



# A YEAR IN JAPAN

## FINAL REPORT

*To Martin Stricker, Chairman of the Scholarship Fund*

**Swiss – Japanese Chamber of Commerce  
Scholarship Fund**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Preface

I am looking outside the window of my hotel. On the left side, I can see a seven-eleven, on the right side a coin laundry. It is my last night in Japan and I am filled with great sadness. The past few weeks were dominated by saying good-bye to all the amazing people I was lucky enough to meet during this unforgettable year. It is hard to process that the life I have grown accustomed to will end tomorrow when I board the A380 to Dubai.

I look forward to seeing my family again after such a long time being apart. Nevertheless, my heart tells me that I am not finished with Japan just yet. After living six months in the most amazing city on this planet, I can finally say that I arrived in Japan. I got used to speak Japanese everyday with my co-workers, look past the few words I sometimes do not understand. I also got used to my fixed schedule. Going to work every day, workout after going home and end the day either with meeting my friends or just enjoy a self-cooked dinner while watching TV. On the weekends, I would explore Japan with my friends and co-workers. How can one possibly want to leave such a life?

I am forever grateful first to Martin Stricker and the Swiss-Japanese Chamber of Commerce. Without there everlasting support, I would have never been able to go on this journey. They not only provided me financially and with the opportunity to work in Japan, but also having a glimpse in to the important task of keeping the good relations Switzerland and its firms have with Japan.

I would also like to thank 中尾会長 and 中尾社長 for organising such an amazing internship for me. Not only was I able to explore the working life of an engineer, their generosity kindness is beyond words and I cannot stop thanking them enough for all they did. Also a full-hearted “Thank you” to all my co-workers at the 機械開発部 and especially to 菅澤さん for always supporting me when I struggled with the everyday life in Tokyo.

And last but not least, I would like to thank my family for always believing in me and supporting me from afar. I would not be here, if it wasn't for my mother and grandmother.

# INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

### OVERVIEW

The following pages shall provide the reader with detailed information and advice for their year in Japan. Starting with a short introduction about myself and how I got in touch with the Swiss-Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

The part regarding the VISA is especially text-heavy in order to provide an extensive overview about the whole procedure and the difficulties which may arise during the process. This is due to the complexity and difficult nature of the topic.

I will provide a review of KICL, the language school I attended in Kyoto. I hope to give the reader a picture of what a day at a school like KICL looks like and what one might expect of other schools.

### MOTIVATION

Like many of the recipients who came before, my interest in Japan and its culture started early on. I was fascinated by animes dominating the TV programs of my teenage years. One of the turning points was when I heard Japanese for the first time. Realising that not only the cultural phenomena like anime or Karate but the very language itself contained so much beauty gave me the push forward I needed to start learning Japanese.

But it was not until I met Matthias Frey of the Science and Technology Office of the Swiss embassy in Japan at the well-known *Polymesse* that I realised, I could have a future in Japan! He informed me of the scholarship offered by the Swiss Japanese Chamber of Commerce. After a quick research about the SJCC, I decided to enrol at the Japanese language course at Uni Zurich's language centre, next to studying Electrical Engineering at ETH, with the clear goal in mind, that two and a half years from that point on, I will go to Japan.

I handed in my application a year before I hoped to leave for Japan. I do not like to feel pressured when it comes to such important decisions in my life, so I tried to prepare everything as early as possible. I was invited by Mr. Paul Dudler, Chairman of the Scholarship Fund at that time, to his house for a private interview with him and Mr. Stricker, who was going to take over the scholarship fund as chairman, in November 2015. I do not think I have ever been as nervous as when I was waking towards the entrance of Mr.

## INTRODUCTION

Dudler's home. Knowing that the plan for my entire future was depending on that interview, however, **this** gave me another motivational push. I tried to convince them that I was the right candidate for a year abroad with all I had. The genuine interest Mr. Dudler and Mr. Stricker had made the whole process an interesting and pleasant experience.

I was accepted as a scholarship recipient roughly one month later. With that my journey to my beloved Japan began.

## The VISA

### OVERVIEW

The VISA application and changing process will probably be the most important and complicated part, next to the internship, when planning your year in Japan.

The following paragraphs shall provide some information and tips regarding the VISA, as I have been confused about the whole process when preparing the VISA and even still whilst living in Japan.

### PREPARATION

There are two choices on how to prepare for the VISA before coming to Japan. One can either enter Japan on a traveller's VISA<sup>1</sup>, which allows a stay of up to 90 days, and requires no additional preparations. The other option would be, to apply for a designated VISA status while still being in Switzerland. I chose and still recommend to do the latter one. Not only is it less stressful not having to constantly think about your VISA while being in Japan, it might also prove to be a problem for people whose Japanese language skills are still rudimentary. Then in contrast to the staff at the Japanese Embassy in Switzerland, only few Japanese people at the Immigration Office actually speak English.

The following points are the requirements for the VISA application in Switzerland<sup>2</sup>:

- A valid passport
- One [VISA application form](#)
- One passport size photograph
- [Certificate of Eligibility](#), the original and a copy

The last point is crucial when it comes to anything VISA related in Japan. It has to be filled out by someone living in Japan who can be a grantor for the applicant. With regard to the recipients of the scholarship fund, possible grantors are people like the headmaster of a language school or a representative of a company.

In my case, I had no other choice then to apply for a student VISA before coming to Japan, as this was required by the language school I attended. Benefits are that you can apply for working permission for バイト (*Baito*), which can be compared to a part-time job.

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<sup>1</sup> For further reading: [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/#section4](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/#section4)

<sup>2</sup> From the [Homepage](#) of the Japanese Embassy in Switzerland, January 2017

# VISA

I applied for the student VISA in late August 2016, as I had to wait for the certificate of eligibility to be issued and sent to me by the school. It took the embassy around seven working days to complete my application. Be aware that this process can take up to a month in bad cases!

