



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF JAPAN
VANCOUVER

STUDY IN JAPAN

Top Five Benefits of Studying in Japan



Not as Expensive as You Might Think

International students can access a wide range of scholarships in a lot of different fields. Scholarship opportunities are available to fit various circumstances requiring full or partial tuition coverage, living allowances, and payment of other education related costs and fees. From Government of Japan (MEXT) Scholarships to many others offered by local governments, international organizations and private companies, search for the one that is a good fit for you.

Japan is also one of the few countries that allows international students to work part-time. Students can supplement their income by working up to 28 hours per week, as long as it does not interfere with their studies.



Experience a Unique Culture

One of the highlights for most students is being immersed in Japanese culture. From modern architecture to old temples, Shinkansen (bullet) trains to tea ceremony, Japan offers a dynamic blend of the modern and the traditional. And chances are, you will see and do things you never even knew existed in Japan.

Many universities provide high-quality instruction in Japanese language and culture before you start your regular program. Learning Japanese may not only help you with your studies, but offer you an insider view of the culture.



Safe and Comfortable

Live with peace of mind knowing that Japan has a low crime rate, modern infrastructure, and a top-notch medical system. Available to most international students, National Health Insurance, covers 70% of the cost of medical bills.

University campuses strive to maintain an international student-friendly environment. Assistance is provided regarding academic matters, career planning, visas, financial support, housing, and any other difficulties and problems international students may face.



High Quality Educational Programs in Japanese and English

Be on the Leading Edge of Science, Technology, and Medicine

Surround yourself with state-of-the art technology and innovative ideas in science and medicine. Students learn from some of the top professors in their fields and conduct research in some of the best university facilities in the world.

Programs in English

Many Japanese universities offer a range of courses and degree programs in English, and the number is growing every day! A wide range of options are available to students wanting to study at an undergraduate, master's, or doctoral level.



Create Connections

Interact with people from Japan and around the world. Join exchange activities for international students, such as homestays, extracurricular activities, and conferences. Enhance your career through internships and other support that will connect you with Japanese companies keen on hiring international students after graduation. Expose yourself to diverse cultures and a broader, global view. International students from over 150 countries and regions of the world are studying at higher educational institutions in Japan.

MEXT Scholarship Profiles – Fred Nayyer



Scholarship Type:
Undergraduate

Program/Field:
Information Science

University in Japan:
**Tsukuba University
(1998-2004)**

University Alma Mater:
Tehran University

Current Status:
**Digital Media and
E-commerce Consultant**

“Learning the language has opened so many doors and because of it I could meet some amazing people that I may have not otherwise.”

Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

Growing up I had travelled to Japan a few times due to my father's work and its relation with Japan. I found it somewhat similar but different from my heritage and wanted to learn more about the country and its background. It was a perfect opportunity when I heard about the scholarship program and the chance to live, learn the language and make friends.

What challenges did you anticipate (or find out) about living and studying in Japan?

Several challenges that ultimately made the

experience so much more exciting. Starting with (the obvious) Kanji, some Japanese food and above all “Keigo”!

But the most challenging part was learning to adapt to the culture and trying to understand the do's and don'ts, especially when communicating with a professor!

What is your most memorable experience of your time studying in Japan?

It was the day I was defending my thesis. It was one of the most memorable moments in my life when I saw the results of several years of hard work and sleepless nights.

However, saying goodbye to friends and classmates was not so easy.

What did you find intriguing or enjoyable about Japan, in particular?

Without a doubt, learning about the culture.

Japan is most amazing in combining the "Old" with the "New". It knows how to keep traditions, while also

modernizing.

How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

Although it doesn't directly affect my professional life, at this point in time, Japan is a big part of my daily life that continues to expand my horizons.

Learning the language and the culture has come in handy in several stages of my life. It has

