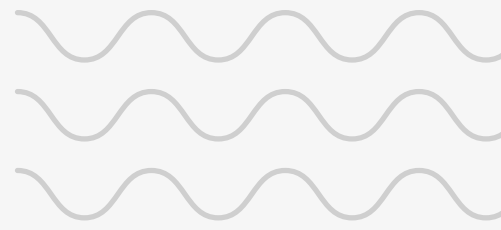


Akita International University (AIU) Domestic Exchange Program

Experiences and Advice



Achievements and Accomplishments



- Apply the specialized knowledge that I gained at APU in a more practical way through active group work, discussions, and presentations in the small-sized classes introduced at the class in Akita International University.
- **Cooking Project:** Got selected for a project called AIU Cooking School, an initiative aimed at helping dormitory students improve their cooking skills. As someone passionate about cooking, I was happy to share my knowledge and help other students.
- **Academic Growth:** The exchange experience helped me re-evaluate my career path. Initially a Hospitality and Tourism student, I discovered my passion for filmmaking through the courses I took at AIU. As part of my final project of digital storytelling class, I worked on a documentary that explored 'the declining population of Japan, which reinforced my interest in storytelling and visual media.



Challenges

Things I was not able to achieve

- I had set a goal of participating in the regional collaboration program and taking a class focused on Akita prefecture, aiming not only to gain a deeper understanding of the region but also to incorporate this knowledge into my graduation research. This is because I believed that this would allow me to apply a more localized perspective and enrich the scope of my academic work.
- Unfortunately, I was unable to participate in the program as planned. However, I was still able to explore Akita Prefecture with my friends during the fall semester, which, though not part of the program, provided me with valuable insights into the local culture and history. This experience has helped me develop a broader perspective and it will positively influence my graduation research moving forward.



Advices for Future Students in this program



Academic advice:

Course Selection: Choose courses that align with both interest and future goals as AIU has a variety of courses.

Study Methods: Be proactive, participate in class discussions, and use AIU's academic resources as they are super useful .

Support System: AIU has strong student support, including professors and personal counsellor.

Daily Life Tips:

AIU is in a remote location—be prepared for fewer entertainment options.

The remote campus builds a strong, close-knit student community.

Explore Akita's local culture and nature as it has a lot to offer.



Advices for Future Students in this program

[Course Registration]

The process of course registration was a bit different from APU, and we need an approval from professor before course registration. Since there are many restrictions on the courses that can be registered, I felt it was necessary to confirm this before going on the domestic exchange.

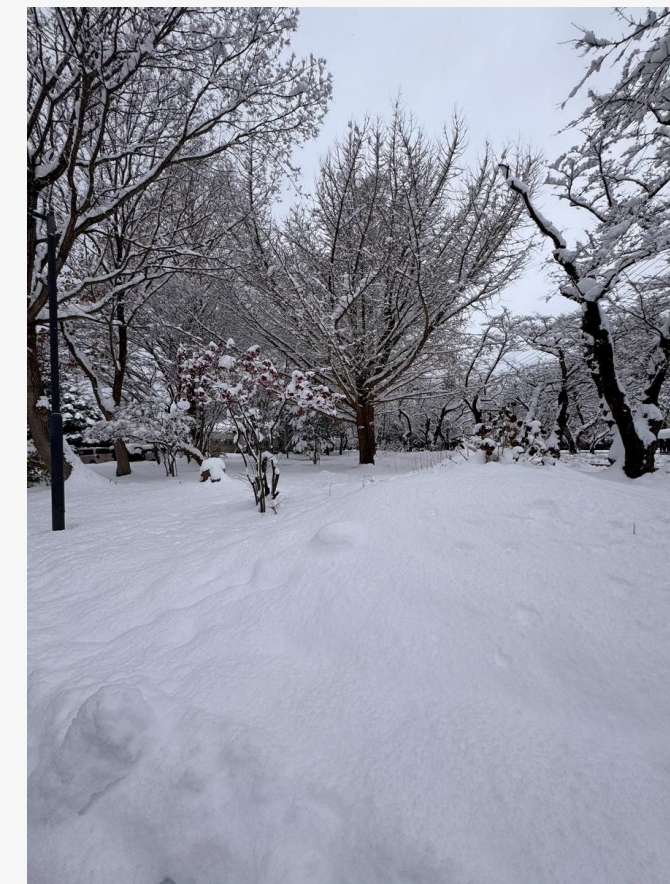
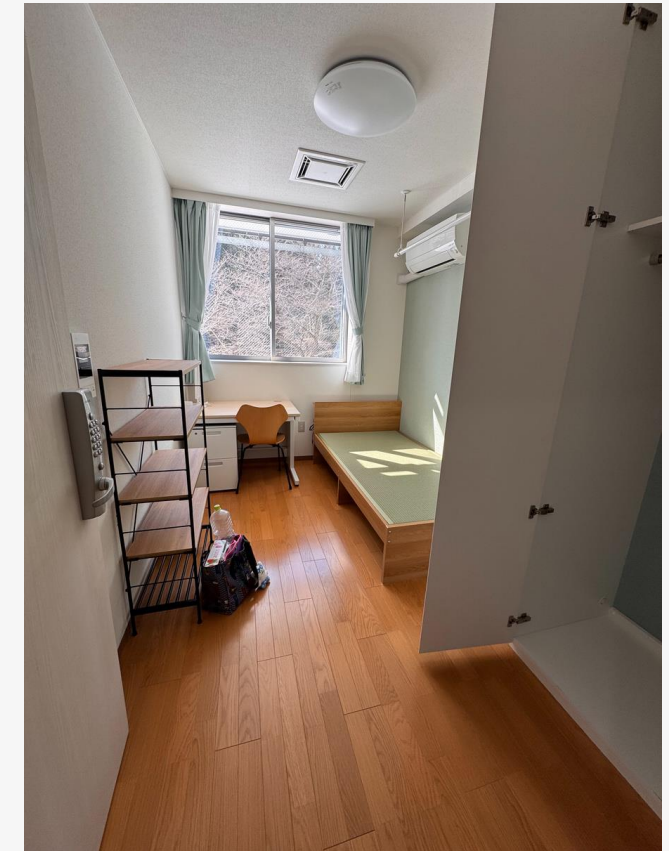
[Host University Supports]

Host University's staff helped us if we had a problem, but it was difficult to gather information about life at the university and course registration etc. ,because the university's website had limited resources.

[Living tips]

AIU is located far from the city center and public transportation is inconvenient. Moreover, it is necessary to prepare for winter, as the climate is significantly different from Beppu city if you are staying fall semester and winter program in Akita prefecture.

[Dormitory:Tsubaki village]



Overall comments

- My domestic exchange program in Akita prefecture started in the 7th semester of my senior year, so it was very difficult to balance classes and daily life at AIU with weekly APU seminars and career preparation such as job hunting and preparation for graduate school entrance examination. However, the half year when I spent in classes and with friends at AIU provided me with a variety of perspectives and experiences, and I feel that it was a very meaningful time, even though it was only a short six months.
- My exchange semester at Akita International University (AIU) was a transformative experience that allowed me to grow academically, socially, and personally. I had the opportunity to engage with a diverse student community, take different courses, and explore a different learning environment. This experience not only broadened my perspective but also helped me gain clarity about my future aspirations.

