

**The University of Tokyo Study Abroad/Student Exchange Program Report Form
(for programs from one semester to a year)**

Date: 11/02/2016

Faculty/Graduate School at UTokyo:	PEAK, College of Arts and Sciences	Year at the time of Study Abroad	3rd Year
Program Attended:	Japanese Exchange Program	Host University:	SOAS, University of London

Occupation after graduation (intended):

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Research
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Specialist (Medical • Judiciary • Accountant)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Civil Service
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. NPO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Private sector (Type of industry: Not Decided)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Entrepreneurship
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Others ()

Outline of the receiving institution overseas

The School of Oriental and African Studies in London is one of the leading academic institutions that focus on the East Asian region, being experts in ethnic and cultural studies. This is not only highly relevant to my degree of study, but also my own personal interests. As one of the pioneering schools for Anthropology in Britain, SOAS was a wonderful place in which to pursue my exchange.

Reason why you decided to participate

As mentioned earlier, the Japanese Exchange program as part of SOAS, University of London was in perfect alliance with my degree/major in Japan in East Asia as part of the PEAK programme. Having focused on East Asian Studies from a Japanese university perspective for the first 2.5 years of my degree, I was curious to find out how approaching it from a Western university would differ. Furthermore, being exposed to a diverse group of people from a multitude of nations would allow me to discuss issues I was familiar with, but by incorporating a plethora of perspectives and viewpoints. I also wanted to be able to experience university life in another country.

Period of Study etc.

(1) Academic status before the program:	Completed the	1st	semester of the	3rd	Year of	PEAK	study in year	
(2) Status during the program:	3rd year Exchange Student							
(3) Duration etc.:	From (Month) (Year)	January	' 16	to (Month) (Year)	June	' 16		
	Departing in	3rd	year of	Undergraduate	study in year			
(4) Registering for classes on return:	Re-registered for classes from	2nd	semester of the	3rd	Year of		study in year	
(5) Period of job hunting:	Not applicable		in the month of			of the		Year of
			study in year					

(6) Number of credits earned at UTokyo:	Number of credits earned before program:		44	credits
	Number of credits earned during the program which will be processed for transfer:		8	credits
	Number of (expected) credits after program:		52 + 12 (current)	credits
(7) Enrolled/ Expected timing of graduation:	Enrolled: (Month) (Year)	September '13	Graduated/completed: (Month) (Year)	September '17
(8) Time taken from enrollment to graduating/completion:		4 years		months
(9) Reason for choosing period to study abroad:				
It was the semester that will not interfere with my final year process of applying to graduate schools or working on my thesis. I had also had more than half of my required credits completed before leaving for study abroad.				
Preparation for the program				
(1) Application process (please give any advice on dealing with the application process)				
I applied via the normal procedure for USTEP, submitting the documents to the exchange/study abroad body. Following this, I was invited for an interview (in English) with some of the professors (both from my own PEAK program but also other professors and the head of the College of Arts and Sciences) before being accepted into the program.				
(2) Visa application (type of visa, where to apply, processing time, any advice on visa application)				
I applied for a Tier 4 Visa (just in case I planned to do an internship after my exchange program). However, if a student does not plan to stay for internship or longer than 6 months, then the short term student visa is recommended as it takes less time to process and is significantly cheaper. My Tier 4 Visa was applied for in Tokyo through VFS and it took about 2- 3 weeks. The university is very responsive to visa information — just make sure to choose the type of visa you would like carefully depending on how much time you plan to spend in the UK. If you will definitely leave within 6 months, choose the Short term study abroad. If you want to spend more time travelling or interning, be sure to pick the Tier 4 Student Visa.				
(3) Medical check-ups (health check-ups before departure, inoculations, etc.)				
The University of Tokyo has quite a few procedures in place for insurance, healthcare and so on. No special consideration is necessary for Europe — as long as you follow the procedures the university recommends.				
(4) Insurance (information about insurance for travel/studying abroad purchased)				
I already had insurance purchased from my home country, but the University also requires you to purchase insurance as part of their policy. This is expensive and can be quite a long drawn out process. Be sure to do this in advance. Similarly, not much information about the required insurance is available in English — so would be helpful to find out more information in advance if you are not fluent in Japanese.				
(5) Procedures required by your Faculty/Graduate School (any information about course registration, credits, exams, submission of dissertations etc)				
PEAK is rather helpful with information of Credit Transfer (especially if you go in your 3rd year). I'm not too sure how it works for fourth years and issues with dissertation however. I would advise choosing classes at SOAS that are relevant/similar to PEAK classes to facilitate easier transfer. If you are able to check the syllabus before going and comparing that to the PEAK catalogue — you will be more likely to have them transferred.				