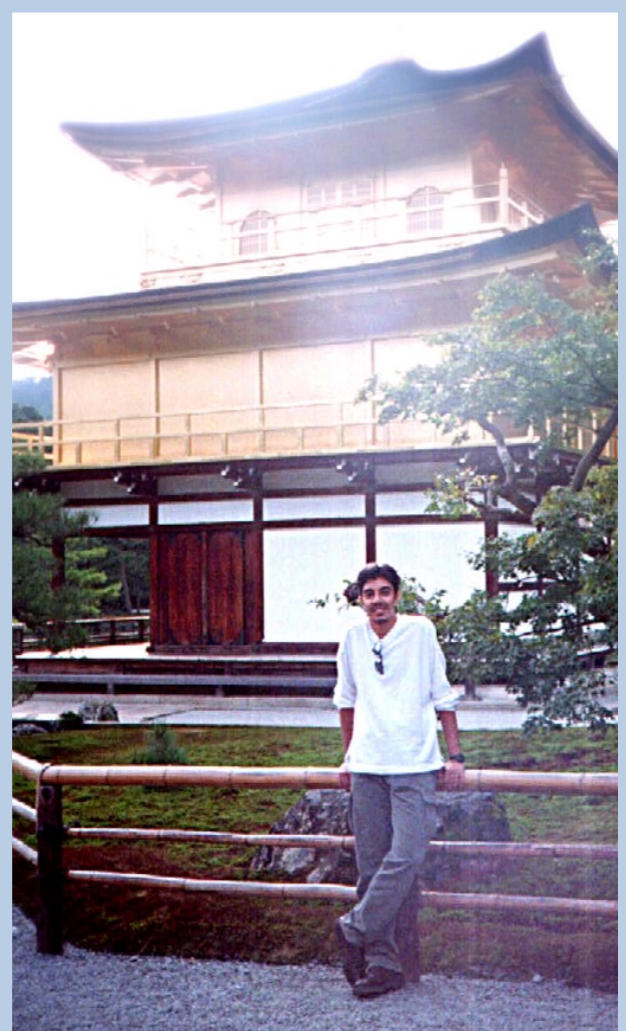
opened so many doors and allowed me to meet some amazing people that I may have not met otherwise.

What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

It is one unique experience like no other that is well worth the challenges, both bitter and sweet. At the same time, it creates memories that will last a lifetime.



**Fred with the Glico Running Man
in Dotonbori, Osaka**



**At Kinkaku-ji Temple
Kyoto**

MEXT Scholarship Profiles – Terry Kuo



Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

I liked the prestige of becoming a Japanese Government of Japan sponsored scholar. Economically, it also made sense - a full scholarship which included flights and living expenses.

What challenges did you have for living and studying in Japan?

A few things: The vast difference between the living space and pace in Tokyo versus Vancouver. The interaction between students and professors in a Canadian university and a Japanese university.

What is your most memorable experience of studying in Japan?

Meeting friends from all over the world with similar interests in Japanese culture and language.

What else was enjoyable about Japan?

The convenience of the

convenience stores in Japan. From paying bills to accepting and shipping packages, as well as withdrawing money from overseas accounts, are all tasks that can be done at the 7-11 that's just around the corner.

The development of local tourism in Japan makes it so easy to travel to any prefecture and major tourist attractions. Limited research is required ahead of time and the issue of safety and tourist traps is almost non-existent.



How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

Being able to study in a well-known and established Japanese University has opened many doors for me in finding opportunities with Japanese based companies and organizations. It certainly was taken into consideration when I later applied and was accepted to the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme to work in Japan for two years as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR). The work experience in Japan also prepared me well for a position in the international

Scholarship Type:
Japanese Studies

Program/Field:
Japanese Language Studies

University in Japan:
**Keio University
(2012 - 2013)**

University Alma Mater in Canada:
University of British Columbia

Current Status:
**Economic Advisor,
Consulate General of
Japan in Vancouver**

"Being able to study in a Japanese University has opened many doors for me in finding opportunities with Japanese based companies and organizations."

education field, and my current employment with the Consulate General of Japan.

What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

Look into the specifics such as living costs, food, culture, and weather when determining the

study destination. Tokyo is a great city for tourists to visit but living costs are comparatively high and the living space and pace is often challenging to those who are more accustomed to the Canadian lifestyle, particular the laid-back pace of the west coast.

The Japanese culture is much more dynamic than the general

stereotypical image of sushi, J-pop and anime. The unique differences between each prefecture and region of Japan make it a place that is ideal for exploration and learning about not only the language but the people, culture and much more.



Made it!



MEXT Scholarship Profiles – Angelica Lim



Scholarship Type:
**Research Student (Followed
by Masters and PhD)**

Program/Field:
**Computer Science /
Artificial Intelligence /
Robotics**

University in Japan:
**Kyoto University
(2009-2014)**

University Alma Mater in
Canada:
Simon Fraser University

Current Status:
**Assistant Professor, School
of Computing Science,
Simon Fraser University**

Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

I was interested in robotics after graduating from Simon Fraser University, and felt that Japan had the best robots in the world. The MEXT Scholarship was a perfect way to continue my studies in a country that had even better technology and opportunities for my field than in North America.

What challenges did you anticipate (or find out) about living and studying in Japan?

I didn't know Japanese at all before I learned about the MEXT Scholarship program. So, when I decided to apply, I started taking courses right away – a summer class and an evening community course. When I arrived in Japan, the immersion classes offered by MEXT were extremely

invaluable, and I continue to use the Japanese I learned to this day.

What is your most memorable experience of your time studying in Japan?

