

REPORT AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO - A.A.  
2015/2016

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## Testo

### 1. My study at MAU

I study at MAU of the semester 16 spring. Through the time in MAU, I got an unforgettable experience. The thinking way in Japan is really different from Italy. In a quiet and personal space for designing, for reading and for live. Everyone is so nice here even though I can't speak Japanese. I get inspiration here and it is positive for study and to explore the new things here. Musabi is a good place to find space and time to do my own thinking.

I am so lucky that I get the chance to take the class of professor Hara Kenya. He is one of the greatest graphic designers in 21st century. The professors told me Japanese way of thinking, the traditional Japanese culture. I found it is very different that Japanese design focuses on people's feeling. They want to solve the tiny problem in our life and, computer technology is only a tool. They use the simply slow and deliberate music with white paper to explain their feeling.

Attending class at the Musashino art university was also a very worthwhile experience for me. The Musashino art university is one of the most prestigious universities in the world, especially in graphic design. It was an honor to study at the university, attend lectures taught by professors that are making world-renowned design, and be introduced to some of the world's designer.

In addition, being in a small class of only seven students made it a much more casual setting in which we could get to know the professors and other students more on a personal level. At times, a few of the professors were a little difficult to understand and their lectures may have been far above our level in knowledge, but they were always welcoming and encouraging of our questions.

They really cared about our understanding of the material as students and they were all very proud of their own work. I learned a lot about the many different fields and, as a result, I have been able to discover what areas of research I am really interested in. It has always been difficult for me to decide what major and concentration I want to dedicate my studies to because I love learning about everything. But by learning about the lifechanging research that these professors are working on and what they are currently doing in their workshop, I was able to realize what kind of research I was most interested in.

As a result, I have been motivated to get more involved with such research at my university and hopefully contribute in the future.

The facilities in the campus that MAU offers are simply great. I love the library of MAU, with an enormous amount of literature and media related to the arts and design, was available to do any research you would like related to your current classes and studies. There are so many books of design, Japanese painting, tea ceremony and Japanese food. It helps me know the history, the development of Japan which I really interest in.

## 2. Classes at MAU

About my work of this semester, except the team work, I do a sushi work by myself, which focus on rethinking of sushi to design the pattern of sushi. Get inspiration from traditional patterns in Edo period. I got a lot of help during my work and know how the Japanese thinking.

I worked on a project is much more revealing when the student can include personal demands. It also pushes me to strongly identify with this place in my unfortunately very short time of only 4 months.

My tutor, other students, the staff at the Center for International Relations, the professors and even passers-by are always ready to help me out. I really feel at home here and know my way around.

My classes which is of mr Bando and mr Hara. Mr bando told me to do a work by myself, it really gives me a chance to learn the Japanese cultural and go close to Japanese life. And from mr Hara's class, I worked with other Japanese students, we worked on the visual communication design of Japanese temari. I know the different shooting way of Japan and go close to Japanese visual display.

My tutor, Hinako, is a lovely and friendly girl, give me a lot of help both my life and study. She companied me for the accommodation documents and go to the supermarket together.

I like the Japanese class which with other exchange students. The teacher is very kindly to explain our questions with Japanese in our Japan life. He took some interesting Japanese gift and delicious Japanese snacks for us almost every week. I was afraid that the language barrier would be too high to overcome.

I noticed, however, that many people wanted to get to know an exchange student and practice a foreign language. Even though we didn't always share a common language, everyone were trying to, and that was enough. I have met here people that I want to stuff in my bag pack and take back to Italy and show them around as they have shown me around here.

Japanese people gives no preference to your color, look and so on. They give preference to your character and behaviour. If you are polite, trustworthy, you can survive and win Japanese peoples. You can have good and peaceful life here. There are lots of openings for English teachers in Japan. Japanese peoples are very crazy in learning English. At the same time, people from other countries like you jam packed in Japan.

We also have fun with each other during the class, we talk about the eating way and Traditional festivals of our own country. It is really a happy memory.