The part which concerned me the most, was the question of being able to change the VISA status while staying in Japan. Some people claim, that this is not possible. The person at my language school in charge of correspondence with the students even called the Immigration Office to check on this issue. He was then told, that it is not possible to change ones' status without leaving Japan. Having read some of the reports by previous recipients of the scholarship who stated, that they were able to change their status while being in Japan. I was obviously confused, so I decided to call the Immigration Office in Ōsaka myself, crossing my fingers, that someone would be able to speak English. Foolish as I was, I did not believe the reports which claimed, that Japanese people who are able to speak English are extremely rare. Even at the Immigration Office. I prepared of course beforehand what I was going to say, in order to be understood by the person on the other side of the line. I did, however, not take into account that the much bigger problem was me, understanding the woman from the Immigration Office. After ten minutes of me not understanding the elaborate monologue that my conversation partner was holding, she went looking for an English speaking staff member, but even then the communication was far away from being easy. Finally, I got my answer. Yes, it is possible to change your VISA status while being in Japan. Even though I felt confident that my information was correct, I still doubted the whole situation a little.

## CHANGING YOUR VISA STATUS

I can assure you now, that it **is** most certainly possible to change your VISA status, while living in Japan, **without** the need of leaving the country. There is, however, a certain requirement: As mentioned previously, one cannot stay in Japan without a guarantor. It is therefore compulsory to have already found a work place, in order to change your VISA status, but in that case, it is a rather easy procedure. The applicant only has to fill out two pages with his personal information and reason for the application<sup>3</sup>. The paper heavy part has to be done by your school, which has to provide an admission confirmation as well as an attendance record. Your company has to provide your working contract, detailed information about the company itself and additional documents<sup>4</sup>. The staff at the Ōsaka Regional Immigration Bureau Kyoto Branch (大阪入国管理局京都出張所) were very kind and helped me through the whole process, however only in Japanese.

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<sup>3</sup> I can only provide detailed information for the specialised VISA; Application Forms to be found in the section „Documents“.

<sup>4</sup> Which are also to be found at in the section „Documents“.



# VISA

## WHICH VISA TYPE SHOULD YOU GET?

This was a tricky one. I highly recommend consulting with the local Immigration Bureau. My language school offered their help several times before and during my stay, but usually provided me with incorrect information, as they did not exactly understand my working plans.

There were two different VISA which in my case were viable for my internship.

### The Internship VISA

The Japanese government only knows one kind of internship. In order to acquire this type of VISA, your university has to confirm, that an internship is required as part of your studies. It goes without saying, that you have to be enrolled at said university.

I myself was not able to apply for this type of VISA. For further information, have a look at the reports of [Robin Oswald](#).

### The Working VISA

There are several subcategories of [working type VISAS](#). A degree by a university or three years of experience in the field is required to be eligible for a working VISA.

For several reasons, I was still enrolled at ETH when I first visited the Immigration Office, despite having the necessary 180 ECTS. After explaining my wishes to change my student VISA to one which allows me to pursue my upcoming internship, a member of staff told me that I had to apply for a regular working VISA and that I had to graduate, as there was no relationship between the internship and my Bachelor's degree. I was given the application form I had to fill out and returned home slightly upset that I had to graduate from ETH against my own plans. This was in December 2016. There were, however, additional problems. I did not know for which of the many different types of VISAs I had to apply for. My school, trying to help me, confused me even more, as they kept saying that I would need an internship VISA, because my work contract specifically describes my job as one. I was devastated, as I already ordered my graduation certificate. Obviously nervous, I went back to the Immigration Office to clarify the whole VISA question. A very friendly and helpful woman then looked over my case and said that everything was fine. Even though the contract defined my employment as an "Internship", the Japanese government did not consider it as such, as it is a full-time position.

Finally, after receiving the required document from my future employer, I handed in my application, only to be told, that I had to provide some additional documents from my language school. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, I handed in all the required documents. I finally received my new VISA on the 4<sup>th</sup> of

March. I was very relieved that I received it before my vacation started as you have to get it **in person** at the Immigration Office<sup>5</sup>.



## TO SUM UP

- Try to find an internship as soon as possible. Without it you will not be able to apply to change your resident status.
- Start organising your VISA as soon as you have found an internship. In my case it took over a month until I received my new VISA.
- **Always** ask the Immigration Office for detailed information. Every case is different and only they know, what VISA you need. Take these reports as a guideline, to see what is possible and what is not, but not as a guarantee for any procedure.
- Don't panic if you are no longer a student. You should not face more complications because of that.

<sup>5</sup> Note: The 4'000 Yen stamp seen on the picture cannot be bought at the Kyoto Immigration Office but at a building next to it.

# LANGUAGE SCHOOL

## The Language School

### PREPARATION

Choosing a language school has proven itself to be a rather difficult task. How is one supposed to judge a language school, without having visited one before? Reviews of the most famous ones all state approximately the same. It is important to note here however, that everyone learns differently, thus even acclaimed great schools might not be the right one for you.

I sorted language schools into the following criteria: Location, intensity, integration (meaning for example being part of a university campus) and extracurricular activities. I used websites like "[Study in Japan](#)" to compare different schools and invested quite some time to read the reviews provided by former students. I came relatively fast to the conclusion, that the [Kyoto Institute for Culture and Language](#) (KICL) might be the best school for me.

The most important part for my decision process was the *location* of the school. Wanting to experience an as broad as possible life in Japan, I decided early on that my language school should be located in Kyoto, being in contrast to the huge metropolis of Tokyo, where I assumed I will be working. I will talk about Kyoto in greater detail later on in the report. To say the least, it was the best decision I made during my year in Japan.

The next criteria was *intensity*. As an ETH student the only way of studying I knew, was the hard one. Being constantly challenged to cope with a lot material at a high pace should help me learn as much as possible in these six months. On popular language school comparison sites, KICL was rated as the single most intensive one in the whole of Japan.