Being a part of the launch of the world's first consumer humanoid robot, Pepper! As a robotics Ph.D. student, I landed a part-time job working on a secret robotics project for the Japanese telecom giant Softbank, and a French robotics company. Thanks to the Canadian education system in which I learned French, and my Japanese robotics studies, I acted as a technical liaison between the French engineers in Paris and their Japanese colleagues in Tokyo. In June 2014, our robot, Pepper, was launched in a huge auditorium at Tokyo Disneyland. It was

On Designing User-Friendly Robots: Angelica Lim at TEDxKyoto

<https://youtu.be/bILWpdGtYRQ>

amazing to have played a role in it!

I had many memorable experiences, such as speaking at TEDxKyoto, and being served ramen by two knife-wielding robots! Thanks to my research lab, I was also sent to attend conferences in Slovenia, Taiwan, Portugal, San Francisco, France, Germany, and Italy.

What else was enjoyable about Japan?

The onsens. I loved going to Japanese-style hotels (ryokan), eating fine food, and sitting in natural hot spring baths, surrounded by nature.

How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

My past role at robotics world leader, Aldebaran Robotics, was a perfect fit, thanks to MEXT. I could speak Japanese at this Japanese-owned company in Paris, and lead a team in developing an emotional robot, which was the subject of my Masters and Ph.D. theses at Kyoto University. Plus, 5 years in Japan allowed me to be able to comment on intercultural differences, to help my colleagues understand each other.

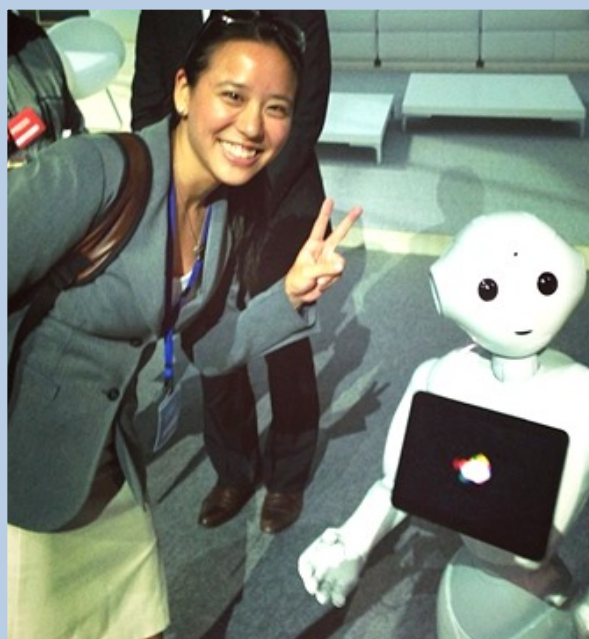
What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

If you don't know basic Japanese yet, I'd advise learning it before going, so that you can enter Beginner Level 2 or Intermediate Japanese immersion classes upon arrival.

Beginner Level 2 will get you far, whereas entry-level Japanese can be quite limiting.

Also, for researchers it's best to try and attend a top university for your CV later on, but choose your professor

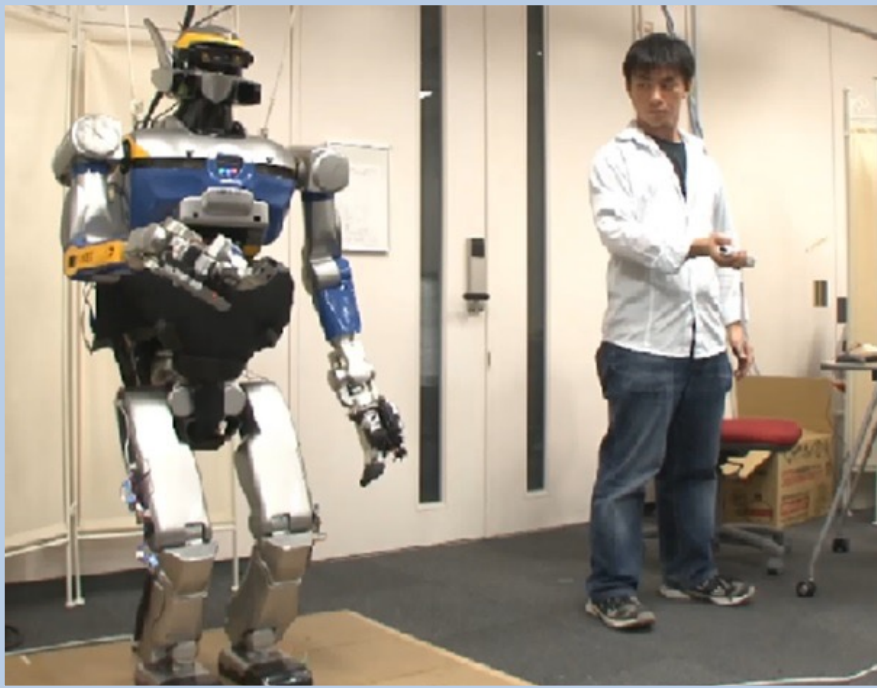
wisely to make sure you have fun while doing it! I found a professor whose webpage had lots of pictures of student gatherings and events, and it turned out he was not only a top prof, but we also had a lot of great lab trips and activities!