## 3. Life in Tokyo

I've been dreaming of coming to Japan for many years. I know it can attracts me for various reasons, the traditional culture, the food, the products. I wanted a completely different experience and a change of my daily routine. And actually, it's more awesome than I expected.

My experience living here has mostly been pretty positive. I don't think it's the most expensive place to live in the world, in my opinion although most people might disagree with me. From what I can see, you can pretty much live within the hustle and bustle of this city, but might need to get used to living in a place way smaller than 500 square feet of space. It took me some time to get used to it during my first year, but it wasn't so bad after that.

Personally, I believe Tokyo is a pretty great place for food ,and to live as an Asian-American female. Many locals here just tend to accept the fact that I'm just simply American. Don't get me wrong though, there are exceptional cases that I get asked about my cultural background. And usually depending on whether that person has been lived abroad.

By the time that I had arrived in Tokyo, I had read over the papers and maps so many times about how to get to my hotel, but it all still seemed extremely complicated. I avoided the train system completely (except for the one easy-access train line from the airport to Ueno station), as I figured that I would not be able to figure out my way around.

I had never dealt with such a complex train system before and I did not want to spend too much money getting a taxi or an airport limousine. It was definitely a long walk and I got lost a few times, but it was a great first experience interacting with friendly Japanese locals in the city streets of Tokyo.

I spend 4 months in Tokyo. I love the food here, it's really suitable for me and similar to china. I also like shopping in the malls, the mall in Shinjuku and Shibuya is always full of shops I like. I don't want to leave Tokyo.

I love the time stay in dormitory, the administrator Ikarisan help our foreign student how to use the dormitory appliance, he also give me a present before I leave. It was a lot of fun to discover the neighborhood by bike, including all the supermarkets, 100Yen-Shops and restaurants, although the area is quite rural and really different from well-known places like Shinjuku or Harajuku.

Good apartments in nice places are generally expensive, food is expensive, japanese people living in Tokyo can be a little bit cold but on the other hand tokyo is one of the best place to live in. There are plethora of cuisines from different parts of the world and nice bars (with variety of drinks) to meet other foreigners and Japanese.

It is a little bit more diverse than other Japan cities. The transport system is very efficient, it is very clean and there is order in most of the things they do. People line for food, train, buses. There are plenty of nice places to hang out. With nice parks, cultural events going on every weekend. It is a few hours away from beaches and places to hikes.

About the earthquake. Tokyo sits on faultlines that make up part of the Ring of Fire. Earthquakes have always been a regular feature in life here and they will continue to be so. Your office desk will come equipped with an earthquake emergency kit. University have regular earthquake drills so children know what to do. And gathering points are clearly identified in each community so you know where to go if a big earthquake should strike.

It's part of life in Tokyo. Is it a risk worth taking? Well, the final decision has to be yours. Life really can be up and down in Tokyo, in the most literal sense of the expression.

Japanese society is strongly based on cultural rules. I'm not saying that Western society isn't, but in my experience of both, Japanese rules are far stricter and more complex. So what's this got to do with you, thegaijin? You get to live in a society that's well-ordered. Things work.

You know why things happen, and why they don't. But you're not bound by these rules in the same way as a Japanese person. If they break a rule at work it can jeopardise their whole career. If you break a rule at work, as long as you show respect and a willingness to learn, life goes on as normal.

University life is very exciting and interesting. Studying at Musabi was a big chance for me to understand a different approach to graphic design and I feel stronger than before I live in Milan. My expectations were completely satisfied, or rather everything is better than I could expect and become better day by day.

All in all, I was interested in Japanese design for its complexity in detail and so I came to Japan to learn design. I'd like to work in design in Japan. In the future I want to go back to China and make use of my experiences here. The school is serious about learning. You can really feel yourself growing through the curriculum as it teaches you from the very foundations of design.

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Autorizzo al trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo n. 196/03 da parte del Politecnico di Milano.

Firma — HOU XUAN XUAN —