(6) Language preparation (language level before the program, lessons etc.)

English is key. If you are planning to take language classes (Japanese for example for international students) you will have to take an entrance proficiency test. I did not take language classes as I went in the second half of the year so I am not 100% familiar with the proficiency test at SOAS.

(7) Items which should be taken with you from Japan and any other advice on things which should be done before leaving Japan.

Most things are available in London so this should not be too much of a problem. Just ensure that issues of visa and insurance are not left to the last minute as this can be rather stressful.

Information on the academic/research program

(1) Copy of list of subjects taken (if classes were taken)

※ Please mark with ● all subjects which you are processing to transfer credits to the University of Tokyo

subject	number of credits	credit transfer	subject	number of credits	credit transfer
Anthropology of Globalisation	2	2			
Urban Modern East Asia: History	2	2			
Music and Religion in South East Asia	2	2			
New Media & Society	2	2			

(2) Outline of the program (Style of the lessons/preparation study/review study, thing which left an impression on you, etc.)

I was really impressed with the quality of classes at SOAS. Even though you don't spend as much of the week in physical classes, there are quite a lot of independent readings and very intense discussions so be prepared for that. Unlike Todai, its not so much breadth of subjects but depth — so you have to know quite a significant amount about the specific module you are taken. Be prepared to do lots of reading + research.

(3) Number of subjects/credits per semester, number of hours of study/research time in a week (including class hours and study out-of-class hours)

I took 4 classes, which is the maximum and recommended amount of classes to take at SOAS for one semester. Each class usually met for 2 hours (lecture) and then a 1 hour tutorial, so we met twice a week. This was good as it allowed you a deep understanding of the week's topic and 1 hour tutorial was used to discuss it further. Overall, the number of hours in a week spent in school is not as much compared to Todai — but a lot more independent work is required.

(4) Advice on aspects of academic/research work

It might help to read up on some of the classes reading lists/suggested reading before attending the courses. However, don't feel pressure to read every single thing on the reading list. They are often extensive and very thorough and for all the students — it is not mandatory to read them all. Read as much as you can to help you get a good understanding of the topic but don't freak out over it.

(5) Problems experienced with language issues, advice concerning language, etc.

As a native English speaker, this was not too much of a concern for me. SOAS itself has a variety of people from all over the world so if you ever had language concerns I'm sure there are plenty of people to help you.

Aspects of life

(1) Accommodation (Type (home-stay, room-sharing etc.), cost, atmosphere/appearance of accommodation, how you found it, etc.)

I stayed in the SOAS dorm, Dinwiddy House. It was a nice dorm, and I had very friendly flatmates — the whole space was very communal and so much fun. It is a lot more expensive than accommodation in Tokyo, so perhaps it would be good to save on other things (cooking instead of eating out for eg). Laundry is quite expensive too — so be prepared to spend at least 10 pounds for each cycle (washing + drying). Some of the other rooms had quite a lot of complaints, but my room was really nice — so I suppose it depends. Location wise, Dinwiddy is located right by Kings Cross station so it was really perfect and very easy to get around. Campus is about 20 mins by walk away from the dorm.

