

CAMPUS Asia Proposals

January 2014

CAMPUS Asia Monitoring Student Committee

These proposals are being made to improve the CAMPUS Asia program based on the exchange of opinions among CAMPUS Asia students at the Student Committee Workshop for 'CAMPUS Asia' Monitoring held on December 11, 2013. The document includes a status report of positives and areas for improvement in the CAMPUS Asia program, divided into three categories—learning, living, and other opinions—followed by proposals based on the preceding.

Status Report

*The following are comments from students compiled by the student committee.

Learning: Positives

- Learning things outside my specialty has broadened my horizon.
- Even though job-hunting was a struggle, the experience of taking action on my own initiative and the experience of adapting to life overseas worked to my advantage.
- In discussing history with people from overseas I was shocked at how different their values are.
- I became even more motivated after coming into contact with highly motivated, insatiable students from other countries.
- Everyone, including the professors at the research center where I went to study, is friendly. It is an easy place to blend in.
- It was a good experience to have discussions amidst such diversity.
- I thought it was a good system in that I could manage the time for research at my own pace and decide which classes to take.
- Although I had some knowledge from books and the news, it was good to actually go, see for my self, and experience listening to people over there. I think that studying abroad is the only way to gain real on-the-spot experience.
- Some universities have common classes and programs where students from Japan, China, and Korea can learn in the same classroom and engage in cultural exchange.
- It was better than other study abroad programs in that you do not have to repeat a year and the credits are transferable.

Learning: Areas for Improvement

- There were some universities that do not conduct pre-departure training, but I think they should.
- There were too few electives. There should be more or we should be allowed to participate in other classes.
- I would like a flexible system in which credits are transferrable for classes besides those that are prepared

for the program.

- I would like an academic adviser the same as other students in the same year, who can provide support when I do not understand something in a class while studying abroad.
- I would like to see an internship system developed for exchange students. Also, I think the timing for participation in CAMPUS Asia should be reconsidered, since I will be doing an internship in Korea at a company that made me an unofficial offer before graduation.
- There are instances in which there is no credit transfer system in place, and so I would like to see a mechanism for the smooth transfer of credits. Specifically, one ends up having to do double work when the same classes have to be taken after returning to one's home university. That can also result in unfairness in the transfer of grades.
- Semesters start at different times of the year.
- Only one faculty and area of specialty are set up, and the specialization is sometimes different from the university in one's home country.
- There is either no or not enough information about research labs.
- There were times when no reply came even when I made personal inquiries in the research lab at the host university.
- If you do not belong to a research lab, you have no base for day-to-day learning and research, and so you have to go somewhere like the library, which means fewer opportunities for interacting with students.
- It would be good to have a network among academic advisors.
- With respect to dual degrees, if you write a thesis at two universities, you have to go back and forth between countries for guidance and presentations. Also, it is inconvenient that the academic year is different.
- It would be helpful while studying abroad if there were pre-departure language training courses. (Some programs do have language classes.)
- I could not participate in classes in my native language.

Living: Positives

- I was able to objectively re-examine my home country after coming into contact with the different cultures, customs, and ways of thinking in the other countries.
- It was good that there were people who had many different experiences, since the objective of studying abroad differed depending on the study abroad program.
- After coming back from studying abroad, I was able to maintain motivation by traveling, staying in a shared house, and interacting with people from foreign countries.
- I was able to make good friends by interacting a lot with other students in activities besides studying, such as sports, cooking, and traveling.
- I think that the ability to manage one's time for oneself and to engage in one's studies is a really good system.
- Receiving a scholarship (covering plane tickets and lodging fees) was a major incentive enabling participation in this program.
- Some universities have reports that let you see what happened with the CAMPUS Asia program the year

before, which was very helpful.

- I made friends by joining club activities.

Living: Areas for Improvement

- I was doing experiments from morning till night and so could not have other experiences. The program should have bit more flexibility to allow for experiences.
- Japanese exchange students had to pay the entire insurance premium while studying abroad. I would like some aid for that.
- Scholarships are paid out based on the prices in each country. In that case, Japan pays a lot and China only a little, which is unfair. I would like to see the amount for living expenses paid to students by each country made the same and a system made for channeling some of that to the budget for things like insurance and welcome parties.
- It was not clear who is responsible at the host institution, and so I was passed around from place to place. I would like it clarified who is responsible.
- I had a rough time in terms of language (especially in communicating off-campus).
- There are points that I would like improved in terms of scholarships:
 1. The timing of provision (I did not receive the scholarship money until two months after going abroad and so had a hard time making do financially during that time. It would be really great to receive the money before leaving to go abroad.)
 2. The amount provided (I acknowledge that the amount is enough for exchange students going from Japan to China and from Korea to Japan. But, it is not enough for students going from China to Japan, between which there is a gap in prices.)
- I would like to communicate more with Japanese students (they speak English), but it is difficult to find opportunities to do so, which sometimes makes me feel isolated.
- There is too big of a difference between local students and exchange students in the information they have.
- Some students were forced to pay large deposits that they had not heard anything about.
- The dorm for exchange students is expensive.
- Sometimes the airfare is not provided.
- Textbooks written in English are expensive, creating a great burden.
- Sometimes the shower had no hot water in the host country.
- There were frequent power outages in the host country. It was so bad that each research lab had its own power generator.
- A dorm I lived in in the host country had six floors but no elevator, which was tough.
- Sometimes the quality of the students giving support at the host university was poor. Some lacked sincerity and others would only interact in a businesslike manner. That is why the university should recruit people as tutors who can look after exchange students properly.

Other Opinions

- In respect to job hunting:
 1. Many people give up to study abroad when they consider the effect on job hunting.

2. I was able to do an internship in the host country.
 3. There was a joint job-hunting briefing for exchange students in the host country.
 4. The CAMPUS Asia Office at one university wrote a letter of recommendation for me to submit to a company.
- In respect to the CAMPUS Asia system in general:
 1. It is confusing with several programs.
 2. This program should be publicized more.
 3. I would like more courses for CAMPUS Asia students to take together between universities in Japan.

Proposals

- A national CAMPUS Asia conference should be held with Japanese, Chinese, and Korean students all together, to which university personnel, government personnel (the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, etc.), media, professors, and companies are invited to increase the CAMPUS Asia profile and boost student motivation.
- General students should be able to take CAMPUS Asia classes and a course created that confers certificates.
- An open class with professors invited from Japan, China, and Korea should be organized jointly by several universities and a symposium should be held in the same way.
- A national/international Facebook page should be created to connect all CAMPUS Asia students from Japan, China, and Korea beyond on-campus interaction within each CAMPUS Asia program. (The page has been created by student committee members, and now effort should be put into getting it known.)
- Creating a chat room for CAMPUS Asia students at each school would encourage interaction among students across borders, improve language skills, and lead to mutual understanding.

End Document