Checking out Japanese culture with friends



MEXT Scholarship Profiles – Wesley Chan



Scholarship Type:
Research Student
(for Ph.D. Course)

Program/Field:
Creative informatics
(Daily assistive robots,
human-robot interaction)

University in Japan:
University of Tokyo
(2013-2016)

University Alma Mater in
Canada:
**University of British
Columbia**

Current Status:
Research Fellow
at Monash University

Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

While finishing my Masters Degree at UBC, my supervisor encouraged me to pursue my Ph.D. at a different location to gain experience from another university. My area of research is in assistive robotics, and Japan seemed a natural fit.

Around that time, a project at the JSK lab, at the University of Tokyo, caught my attention. Students programmed a PR2 robot to take the elevator and order a sandwich from a restaurant for a person. I found out more about the JSK lab, and decided to do my Ph.D. there.

I looked for scholarship opportunities, found the MEXT Scholarship, and decided to apply for it.

What challenges did you have for living and studying in Japan?

One of the first challenges I found was the language barrier. Even though I was enrolled in an English program, about half of the courses I had to take were in Japanese. Communication in my lab is almost exclusively in Japanese, and in daily life, English won't get you very far, either. This situation provided me with an excellent environment to learn Japanese. One of the reasons I chose to come to Japan was because I was interested in learning Japanese.

The University of Tokyo provides a wide range of free Japanese classes, as well as opportunities for cultural exchange between Japanese and international students, both in Japanese and English. Through them, I

"Japan has given me the great experience of working in different worlds."

became proficient enough to enjoy simple conversations in Japanese with lab mates and friends.

What is your most memorable experience of studying in Japan?

There are too many experiences to pick just one. Getting to work with many different robots at my lab. Visiting and conducting collaborative research with large companies within the industry. Climbing Mt. Fuji. Joining cultural exchange programs for homestays. Interacting with students at public schools. Helping to raise global awareness and multicultural understanding. Seeing different matsuri (festivals) and hanabi taikai (fireworks). Making friends with people from all around the world. These are all memorable experiences I have of studying in Japan.

What else was enjoyable about Japan?

One thing I find intriguing is Japan's heavy promotion of tourism within the country. Almost every prefecture and many cities have unique food, products and attractions for which they are famous. There's always something interesting, and I enjoy travelling around Japan to see different places.

How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

Japan has given me the great experience of working in different worlds. I see different approaches for research, different work culture and work ethics, and learn different methodologies and ways of thinking. It allows me to make comparisons, think deeply, and choose.

While I still haven't decided exactly on my future, it has allowed me to see a bit more clearly the type of person I would like to become, so that I can help make this world a better place for everyone.

What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

Try to learn Japanese beforehand. It will be crucial for getting the most out of your studies. Having said that, you can still enjoy Japan a lot without knowing any Japanese.

Although I never thought about studying or living away from home, I'm really glad I did it. It has given me many great experiences in research and in life. Occasionally, there are hard times, but the majority are positive. I have met many friendly people and received much support.



MEXT Scholarship Profiles – K. Lee



Scholarship Type:
Research Student

Program/Field:
**International Relations,
China's Foreign Policy**

University in Japan:
**Graduate School of Asia
and Pacific Studies,
Waseda University
(2009-2011)**

University Alma Mater in
Canada:
**University of British
Columbia**

Current Status:
**Lead, Communications,
NEXT Group
(An independent think tank
specialized in climate &
energy policies in Seoul,
South Korea)**

Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

I found the perfect graduate program that I wanted to enrol in, China's foreign policy, at Waseda University.

What challenges did you anticipate (or find out) about living and studying in Japan?

At first, living in Japan might be challenging because it is culturally and linguistically very different.

The graduate school had an English-track, but I also did

some coursework in Japanese. Completing and presenting class materials in Japanese was challenging, but it greatly improved my Japanese.

I found my two-years studying in Japan was a very worthwhile investment. It provided me with an opportunity for personal growth and lifelong friendships, while opening doors to a wider variety of careers paths in the future.

Finding a place to live through Japanese agents was too costly, but I found an affordable place to share with friends.

"It provided me with an opportunity for personal growth and lifelong friendships, while opening doors to a wider variety of careers paths in the future."

What is your most memorable experience of your time studying in Japan?

I had already been to many places in Japan in the past, mostly in the Kansai area. Living a metropolitan life in Tokyo was a memorable experience for me.

What else was enjoyable about Japan?

I found the Japanese food most intriguing and attractive. I also enjoyed the well-established transportation system.