*Integration* and *extracurricular activities* are somewhat related. One can see in the example of KICL that being part of the Kyoto University for Art and Design, the students can join a variety of clubs like the Manga Club, the Taiko Club or the Ski Club. Another huge benefit of being part of the university is, that the students can eat at the close by cafeteria at lunch / dinner or study at one of the many public spaces within the campus.

I applied at KICL in February 2016 and was then on guided through the whole immigration process in order to come to Japan. The school provided the for the student VISA needed Certificate of Eligibility, dorms to live in and supported and counselled the students throughout the whole semester whenever they needed help.

# LANGUAGE SCHOOL

## REVIEW

I had a mixed experience at KICL. I honestly think that for a language school, KICL is relatively decent, **if** you have some prior knowledge in Japanese. They try to provide an interesting class with varying focus points (reading, writing, listening, speaking, textbook lessons and afternoon class about Japanese culture). As of February 2017, one month before graduation, I would have preferred a three months class over a six month long one.

My biggest concern with language schools is the huge amount of dead time one encounters during the lessons. Let me explain further: during the four hours of class every morning, I was able to actively contribute or speak for around 20 minutes. The rest was either grammar lessons, which are really useful, and listening to other classmates reading and talking.

A regular day at KICL looks like the following:

- 1. Lesson: The “morning person” (朝<sup>あさ</sup>の人<sup>ひと</sup>) will present a specific theme according to a topic chosen by the teacher. He or she will then talk about it for around two to five minutes. After that, the teacher will continue with asking the students about their opinion to her chosen topic.  
For the remaining fifteen minutes, three to four people will be reading a segment from the textbook. This means, that your average oral contribution part is around three minutes.
- The special focus on Monday is conversation (会話<sup>かいわ</sup>), which means that the students will present a dialog they created in class during the first half of the lesson and present it for the following two hours. The teacher will ask different students for their feedback before she will give hers at the end of each conversation. The dialogs usually need to be between three and five minutes. During the remaining time, one has to sit and listen. Other special focus classes are the listening classes on Tuesday and Thursday, as well as the reading class on Wednesday and the writing class on Friday.
- The forth lesson consists in general of studying new grammar points. This was usually my favourite lesson, as I was sometimes able to contribute example sentence in order to verify, if I understood the grammar. This is, however, also heavily relying on one’s teacher. As one might expect, the teaching quality is not uniform. I was lucky since my teacher knew the language very well and was able to provide well thought through examples. Friends of mine were not as lucky as I was and had teachers on several different days on the week, which usually left the class puzzled while trying to explain new grammar points.

This all may seem interesting at the beginning. However, in my second month at KICL, studying Japanese every day in these same patterns, I got quite bored. The homework exercises, in addition to that, were always constructed in a similar way, namely filling in the gaps with words provided in

# LANGUAGE SCHOOL

a box. One has to come up with one's own sentences a few occasions. Thus when it comes to grammar, one rather learns how to recognize the structure than how to actively use it while speaking or writing.

One reason why I criticise the above mentioned dead time so much, is the comment by the school, who claims that they set a strong focus on communication. Grammar can be studied by oneself and thus not necessarily requires a native Japanese person to explain it, so they told me. I disagree of course, as the fine nuances of a language can only be explained by Japanese speaking people and not by a textbook or a website. For a "communication heavy" school, however, the amount of time where you are able to speak Japanese is quite limited.

The greatest handicap language schools face, is the fact, that there are obviously only foreign students attending the school. This does generally not help with the already difficult task of meeting native Japanese people. The strength of KICL in this regard, is its proximity to the University for Art and Design. Many extracurricular clubs advertise themselves at a pin board at the university café. Even though it intensifies one's daily schedule even more, it is a great opportunity to meet Japanese people.

Another one of KICL's strengths are the non-language course lessons they offer. Next to calligraphy or classes on Kyoto's culture, they organise a culture day twice a year, where the students visit local craftsman ateliers and craft their own piece of art. In my case, we went to a craftsman specialised in dyeing linen.

## CONCLUSION

I can recommend KICL if you plan to visit a language school for six months and are not a complete beginner. The beginners course, which a friend of mine attended, rushes through Minna no Nihongo 1 and 2 within three months' worth of school. The quality of learning suffers greatly at such a speed. That is the reason why many students, who study longer at KICL, have to retake the first class or go to the beginners 2 class where they repeat the basic grammar and take a look at some new grammar points. If you already studied some Kanji and more importantly are able to speak some Japanese, you will be placed at the intermediate level, where you will benefit from an appropriate pace and useful grammar points.

As of February 2017, I recommend, however, to enrol at a three months course and then directly start working. This, of course, under the assumption that you have some prior Japanese knowledge and have already found a job in Japan.

## LANGUAGE SCHOOL

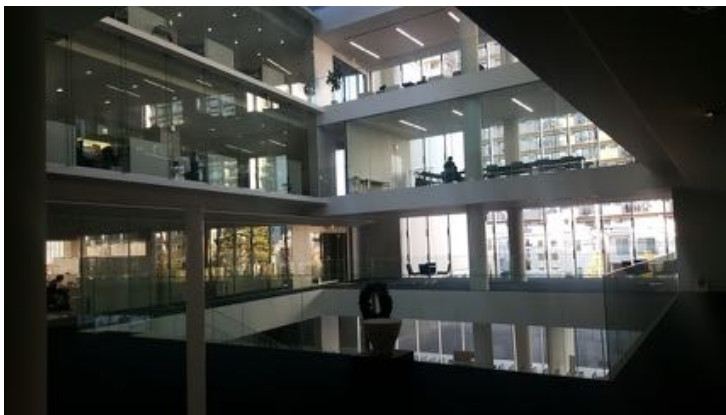
I will take a look at this conclusion again in my final report, after I have spent six months working at a Japanese company. My hopes are, that my Japanese skills, orally and written, will increase greatly thanks to the all Japanese environment at the work place.

