

Melissa Cheung
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You cannot deny that the best way about learning a language is to emerge yourself into that country itself. Hence, I chose to experience Japan through the life of an exchange student at Waseda University in 2006. Besides advancing my language skills at a ridiculously fast rate, I had the best one year of my university life!

Not only did I make close Japanese friends, I also made life-long friends from all over the world. Waseda University has quite a number of international students that made my International Dormitory always bustling with fun and excitement. From all-night-karaoke to exploring the traditional temples, these memorable experiences were shared with these great friends. Upon my return, I have already made trips to Japan and other countries to reunite with them.

As an exchange student, there is already plenty of attention from the local students. There are no problems with making local friends. Joining clubs (saakuru) are a great way to share common interests and party with them. You will find these clubs make up a huge part of university life.

If you are worried about the load of study, don't! My Intensive Japanese Program only required roughly 22 hours a week. Japan also has many public holidays, giving me plenty of time to go to Osaka for food or Nikko for hot-springs over the long weekend. Speaking Japanese gave me the power to explore the country-side and chat with the locals.

I can guarantee that you will progress greatly in your Japanese skills, sing horribly at all-night-karaoke and have the best time of your life!

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