How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

Through studying in Japan, I was

able to establish a personal network with people related to Japan and Japanese affairs, more easily.

In the long-term, I plan to pursue a career in the non-profit and government sector at organizations potentially related to Japan.

What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

Japan really has an excellent scholarship program for foreign students. You will be able to enjoy a quiet life of studying if you find a good university and program that fits your academic interest.

Make sure to make the most out

of Japanese language programs available for foreign students.

Try to reach out to Japanese people if you want to culturally mingle with them by joining school clubs, events, etc.

Also, try to find career opportunities while studying. Japan has many foreign companies and organizations, where you can apply for internships or jobs.



**K. Lee in
Shibuya, Tokyo**



**Sakura (Cherry Blossoms)
near Waseda University**

MEXT Scholarship Profiles – Meghan O'Connell



Scholarship Type:
Research Student

Program/Field:
**Graduate School of Global
Environmental Studies,
Master's of Environmental
Management)**

University in Japan:
**Kyoto University
(2011- 2013)**

University Alma Mater in
Canada:
McGill University

Current Status:
**Research Analyst,
Metro Vancouver Regional
Parks**

***"It has given me a unique
and more global
perspective on matters
regarding environmental
issues and education."***

Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

I was previously living in Japan, working as an English teacher on the JET Programme, but I wanted to experience Japan in a new way. I thought that going to university there would provide me with that opportunity.

Looking into various graduate school programs both in Japan and in Canada, the program at Kyoto University really struck my fancy. It was largely internship based, which is what I wanted, and I would be able to live in

Kyoto, a beautiful city full of history and culture, while surrounded by nature.

What challenges did you have for living and studying in Japan?

As I had lived in Japan for a number of years prior to receiving the MEXT scholarship, I was already familiar with many of the challenges of cultural misconceptions and language barriers, however there were some new challenges too. The way that courses are taught in Japanese universities is quite different than in the West.

What is your most memorable experience of studying in Japan?

My most memorable experience was doing an internship with the Ministry of Environment in Shiretoko National Park, Hokkaido.

For five weeks in the spring of 2012, I worked in the remote Shiretoko Peninsula learning about wildlife management practices. At the Kushiro Wildlife Conservation Centre, which is a rehabilitation centre for Steller's Sea Eagles, White Tailed Eagles and Blakiston's Fish Owls, I worked side-by-side with wildlife veterinarians. I also worked with park rangers doing wildlife surveys.

The pristine environment and natural beauty of Shiretoko was like nowhere else in Japan. I saw orca whales, brown bears and foxes, learned how sea urchins are harvested, and

bathed in remote hot springs.

What else was enjoyable about Japan?

From the remote wilderness of the north to the tropical seas of the south, Japan is a country that is so much more than the concrete jungle of Tokyo. By studying and living in Japan you can experience the country in a very intimate way.

The memories that remain closest to my heart are the fleeting moments that make you stop and truly appreciate the little things: the way the afternoon sun sparkles off of vibrant green rice paddy fields. The smell of roasted chestnuts at a roadside stand underneath red and orange momiji maple leaves. Watching snow fall around the Imperial Palace grounds on a cold silent winter night. Strolling underneath the cherry trees as petals fall around you in magical beauty.

How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

Honestly, I can't say that getting a Master's degree in Japan helped me get my current job, but it has given me a unique and more global perspective on matters regarding environmental issues and education.

What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

Do your research before applying. Talk to professors and former students to find out what your intended program will be like. Think about what you want to get out of your studies and decide if studying in Japan will fulfill your criteria.

Studying and living in Japan requires you to be open minded, adaptable, patient and ready to try A LOT of new things.