# WORK

## Work

I was tremendously lucky when it comes to my internship. Through the introduction and help of Martin Stricker, I was able to find a position at GC Dental before coming to Japan. I had the honour of being interviewed by Chairman Nakao himself at the Swiss office of GC Dental in Lucerne in mid June 2016. The Japanese skills I had beforehand acquired at the University of Zurich were quite useful in order to make a good first impression. Luckily, however, the interview was mostly held in English, where I was asked about my interest in Japan, my work as an engineer for several projects at ETH as well as my other extracurricular activities.

I received the E-Mail with the job confirmation one month later. I felt so unbelievably relieved not having to worry about the internship while being in Japan. I was then introduced to a representative of GC Dental for further planning and organisation. He invited me to Tokyo in mid-December to get to know the company and the tasks of my internship. I could not be happier about the work I will be doing at GC Dental. I am employed as a regular engineer working on sensor technology and control panels where I can make use of my knowledge acquired at ETH but also learn new skills on the job. The fact that my colleagues only speak Japanese is another plus. I still struggle to a certain degree when it comes to speaking and listening, even after half a year in Japan. With the above-mentioned surroundings at work, I hope to make even more improvements.



Picture 1 GC Dental's R&D Center - My work place

# WORK

## DAILY ROUTINE

Every Monday morning at 8.50am the whole Equipment Development Unit (機械開発部 きかいかいはつぶ) would meet for the so called 朝礼 ちょうれい. There, the schedule for the next two weeks was announced, as well as any information regarding cleaning and tips for improving one's quality of work. After that, the Electronics team (電気チーム), which I was a member of, would meet to discuss the tasks and struggles of each member. Deadlines would be set and reports given to the superiors.

I was very nervous on my first day. Not only did I not know what was expecting me, but also the thought of nobody being able to speak English freaked me out a little bit. However, my colleagues simplified their Japanese in order for me to understand it. The same cannot be said for my superiors, which I sometimes just could not understand at all due to their accent. Luckily one of my colleagues kindly explained to me what they said in a simplified manner later.

My internship was thoroughly planned. For the first month, my task was to get used to the work flow, acquire the necessary vocabulary and study the machines I was going to work with. The first and last part were not that difficult, as I was able to rely on my engineering knowledge from my studies, but I had to memorize hundreds of technical vocabularies and also some few grammar structures in very short amount of time. I learned them rather quickly as I was using them all the time. I do not think that any amount spend at a language school could have prepared me for this task. To experience real, non-simplified Japanese, you need to attend quite proficient classes, at least at my language school. The way people talk differs very much from what I learned. Either they use a very common form to talk to each other (very fast!) or they talk super formal and completely change their vocabulary. Of course we studied the 敬語 けいご forms in school. But the ます形 which is taught predominantly did not help me very often. I do have to admit, that the basic grammar, which I was taught again in school, was very helpful, as it really is the grammar which is used the most often. My speaking abilities also improved quite a lot compared to March, when I left school. At the end, I was able to spend hours and hours talking to my colleagues, at work but also when we went for dinner. I could make some simple jokes but also understand theirs. It was still tiring and cost my quite some energy to keep focus, especially when we went drinking (飲み会 のみかい). In general, my co-workers were extremely patient with me, explained stuff to me



several times if necessary and did not get angry if I made a mistake and I am really grateful for that.

During the first month, two big presentation days were held. One for the R&D department and one for the whole company. I was asked to sit in and listen to the different innovations and improvements done at GC Dental, but I was unable to cope with the huge variety of topics specific vocabulary, so much, that I could not follow the presentations. I did my very best to take down as many words as possible, but had to realise, that it was too much. It was important to accept that I needed time to fully comprehend a random Japanese presentation and six months was definitely not enough. But I saw my progress at least every month, when <sup>なかおしやちよう</sup>中尾社長, GC Dentals CEO, held his monthly presentations. At first, I understood only little of what he said, but at the end of my internship, I was able to understand most of his presentations, even some jokes.

Due to some non-disclosure rules, I am not allowed to explain the work I did at GC in such a public way.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GC Dental cares very much about the well-being of their employees. There are many different clubs to join, which meet weekly or less often. I joined the tennis club, which met every Friday after work at 7pm. The court rent was provided by the company and I was able to borrow a racket from my co-workers. I'm certainly no Roger Federer, and some Japanese might think now less of Switzerland when it comes to Tennis, but it was fun to spend some time with my colleagues and go out for a drink after wards.



Luckily for my liver, we did not go out for <sup>のみかい</sup>飲み会, very often. But when we did, it was a lot of fun and the food was as delicious as expected and the all-you-can-drink (<sup>いんほうだい</sup>飲放題) offers amazed me a lot.

## WORK

The other after-work activity I joined was, of course, the hiking club (登山部<sup>とざんぶ</sup>). We climbed a mountain together twice. The second time even my friends from Kyoto, which also moved to Tokyo at the same time as I did, were allowed to come along. I was very happy to enjoy the beauty of Japan's nature, while at the same time bond with my colleagues.



On top of 瑞牆山, before the 2h descent during heavy rainfall.

# EVERYDAY LIFE

## Everyday life

### REGISTRATIONS

There are several bureaucratic obstacles which one faces when coming to Japan. Within the first few weeks, one needs to take care of the following three points: Register your address at a local ward office (The address will be written on your <sup>ざいりゅう</sup>在留カード residence card); Subscribe to the national pension fund and to the local health insurance. Luckily, everything can be taken care of at one visit at the corresponding ward office. Students of KICL were offered the chance to go to the ward office as a group to take care of the above mentioned points, which I gladly accepted. I concluded, however, from reports from different classmates, that even going there by yourself does not pose any difficulty as the staff members know how to cope with foreigners.

