

## Experience report of the stay at the partner university

Max. 2-3 pages in German or English. Use complete sentences (no keywords).

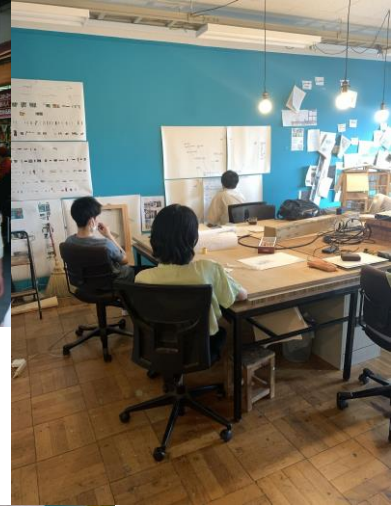
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| <b>Mobility Program</b>         | Erasmus+                     |
| <b>Partner University</b>       | Tokyo University of the Arts |
| <b>Studyprogramme visited</b>   | Masters in Architecture      |
| <b>Semester</b>                 | 2                            |
| <b>Name and e-mail optional</b> |                              |

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| <b>Overall impression</b><br>Description of the stay abroad in 4-5 sentences  | <p>I had the most wonderful time in Tokyo, both in terms of experiencing the liveliness of the city and the unique character of Tokyo University of the Arts. Because we were able to use the studio space despite the pandemic, there was an atmosphere of togetherness as we would not only work on our studio projects together, but we would also attend our online lectures in each other's company. The working style was quite flexible, where students made their own decision about when to meet and when to have tutorials, making it feel very self-led and fulfilling.</p>  |
| <b>Immigration / arrival</b><br>entry formalities, visa   | <p>I have a Japanese passport and therefore did not need a visa to enter the country.</p>   |
| <b>Room searching/stay</b><br>Helpful contact information   | <p>I stayed at my parents house and commuted from there, as did many of my peers at the university.</p>   |
| <b>Public transport</b><br>Train, bus, accessibility of the university  | <p>My commute was just over an hour, which is very similar to those of my peers (some had longer commute times). I purchased a Teiki (travel card) for students because this is most likely the cheapest option if your commute entails subway/metro transport. Because you specify your travel route, you do not get a free pass to all of the lines and stations, but you do get unlimited access to stations within your route of choice. Public transport is not too expensive but not cheap, but it is very convenient for getting around the city.</p>  |
| <b>Preparation for the studies</b><br>Course registration procedure, language certificate and transcript of records | <p>I am a native Japanese speaker so I did not have to take any tests. On a day-to-day basis, it might be helpful to know some basic Japanese to use at shops and restaurants, but if you are not confident or too shy it shouldn't be that much of an issue as people are generally accommodating to tourists.</p>   |
| <b>Information about the university</b><br>Location, size, infrastructure   | <p>The university is located in Ueno, which is a culturally rich area in terms of the arts and history, and nearby is the famous Ameyoko shopping district where you can pick up street food and local groceries, and the nearby areas are populated with down-to-earth Izakaya restaurants.</p> <p>The university itself is large, with courses ranging from orchestral music and opera to graphic design and oil painting. Within that, the architecture department is fairly small, with a masters course of around 50(?) students. The red brick Ueno campus is divided into half by a street running through it, one half music and the other arts. As an architecture student you will mainly use your studio in the arts building, and possibly the wood workshop which houses an extensive range of equipment and machines.</p> |

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| <b>Language course visited at the university</b><br>Course content, benefits  | none.   |
| <b>Studies at the university</b><br>Course content, credits, exams  | I took a design studio and two other courses which I completed in full (attending the lectures and completing the assignments), which brought me to the equivalent of 27 ECTS. Geidai also allows people to listen in on the lectures without taking them in full, meaning you do not have to complete the final assignments but are able to join in on discussions. I took this option for two other courses. All of the architecture lecture courses offered (required for the home students) are in Japanese.  |
| <b>Support at the university</b><br>Student counseling, International Office, Buddy, student contacts                         | The people at the student office/ international office at Geidai were very helpful. They were friendly to meet in person and very quick to respond to emails, and the int'l office staff are very accommodating to English-speaking students. We didn't have a buddy program as each masters studio has only a handful of students, so it is easy to socialise with them without.   |
| <b>Budgeting</b><br>Cost of living, study materials, money transfers  | <p>If you pick the right supermarkets, you can buy groceries and meals for a decent price. Convenience stores are a great option for cheap eats and you can find a variety of healthy options as well. In terms of study materials, the only thing that would cost money is the modelling materials - there are plenty of tools that you could use/borrow in the studios, so you would be spending most money on card/timber/glue.</p> <p>While people do use credit and debit cards or IC travel cards that you can top up, cash is still prevalent in many shops in Japan, so you may want to keep a fair amount in your wallet.</p>  |
| <b>Life / Leisure</b><br>Places to meet, sports, culture  | There are many options for meeting friends and entertainment (cute cafes, shopping areas, bookstores where you can stay for as long as you like, bars, izakayas, etc). For sport, I am not aware of any sports clubs at Geidai, but there are many parks that offer single-use gym facilities if you are looking for something short-term. There are plenty of museums to see, and there are also art installations and exhibits going on throughout the year in Tokyo - TimeOut would be a great English source for finding out about events.  |
| <b>Comparison of universities</b><br>What is better / worse at the partner university than at the University of Liechtenstein | <p>I think the architecture course at Geidai promotes a lot of autonomy and is very open to what each student wants to research. As indicated by the way they call studios "labs", students are encouraged to follow their own methodology and investigate their topics in a scientist-like manner, but at the same time the topics can be very theoretical and conceptual. Geidai are good at linking their research /topics to bigger themes in not just architecture but in the arts in general, a strength that comes from being one of the strongest art schools in Tokyo. This enriches the programme and got me thinking not only about the role of buildings in a society, but also about expression, communication of ideas and technology.</p> <p>The University's use of Slack as a messaging tool amongst students and teachers; and their use of Google Classroom for arranging courses and lectures was I think an effective way to organise the learning/ teaching experience.</p> |

**Photos**

Impressions of life, studying, environment



1. student doing light woodwork in studio room
2. me at our final crits/presentation
3. ameyoko shopping street near uni
4. group discussion by students in our studio
5. a photo we took (students and lab assistant) on my last day

**Photos**

Use of photos allowed for promotional purposes?

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Nein