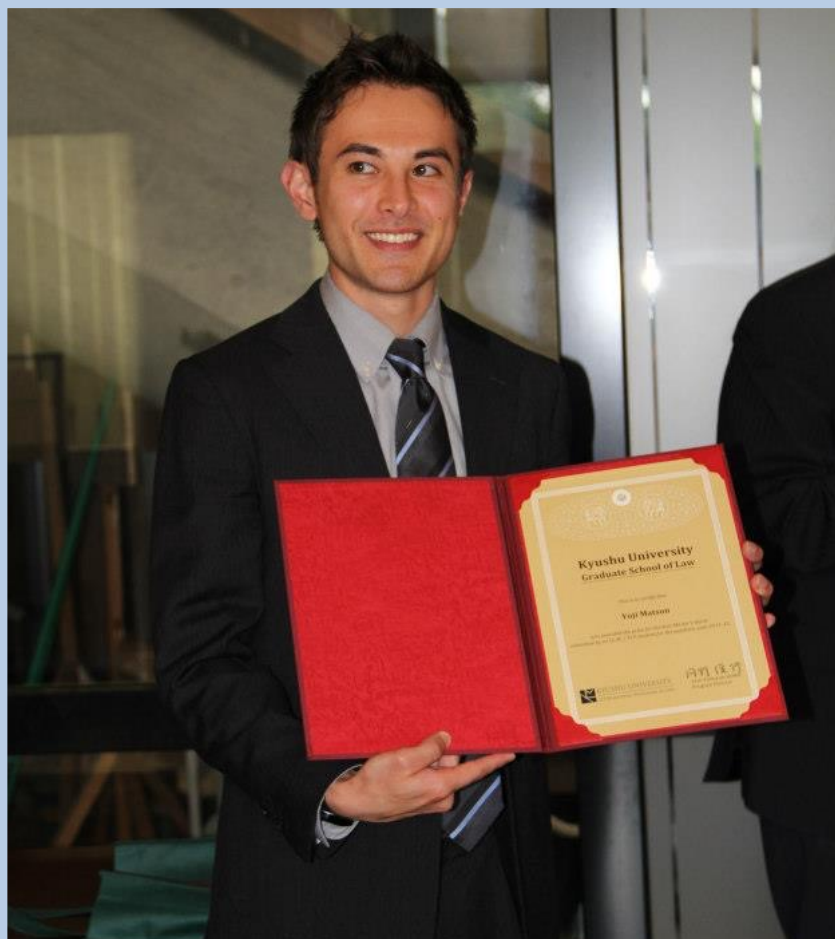


**Enjoying Uji Kintoki
(Red Bean & Green Tea Shaved Ice)**



**In the Field
Shiretoko National Park, Hokkaido**

MEXT Scholarship Profiles – Yuji Matson



Scholarship Type:
Research Student

Program/Field:
**Master of Laws (LL.M.) –
International Economic
and Business Law**

University in Japan:
**Kyushu University,
Graduate School of Law
(2011-2012)**

University Alma Mater in
Canada:
University of Victoria

Current Status:
Lawyer (Immigration)

***“Fully immersing yourself
in a different culture can
be a rich and rewarding
experience.”***

Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

Japan has been a large part of my life. I had studied the language and culture as an undergraduate, and lived there as an exchange student, as well as a participant in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. I enjoyed my time in Japan and was excited to live there again.

Every year, a graduate of the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law is selected to participate in Kyushu University's LL.M. Program in International Economic and

Business Law (IEBL). I hoped to connect my knowledge of Japanese language and culture with my future career in law. Kyushu University's IEBL Program was a perfect way for me to enhance my formal legal education before embarking on my professional career.

What challenges did you have for living and studying in Japan?

From previous experience, I was already familiar with some of the challenges that I would encounter. One of the main challenges is navigating the

cultural differences. Such differences can include something as simple and innocent as taking off your shoes before entering a home. More significant customs and etiquette include not being late for an appointment (it is best to be slightly early) and being attuned to indirect and non-verbal forms of communication (direct language is avoided, especially when expressing a negative response to a request).

An open mind and flexibility is important when faced with such challenges. One can discover new approaches to life and human relations, and the differing norms and values that they reflect. They can complement, rather than oppose, the practices and approaches we are more familiar with in our home country. In this way, fully immersing yourself in a different culture can be a rich and rewarding experience.

What is your most memorable experience of studying in Japan?

My most memorable experience was getting to know people from around the world. Participating in an international academic program presents opportunities to not only encounter differing perspectives within the classroom, but to also learn about the diverse cultures and backgrounds of people you may not have a chance to meet in your life in Canada. The program I participated in attracts students from different regions in the world, including East Asia, Southeast Asia, South

Asia, Africa, and Europe. The faculty members and visiting professors also hail from different countries.

What else was enjoyable about Japan?

Emphasis on the group in Japan is reflected in many aspects of its culture. One example, which I enjoy, is the hot spring (onsen), which act as public baths in Japan; everyone is naked (save for a small towel). Out of courtesy to the other bathers, with whom you share the hot spring water, you only enter the hot spring after washing. There is a sense of equality in the hot spring, as everyone is stripped of any markers of status, which fosters a sense of camaraderie; everyone, literally, has nothing to hide and can feel more at ease to open up to strangers in the highly relaxed atmosphere.

These customs may seem strange or uncomfortable to someone who grew up in Canada, but once you shed your preconceptions and shyness (along with your clothes), onsen are both pleasurable and addictive.

How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

As an immigration lawyer, the skills and knowledge I gained allow me to better serve clients. Employers often refer to the importance of soft skills, such as understanding different cultures or customs. Your experience studying in an international setting will foster the soft skills that are so valuable nowadays.

During my studies, I developed a vast network of connections

with the people I met from different parts of the world. Having an international outlook and contacts that span the globe is a tremendous asset.