(2) Living environment (such as climate, environment around the institution, transport facilities, food, managing your money (overseas money transfer, credit cards))

London is very convenient, albeit a little bit cold. You will be able to find everything you need in Central London and if staying in the dorms, the tube service is very convenient and well connected. Having said that, you can also walk to most parts of Central London so if transport is expensive that's another option. Worst case scenario, Uber is also very convenient. As for food and money, London is terribly expensive so it would be good to find student discounts (lunch specials) or do groceries and cook. It would be wise to check with your bank in advance how to handle money transfers and drawing money overseas etc.

(3) Aspects of risk and safety management (safety of local region, condition of medical facilities, any action taken in maintaining your mental and physical health, etc.)

I was lucky enough not to have any medical concerns but the Uni of Tokyo provides the OSSMA service should you have any concerns you should call them to find out what the best plan of action is. Central London is relatively safe - especially since a lot of students are in the area, but it is good to exercise suitable caution (keep your belongings safe etc).

(4) Details of expenses (breakdown of costs, such as airfare, program fees, cost of required books, rent, food, travel cost, money spent on entertainment)

• Monthly living cost and its breakdown

Airfare — 600 pounds, Rent — 1500++ pounds for three months or so, Food — average meal 8-10 pounds at a cafe, Oyster card - depending on destination 3-10pounds. It really depends on where you choose to eat/shop/party.

• Total cost spent on studying abroad and its breakdown

<8000pounds

(5) Financial aid (if you were receiving financial aid/scholarships, please give the name of the source of the aid, amount, and how you found it, etc.)

University of Tokyo Scholarship — 126,000Y per month. Tuition fees waived.

(6) Activities other than academic/research work (sports, cultural, volunteer/internship, weekend activities, etc.)	
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Environment of the receiving institution	
(1) Support facilities for students taking part in the program (such as language, academic, living support mechanism and counseling services)	
Dinwiddy is quite a welcoming community so you can ask anyone for help. But the SOAS exchange program connects you with a study abroad advisor that is very easily contactable. All the professors are also very friendly and approachable.	
(2) Facilities (libraries, sports facilities, cafeteria, IT equipment and facilities, etc.)	
The SOAS library was beautiful and a wonderful resourceful. The British Library similarly was very near to Dinwiddy dorm and a very useful resource. SOAS has a cafeteria that has good food, and is surrounded by a number of cafes and food areas.	
Studying abroad and job hunting - Not Applicable to me	
(1) (those that have job hunted) Impact that the your study abroad had on job hunting, merit and demerit	
(2) (those who will be starting job hunting) How the study abroad has impacted your thoughts towards employment	
(3) Actions towards job hunting while studying abroad (if any)	
(4) If you have succeeded in finding a job, please inform us, if agreeable, as much as possible about your job	
	1. Research
	2. Specialist (Medical • Judiciary • Accountant) (position:)
	3. Civil Service (name of institution:)
	4. NPO (name of organization and field:)
	5. Private sector (name of company and industry:)
	6. Entrepreneurship (field:)
	7. Others ()
Looking back over the program	

(1) The significance of the program and how you have developed by taking part in it, any other impression from having studied abroad
I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to study abroad as it helped me gain an insightful perspective onto my degree outside of Japan. I think it was very important also in helping me appreciate my time in Tokyo and now make the most out of my final year. It has made me very appreciative of the academic community both at SOAS and in PEAK and I look forward to my final year at Todai.
(2) Your plans having studied abroad
I look forward to being able to continue my education abroad for Masters, and SOAS has definitely helped me make that decision.
(3) Any messages or advice for future participants
Have fun! Gain as much as you can abroad, travel and also try to meet as many new people as possible!
Miscellaneous
(1) Websites or publications which were useful while preparing for or during your time overseas
The SOAS website.
(2) Please submit any photographs which may be used on the University of Tokyo websites or publications.