### BANK ACCOUNT AND MOBILE PHONE

I opened an account at the Shinsei Bank like many scholarship recipients before me. I first planned to open an account at MUFG, though the unattractive closing hours (3pm!) made me go the extra kilometres to the centre of Kyoto, which I did not regret. The bank clerk spoke English astonishingly well and also all documents were provided in English, which made it a lot easier.

There are certain **requirements** to be met when opening a bank account at Shinsei:

- Having a Japanese mobile phone number
- Possessing a resident card with your address written on it
- Owning an *inkan*<sup>6</sup> (印鑑, Japanese name seal)
- [My Number](#)<sup>7</sup> to send or receive money from oversea (especially interesting as a scholarship recipient)

Being in Japan on a student VISA allowed me to sign up for a one-year mobile phone contract. Even though some service providers introduced themselves and their offers at KICL, I found better, meaning cheaper, contracts online with more free data volume (6GB/month) at [Bic Camera](#). It took one visit to the closest Bic Camera shop and 30 minutes of my time and I was again connected to the Internet. Note: I did not need to buy a new phone as my Samsung Galaxy S6 was compatible with the Japanese SIM card as well as their operational frequency.

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<sup>6</sup> I ordered an *inkan* with my last name in Katakana (スヤタ) at a local store

<sup>7</sup> Comparable to the Swiss AHV-Nr.

## EVERYDAY LIFE

### DRIVER'S LICENESE

You can get your Swiss driver's license translated for around JPY 4000 at any [Japanese Automobile Federation](#) throughout the country. You are allowed to drive any normal car in Japan with that translation without passing some additional test.

### HOUSING

I will probably be of little help when it comes to the problem of finding an apartment in Japan. I was living at a dorm like apartment complex close to the language school during my initial six months. For the time, I moved to Tokyo for my Job, I was helped immensely by my company. They contacted a real estate agent with my wishes, provided me with some options from which I was able to visit and afterwards to choose from. Without them I would not have been able to get any of the flats we visited. At the end, I decided for a newly built apartment on the top floor of a 15-story high building. It was a huge contrast to the tiny poor one I lived in during my time in Kyoto. I could see over whole Tokyo in the north and east. Even Mt. Fuji was visible sometimes. The bath was super modern with a heated shower and I could install a rented washing machine, so that I did not need to go to a coin laundry.



View to the east from my flat on my last night with Mt. Fuji clearly visible in the back.

## EVERYDAY LIFE

A document provided by KICL regarding moving out and all the procedures will be attached in the appendix. One has to clean out one's room, call the electricity and water company to turn off the supply and visit the ward office to notify them of your moving out, so that one can register at the ward office of one's new home.

### LEAVING THE COUNTRY

Preparing for my departure was rather painful than it was difficult to do. You have to go to the local ward office / city hall to deregister from all services. It is quite convenient, as it can be done all at the same place. The local staff is skilled and can help you if troubles might arise.

Electricity and Water (at least in Tokyo) can be cancelled online, but the Gas Company I had to call. I was able to pay the first two directly when they came to shut off the service, my last gas bill however needed to be paid at a later time (when I was already back in Switzerland). I was already annoyed, that I had to pay high transaction costs, just to settle a small gas bill. One month later, however, I received an E-Mail saying, that due to my low gas bill (around 600 Yen), I did not need to pay it.

My mobile contract too could be cancelled online. The SIM card had to be sent back to a address, which was made known to me by e-mail.

I did not close my bank account, as I received my deposit and some company expenses two months after I have left the country. It was very easy to transfer the money via e-banking to my pre-registered Swiss account.

I had tons of luggage. Next to some thirty books I got cheaply at BookOff (please visit that place. You will never find books cheaper than there!), I also wanted to take home my futon which I bought in Kyoto at [Iwamoto – Senni](#) (a traditional Kyoto business, which fabricates your futon locally by hand) and more. What I could not take with me by plane (which was not much, as I had one suitcase filled with <sup>おみやげ</sup>お土産, presents), I shipped to Switzerland with Nippon Express (<sup>にっぽんつううん</sup>日本通運), which was by far the cheapest service at around JPY 180'000.

# EVERYDAY LIFE

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### Koto

Next to travelling in and around Kyoto with my friends, the hobby I was most passionate about in Japan was playing the Koto. Thanks to my Koto teacher [Haruki Shimazaki](#)'s time and devotion, I was able to make quite some progress in playing the Koto. But that progress was not limited to my musical activity only. I was also able to improve my oral language skills through talking to Shimazaki Sensei for several hours a week. Even though I only paid for one hour of Koto lessons, I found myself sometimes staying three hours and longer at her place, caught up in an interesting discussion about Japanese society and culture or the world in general. She was not only my mentor and teacher, but also my gateway into the Japanese world. I was able to meet many interesting native Japanese people and became good friends with some, because of her initial introduction. I will be forever grateful to her, because of everything she has done for me.

If someone decides to stay in Kyoto and wants to experience a traditional Japanese instrument, I can highly recommend taking some Koto lessons at Shimazaki's place!

In May, after I have already moved to Tokyo, I went back to Kyoto once to participate at a concert, which Shimazaki-sensei organized. It was definitely one of the "most Japanese" experiences I had. One song I transcribed myself for the Koto and performed can be found on [YouTube](#).



### SCCIJ



**At the SCCIJ Year-End-Party**

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan, the sister organization to the SJCC, is a great opportunity for scholarship recipients to do some networking. They provide exciting luncheons with Swiss or Japanese entrepreneurs as speakers. Events like the Christmas Dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Tokyo or the Spring Ball are further Highlights one does not want to miss. Living in Kyoto, however, made the participation in many of these events difficult, as the cost to travel to Tokyo and back is very high.