What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

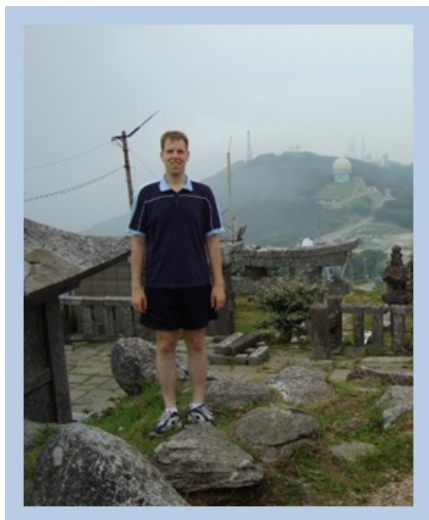
Learn a bit of Japanese language before you leave. Making an effort to communicate in Japanese will be much appreciated. Many Japanese people are not comfortable or confident communicating in English.

Have an open mind and embrace challenges and cultural differences with a positive outlook. It will go a long way to making your experience rewarding and fulfilling.



At a Shinto Shrine

MEXT Scholarship Profiles – Aaron Froese



**Aaron at Sefuri-san
the tallest mountain near Fukuoka**

Why did you apply for the MEXT Scholarship?

I was interested in going overseas to continue my graduate studies. My thesis supervisor at the University of Saskatchewan had colleagues in Japan. As far as I was aware, the MEXT scholarship was the best support for foreign students being offered by any of the countries doing plasma physics research.

What challenges did you have for living and studying in Japan?

I had only taken two introductory Japanese language courses during my undergraduate studies, so I anticipated the language barrier to be significant. However, I found the language to be an interesting puzzle which did not present many difficulties. During day-to-day activities, the locals were willing to accommodate my poor communication skills and for

more difficult things, I could always ask the people in my lab for help if I needed it. As with any language study, immersion is the most effective method for improvement; it involves a lot of making mistakes and sounding childish, but the payoff is worth the effort.

What is your most memorable experience of studying in Japan?

A total solar eclipse happened in 2009 in the middle of tsuyu (梅雨), the rainy season. The best place to see the eclipse was Yakushima, but all the accommodations were full before I even started making plans. A friend of mine from Saskatoon was coming to see the eclipse, so I booked a youth hostel in Ibusuki on the southern-most tip of Kagoshima Prefecture where the sun would be 97% covered. A single-track railway serviced Ibusuki only twice a day.

The trip there was beautiful and sunny, but as we walked into town, thick clouds rolled in. When we arrived at the hostel, everyone in the common room was glued to the weather report on TV, as everyone was there for the eclipse. It turned out the only place on Kyushu that would have a break in the clouds was Fukuoka, where I lived. Even worse, the infrequent railway service left no way to get back before the eclipse would occur. If only I had checked the weather before leaving Kagoshima City, we could have avoided the clouds by going home! Back in Fukuoka, all my friends happily

Scholarship Type:
Research Student

Program/Field:
**Department of Advanced
Energy Engineering
Sciences,
Interdisciplinary Graduate
School of Engineering
Sciences**

University in Japan:
**Kyushu University
(2007-2010)**

University Alma Mater in
Canada:
**University of Saskatchewan
(2005-2007)
University of British
Columbia (2002-2005)
University of the Fraser
Valley (2000-2002)**

Current Status:
**Computational
Plasma Physicist
at General Fusion Inc.**

***"There is frequent
collaboration among
physics researchers in the
U.S, Japan, and
Europe...so it is very
helpful to have some
Japanese to introduce
myself and begin what
could be a fruitful
research collaboration"***

told me about how they had watched the eclipse, whereas I couldn't even perceive a change in the light level while it was happening. It was a long wait until the 2017 eclipse in North America, but I managed to be in the path of totality for that one.

What else was enjoyable about Japan?

Not realizing the strength of Japanese traditions about bathing, I thought onsen (温泉), or hot springs, were used as novel settings in TV episodes because the writers had run out of ideas.

I realized my mistake when I was housed in old dormitories at other research institutions. The rooms were frequently Japanese-style with tatami mats and futons. The bathing facilities were also onsen-style, with many shower faucets in a

single room around a huge hot tub. Modern hotels in Japan may have such facilities on a separate floor, but they tend to favour western-style rooms that include showers.

You will not get an authentic onsen experience unless you go to a ryokan, which can be more expensive. I recommend visiting a ryokan at least once.

How did studying in Japan benefit you in your current role?

