

The day I went to Natsu Matsuri with my JD mates was a memorable experience where I could immerse myself in the culture I had seen in anime since I was young. Wearing a Yukata, playing games, and tasting various Yatai foods were lots of fun.



Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

I enthusiastically recommend FWU. The staffs, teachers, and JD mates will kindly support you to live and enjoy life in Japan. You will gain valuable memories and experiences. I can guarantee that you will miss your life there.





Swastika Harsh Jajoo

Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi (India)

Batch: Fall 2017-Spring 2018 (One year)



Why FWU?

I chose to study at FWU because a senior (senpai) who did the program (her name was Charu) strongly recommended it to me. She said it would give me insight into Japanese culture and also ensure that I have time for experiential things that aren't necessarily academic. After my time at Uni, I wanted to do a program that has components of academic learning but would also give me the space to relax and work towards self-discovery in a different environment so FWU seemed like the perfect pick.

What did you gain from your study at FWU?

I am most deeply grateful to the Japanese learning program at FWU. It helped me find a love and passion for the Japanese language that would change the course of my life. It is the reason why I decided to come back to Japan in 2019, and why I now dream of someday settling down in Japan. I think what stood out about the program was that it let you pick-and-choose your classes instead of forcing you to do everything, which I think becomes extremely stifling and restrictive in the context of language-learning. Because I was free to do what I wanted to, my engagement with the course was completely different from what it would have been had the classes been obligatory. Other than this, FWU also helped me nurture a sense of community both with students and teachers. I really enjoyed working on my ISP with Nagaoka-sensei! I also feel like FWU was extremely accommodating. Back in my time there, I was still vegetarian and was very strict about my diet. Whenever we had field trips, special arrangements were made for me. I recall the time when we stayed at a ryokan in Kagoshima. I was quite nervous because I was really struggling to find food I could eat without any issues at stores in Japan, but there was a special vegetarian course meal called shojin ryouri readied for me!

Most memorable experience

There were so many that it becomes difficult to recount them all, but I think it would be the final day of my Japanese class when all of us were asked to make a presentation in Japanese about a topic of our choice. I chose the topic "Chai", which I often joke is my "ikigai" as well. My roommates helped me prepare chai and take it for all the participants of the presentation too. One of my Japanese teachers, Rikimaru sensei, said that she had a sore throat that day but drinking the chai we made helped cure it!

Message to students who are considering studying at FWU

If you want a chance to not only discover a new culture but also to actively discover yourself through that new culture, this is the perfect place for you!



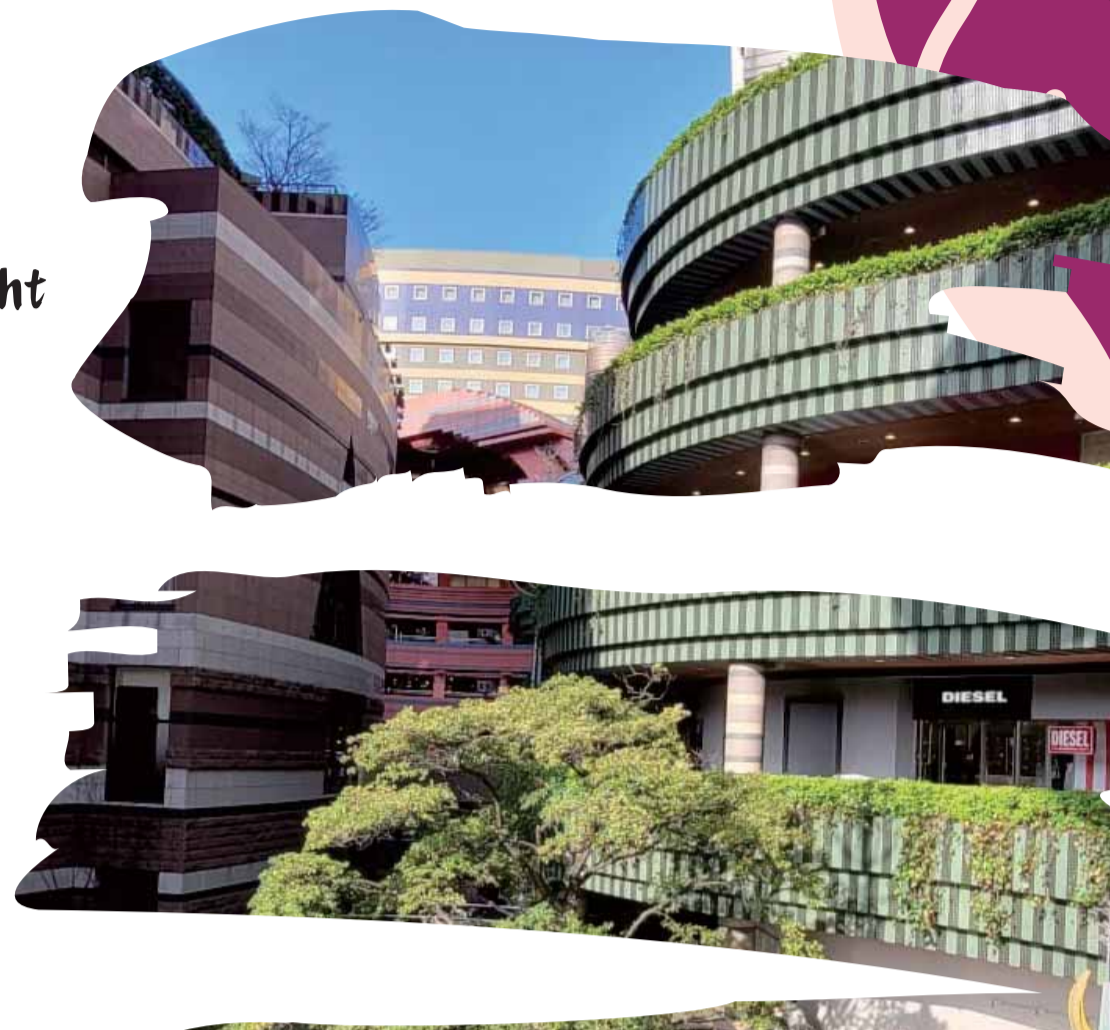
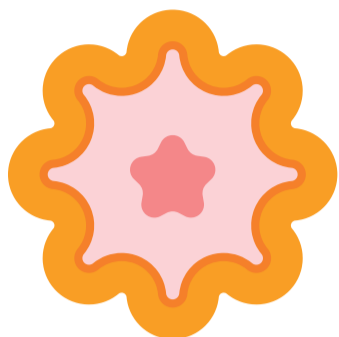