# EVERYDAY LIFE

## Festivals

The amount of different festivals in and around Kyoto is overwhelming. The participants invest many hours of dedication to make every single one a huge spectacle. The two most impressive festivals were the Kyoto Jidai Matsuri and the Kurama Fire festival. But of course, I was not the only one who planned to join these events, which means that one will meet many strangers at a very close proximity.



At the Jidai Matsuri in front of Heian Jingu

## Language exchange

As mentioned above, I was able to make a very good friend thanks to my Koto teacher who introduced us to each other. He was studying Japanese Philosophy at Kyodai and was moving to Tokyo at same time as I, we were thus an obvious match. At the beginning, we were focusing on my Japanese abilities, as he was not interested in German so much (yet!). He was, however, writing his Bachelor thesis during that time for which he was reading Nietzsche. At one of our regular meetings he suddenly arrived with the beginning of Nietzsches "*Wille zur Macht*" and asked me to teach him German. He was learning German extremely fast, which surprised me quite a bit.

A language exchange is in my opinion the easiest way to befriend Japanese. What starts as meeting up for studying may turn into friendship like meetings for traveling or home parties.

## KYOTO

This is a question I have been asked surprisingly often. My research before coming to Japan yielded, that Kyoto is considered one of the, if not the most the beautiful city in Japan. Filled with temples, surrounded by nature and having more festivals than one is able to attend.

Having lived in Kyoto now for almost six months I can say with certainty, that I love Kyoto. I find myself quite often stopping and enjoying the view of the city from the entrance of the university. I especially love the atmosphere during sunset, when the soft yellow-orange horizon flows into the deep blue of the night sky. With its flat topography, yes as a Swiss Kyoto is flat, it is easily accessible by bicycle.

## EVERYDAY LIFE

I cannot find the words to describe the beauty of Kyoto's temples, especially during the Kōyō (紅葉) Season in November, when the trees turn their colour. And even if it is freezing cold in winter, especially in your badly insulated apartment, being able to see *Kinkakuji* (金閣寺) after heavy snow was worth it. But I think pictures will give you a more vivid image.



Visiting the Ōsaka castle with my family and our volunteering tour guide



Tenryūji during Kōyō season



Panoramic view of Kyōto as seen from Daimonjiyama



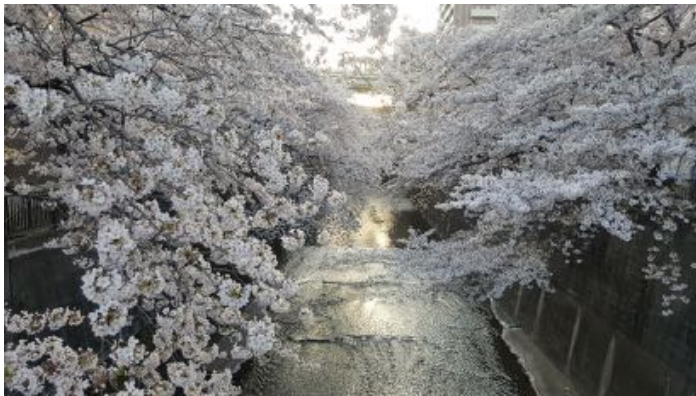
Kinkakuji after two days of heavy snow fall



## EVERYDAY LIFE

### TOKYO

I wish I could show all the amazing things I experienced during my second half in Japan. But sadly, that would be too much for this report. I will rather show some journeys I took and my favourite places in Tokyo.



My apartment was connected very well to the public transport system. Right in front of the building, two buses stopped. One went to Akabane Station (<sup>あかばねえき</sup>赤羽駅), the other one to Ikebukuro station (<sup>いけぶくろえき</sup>池袋駅). Both of these places have a vivid nightlife and are perfect for meet-ups and <sup>のみかい</sup>飲み会. There was also a river right

in front of my apartment complex which was guarded by cherry blossom trees. Also going to the cinema in Japan is something I can highly recommend. I went to the cinema four times and every time I went, I realized how much progress I have made. I was of course quite lucky as I could watch “Your Name” (<sup>きみのなは</sup>君の名は) in cinema. If you have the extra cash, Roppongi (<sup>ろっぽんぎ</sup>六本木) is also very beautiful.

Speaking of Roppongi, the museums in Tokyo are outstanding. I went to the National Art Center (<sup>こくりつしんびじゅつかん</sup>国立新美術館) twice and also visited the Hokusai Museum. I can recommend both! I even walked from my place to the NAC with one of my friends. Even though it took us around three hours, it was very interesting to explore the city by foot.

## EVERYDAY LIFE

The most beautiful part of Tokyo, in my opinion, is Asakusa (浅草). I spent many hours with my friend there, walking through the district or enjoy some discussions at the river, looking at the Sky Tree (which is very expensive, but worth a (one!) visit).



Tokyo is also conveniently close to some beautiful beaches. We went to Kamakura (鎌倉) to enjoy its rich cultural heritage (the beaches are also amazing) and to Zushi (逗子) to go swimming in the ocean.