Many of my colleagues in Japan continue to be good friends. In addition, there is frequent collaboration among physics researchers in the U.S., Japan, and Europe. The Japanese contingent tends to be somewhat self-segregating at international conferences, so it is very helpful to have some Japanese to introduce myself and begin what could

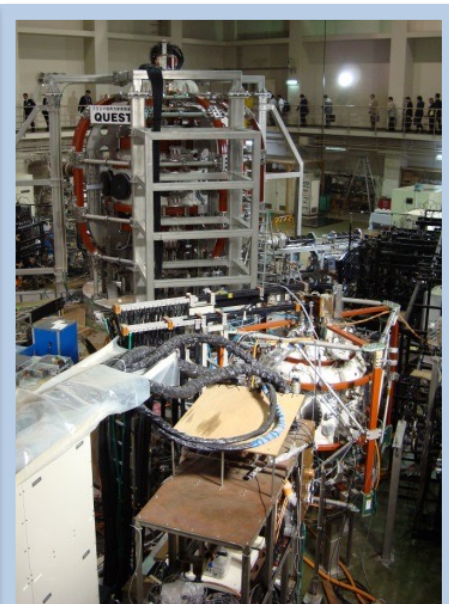
be a fruitful research collaboration.

What comments or advice do you have for people considering studying in Japan?

Foreign students came with varying levels of Japanese language ability. While everyone managed to settle into daily living, those who better understood their surroundings made the transition more smoothly and also had a greater appreciation for cultural activities. It was not a necessary prerequisite for research students. Anyone who preferred to concentrate on academic work was able to function despite putting minimal effort into learning the language. Both strategies proved to be feasible.



At Kumamoto Castle



**Spherical Tokamak
Chikushi Campus, Kyushu University**

Japanese Government (*Monbukagakusho: MEXT*) Scholarships

www.vancouver.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/mext_en.html

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of the Government of Japan offers Undergraduate, Japanese Studies, and Research Student Scholarships to foreign students who wish to study at Japanese universities. The scholarship covers full tuition, monthly allowance, and a round-trip flight between Japan and Canada.

The information below is only a basic guideline. Consult the scholarship application guides for details including complete eligibility requirements.

Undergraduate Scholarship

A five-year scholarship, including one year of preparatory, Japanese language studies. Applicants must be high school graduates, between 17 and 21 years old.

Applications are usually available in April or May, each year, with a deadline to apply in May or early June.

Japanese Studies Scholarship

A one-year scholarship, beginning in October, for undergraduate students interested in deepening their understanding of Japanese language, culture and affairs.

Applicants must:

- Have completed at least one full academic year of university studies by April of the scholarship year.
- Be an undergraduate at a foreign (non-Japanese) university at the time of arriving in Japan and returning to the same university, after completion of the scholarship, to complete a bachelor's degree. (Students transferring from one college/university to another, after completing the scholarship, are not eligible.)
- Be majoring in fields related to Japanese language and culture, and have taken at least one year of Japanese language and culture courses.
- Be proficient enough in the Japanese language ability to receive education taught in Japanese.
- Be between 18 and 30 years old.

Applications are usually available in January, each year, with a deadline to apply in February or early March.

Research Student Scholarship

For university graduates, under 35 years of age, who wish to study as research students. The research study area should be the same, or a related field, that the applicant has studied in the past. The term of the scholarship is 18 months to two years, including six months of Japanese language training (as necessary).

Applications are usually available in April or May, each year, with a deadline to apply in May.



Resources



Study in Japan

www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/

A comprehensive guide to studying at any level in Japan and information for former international students who have since returned to their own countries from Japan.

Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education

www.nisshinkyo.org/english/index.html

Find an approved Japanese Language Institute in Japan.



Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)

www.jasso.go.jp/en/index.html

Provides support programs for international students in Japan. Find information on Japanese Schools (Universities, Colleges, and Japanese Language Institutes) and Scholarships, as well as the Job Hunting Guide for International Students.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowships

www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/index.html

JSPS provides fellowships for qualified researchers to conduct joint research activities with colleagues at Japanese universities and research institutes.



Japan Study Support

www.jpss.jp/en/

Learn more about studying at Japanese educational institutions, including Universities, Graduate Schools, Junior Colleges, and Vocational Schools that recruit international students. Includes a searchable database to help you find a suitable place to study.

Japan Foundation

www.jpf.go.jp/e/

Japan Foundation, Toronto

tr.jpf.go.jp

The Japan Foundation carries out activities designed to deepen mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries. Individuals and Organizations can access funding and programs for Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese Language Education, and Japanese Studies. Support programs are offered to people, who wish to further their study of Japan, including scholars, researchers, doctoral candidates, artists, cultural properties specialists, and teachers of Japan-related studies. Resources for learning the Japanese language are also available online.



Top Global University Project Japan

<https://tgu.mext.go.jp/en/index.html>

The Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) developed the Top Global University Project to prioritize support to universities that are conducting world-leading education and research, as well as leading the globalization of Japanese society. These universities offer distinctive programs and support systems to enhance international student experiences in Japan, while offering an increasing number of English degree courses and curricula.



For Further Information

Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver
www.vancouver.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/culture_study_en.html
jet@vc.mofa.go.jp / 604-684-5868