Favorite Food and Places

Taiyaki and Saizeriya for food. I love Dazaifu Tenmangu and basically the temples and jinja in fukuoka since they have a lot there. -Farah

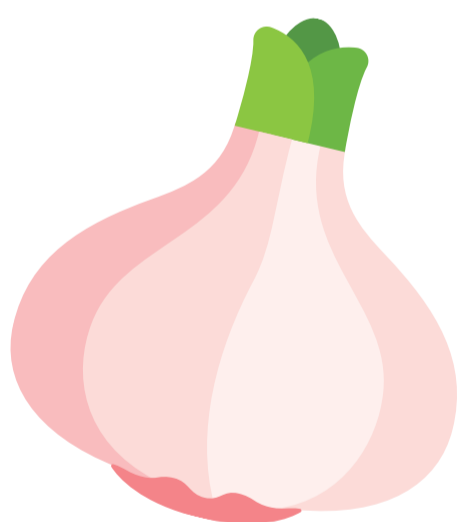


A taiyaki store called Limelight near Kashi station. - Swastika



In Fukuoka, one of my favorite places to visit was Canal City. It's a fun and exciting destination that offered a lot of great experiences. Canal City was the perfect spot for a shopping day. The diverse range of shops ensured that there was something for everyone. What made it even more enjoyable for me were the arcades and the numerous stores dedicated to Anime, Disney, and Ghibli.

And of course there are a lot of food opportunities as well. One standout experience was visiting the Ramen Stadium, where one can enjoy a wide range of ramen styles. The Fukuoka-style tomato ramen and the Hakata Tonkotsu ramen were personal favorites of mine. In fact, Hakata Tonkotsu ramen is one of my all-time favorite dishes, alongside sushi and onigiri, of course. -Vicky



FILM NEGATIVE

→ 13 A



FILM NEGATIVE

→ 14

→ 14 A



Gyukatsu Motomura

FILM NEGATIVE





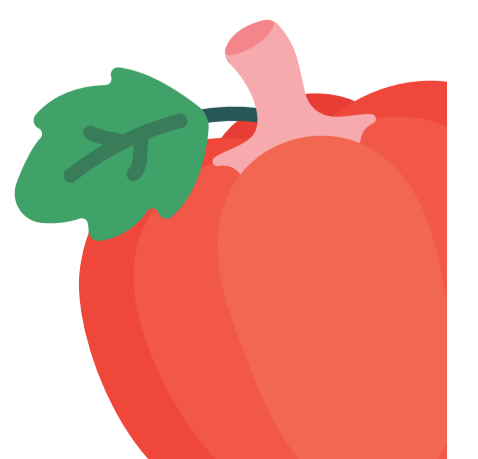
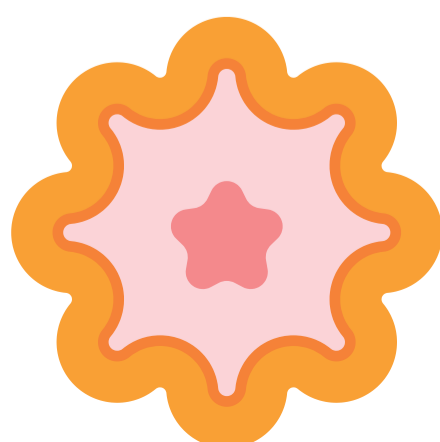
Favorite Food and Places



Foods: Mentaiko/ Karamen @ Kashii Ekimae (recommend if you want to eat spicy food)
Places: Ohori park (most recommended for Hanami) / Tenjin / Hakozaki shrine -**Belle**



I love food, so it's also hard to choose a favorite food in Fukuoka, but I definitely recommend Ichiran, as well as trying out the food at the Yatai stalls. When it comes to favorite places in Fukuoka, I really enjoyed visiting shrines, but I also had so much fun exploring Canal City and the stores and restaurants at Hakata Station. -**Matea**





Let's
Travel



To Fukuoka

Join WJC!