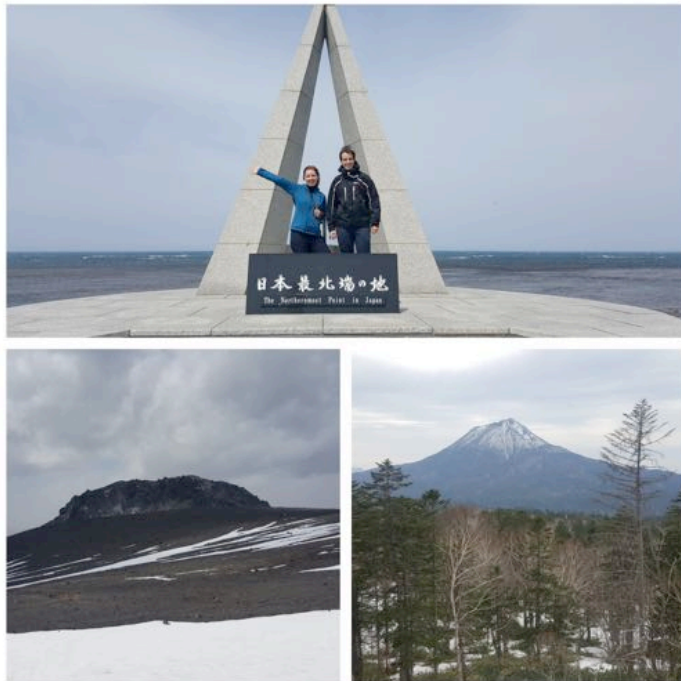


## EVERYDAY LIFE

### Hokkaido (北海道)

I did not have any holidays according to my contract besides the public ones. Therefore, I had to make the most out of the few free days I got.

In my second month at GC, the famous Golden Week arrived, five days of free time. I talked to Wiebke, my friend from the language school, already in January, if she was interested to go to Hokkaido with me. She planned to travel the country after our time at Kyoto anyway. So, we decided to meet in Sapporo and do a road trip throughout the whole island.



Because it was Golden Week, ticket prices doubled of course. But if you work in Japan, you just need to get used to the fact, that when you are getting days off, others are too.

As mentioned above, it was not difficult to obtain a translation of my driver's license. And after spending already more than six months in the country, I got used to driving on the left side very quickly.

It was advantageous to travel by car in Hokkaido, as the prefecture is huge and public transport drives slowly and infrequently. As you can see on the map below, we travelled quite some distance. We drove approximately eight hours a day, from camping spot to camping spot, which there were plenty of. Maybe I need to mention, that we also slept in the car, thus saving a lot of money and gaining the freedom to go everywhere we wanted to.

Hokkaido is completely different than the rest of Japan. The cities with their wide streets and unjapanese houses reminded me of mid-western American cities. While driving along the west coast, it felt like one was driving in Scandinavia. One day later, in the center of the island, the majestic volcanos created a surreal landscape, which I have never experienced

## EVERYDAY LIFE

before. On the very last day, we hiked up Mt. Tarumae (樽前山), a very active volcano near lake Shikotsu (支笏湖). We were not perfectly equipped for that hike and on our way to the top, we met many hikers, who warned us from strong winds on the top. But the strength of that wind was beyond our imagination. We had to crawl close to the ground in order not to be blown away.

Another underestimated danger, were the many bears in Hokkaido. Except the one in captivity in the bear park, we did not encounter a wild one, luckily. Upon a visit at a local tourism office, we saw a statistic about how many people get killed each year by bear attacks in Hokkaido alone. Luckily, the Google Play Store provided us with a “Bear Bell” – app, as we did not carry a real bell with us.

I can highly recommend doing a road trip in Hokkaido to anyone. Just consider not to do it alone. I do not think I could have driven so far, without Wiebke’s great entertainment program.

### HACHIJOUJIMA (八丈島)

As a long time diver, I really wanted to enjoy the underwater world of Japans oceans. After watching <sup>きみ</sup>君の<sup>な</sup>名は, I planned to go to Aogashima (青ヶ島), which functioned as the inspiration for the volcano area in the movie. Sadly, it is really hard to get to the island. The helicopter from Hachijoujima did not wait for the ferry from Tokyo to arrive. One would need to stay therefore one extra night in Hachijoujima. As I had only three days of, due to the public holiday “Day of the Sea” (<sup>うみのひ</sup>海の日), I could not go to Aogashima. Upon further research, I realized, that also Hachijoujima is a beautiful island with many diving opportunities. I asked my boss to rearrange my working hours, so that I could come back on Tuesday morning by plane and work from noon to eight in the evening. Thankfully, GC dental is very flexible and generous, thus I booked my flight.

## EVERYDAY LIFE



I stayed at [Seadive](#), a dive shop with an integrated dormitory. The staff was very helpful and even drove me to the only supermarket on the island to get some food. On Sunday, I hiked up Mt. Nishi (西山), a small sized volcano. It was incredibly hot and humid, so that I could no longer distinguish between water and sweat. But after a two and a half hours hike, I reached the top, which was covered by clouds. After a few minutes of patience, the cloud gods were generous and the sky cleared up.

On Monday, the <sup>うみのひ</sup>海の日, I went for two dives. First, I had to sign an exclusion of liability (Haftungsausschluss) and I was very happy that I understood most of the diving related vocabulary because I knew the reading of the single Kanjis and their meaning. Moments like these made me very confident in my quest to study this incredible difficult language. I did not do much research on the flora and fauna which was expecting me underwater. The more I was surprised to encounter my very first sea turtle!

If you have the time, go and visit one of the Tokyo Islands (like Hachijoujima). The people on the island are incredibly friendly and relaxed, which makes it a perfect place if you search for relaxation.

### MT. FUJI (富士山)

If you love hiking, going up Mt Fuji is a no-brainer. I have to admit that never before has a mountain captured my fascination like Mt. Fuji did. I passed by it several times when I took the Shinkansen from Kyoto to Tokyo. It is not the highest mountain with its 3776 meters, but we do not have any mountains in Switzerland, which start at 0 meter above sea level and rises up more than three kilometres. We planned to go up as a group of four, two of my friends, Wiebke and Rhi from the language school and one who visited me from Switzerland.

We chose the “Day of the Mountain” (<sup>やまのひ</sup>山の日), because I got a five-day weekend then. We



expected there to be many climbers that weekend. We chose therefore the least popular and also hardest route the Gotemba Trail. Our goal was, to see the sunrise on the top, so we booked one night at a mountain hut close to the top. But we did not anticipate that it would rain so much when we planned our trip in June. We were told, that usually August is the nice weather month in Japan, but sadly, it was one of the worst in quite some time. But as the saying goes “there is no bad weather, just bad equipment”, we went up anyway.

We could not enjoy the incredible view while hiking up, but we were too much focused-on walking anyway. We reached our stop after eight hours and we were glad that we decided to stay one night. The warm dinner and the possibility the get out of one's wet close was a God-sent. But when we got up at 2.30 am, the horror really



began. It rained down all the waters of the heaven and the strong winds made the whole journey even more unpleasant. One hour away from the top, we met some hikers with good news. The sky will clear up the closer we get to the peak. And luckily, it did. After eleven hours of climbing, we reached the top, completely drenched in water, but very much relieved that we did it. With the clear sky, the cold came, but we had to endure it, for the sunrise sake. It was breath taking, to stand on top of Mt. Fuji with all the other hikers, enjoying the first sunrays and get a peak or two down the huge mountain we came up from. At that point, we could only see down to our hut, which was already way down the mountain. We could, however, not enjoy the view for very long, as we were freezing too much. So, we sought shelter in the tiny restaurant, where we could warm up while enjoying a hot soup. It was the best instant corn soup we ever had, just because it so warm.

## EVERYDAY LIFE



Filled with pride from our achievement, we started our journey down, with a big smile on our face and a little pity for all the hikers we crossed, which were on their way up. The way down was much easier. We took the Ōsunabashiri route( おおすなばしり 大砂走り) down. For several kilometres, the path was covered in volcanic ashes, so that you could literally run down the mountain.

After sixteen hours of walking and six hours of sleep, we arrived at the fifth station of the Gotemba trail again. It was a journey of a life time.

I will climb Mt. Fuji again. The landscape is amazing and I really want to climb it while the sky is clear, so that I can properly appreciate the elevation. But next time, I plan to go up on a shorter route and down again on the Ōsunabashiri.

# APPENDIX

## Appendix

### VISA

附設第二十号様式(第二号留學)  
申請人様作成用  
For applicant part 1

日本国政府  
Ministry of Justice, Government of Japan

在留資格変更許可申請書  
APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF STATUS OF RESIDENCE

入国管理局長 殿  
Immigration Bureau

この入国管理局及び領事館に在籍している者として、次の在留資格の変更を申請します。  
Pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 31 of the Immigration Control and Naturalization Act, I hereby apply for a change of status of residence.

1 国籍・地域  
Nationality/Region: スウェーデン

2 生年月日  
Date of birth: 1993 年 12 月 21 日

3 氏名  
Name: スウェーデン・マルク

4 性別  
Sex: 男

5 出生地  
Place of birth: スウェーデン

6 配偶者の有無  
Marital status: 有・無

7 職業  
Occupation: 学生

8 本国に在る居住先  
Home country: スウェーデン

9 在留地  
Address in Japan: 東京都文京区

10 電話番号  
Telephone No.: 03-XXXX-XXXX

11 在留資格  
Status of residence: 学生

12 在留期限の満了日  
Date of expiration: 2018 年 12 月 21 日

13 在留カード番号  
Residence card number: XXXX-XXXX-XXXX

14 希望する在留資格  
Desired status of residence: 学生

15 在留期間の満了日  
Date of expiration: 2018 年 12 月 21 日

16 変更の理由  
Reason for change of status of residence: 立派な学生である

17 記録を提出した自治体を受けたことの有無  
Record received in Japan (Indonesian): 有・無

18 在日親族(父・母・配偶者・子・兄弟姉妹等)及び同居者  
Family in Japan (Father, Mother, Spouse, Son, Daughter, Brother, Sister or others) or co-residents

続柄	氏名	生年月日	国籍	在留資格	在留期限	同居の有無
父親	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有
母親	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有
兄弟姉妹	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有
同居者	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有

19 申請人様作成用  
Applicant's use only

20 申請人様作成用  
Applicant's use only

What I had to fill out

申請人様作成用  
Applicant's use only

21 在留資格  
Status of residence: 学生

22 在留期限  
Date of expiration: 2018 年 12 月 21 日

23 在留カード番号  
Residence card number: XXXX-XXXX-XXXX

24 希望する在留資格  
Desired status of residence: 学生

25 在留期間の満了日  
Date of expiration: 2018 年 12 月 21 日

26 変更の理由  
Reason for change of status of residence: 立派な学生である

27 記録を提出した自治体を受けたことの有無  
Record received in Japan (Indonesian): 有・無

28 在日親族(父・母・配偶者・子・兄弟姉妹等)及び同居者  
Family in Japan (Father, Mother, Spouse, Son, Daughter, Brother, Sister or others) or co-residents

続柄	氏名	生年月日	国籍	在留資格	在留期限	同居の有無
父親	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有
母親	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有
兄弟姉妹	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有
同居者	スウェーデン・マルク	1993/12/21	スウェーデン	学生	2018/12/21	有

29 申請人様作成用  
Applicant's use only

30 申請人様作成用  
Applicant's use only



## APPENDIX

### Additional Documents needed from the school and company

### Documents to be filled out by the company

# APPENDIX

所屬機関等作成用 2 N (高度専門職(1号・2号))・「研究」・「技術・人文知識・国際業務」・「技能」・「特定活動(研究活動等)」  
(派遣申請の場合のみ) 在留期間更新・在留資格変更用  
For organization, part 2 N (Highly Skilled Professional(1st/2nd)) / "Research" / "Technology, International Services, or Skilled Labor" / "Designated Activities (Research Activities, etc.)" / For extension or change of status  
"Researcher" / "Engineer" / "Specialist in Humanities/International Services" / "Skilled Labor" / "Designated Activities/Researcher or Engineer of a Designated Organization")

8 派遣先等 (2 (a)で人材派遣を選択した場合には記入)  
Company to be dispatched (in case that the answer to the question 2(a) is dispatch of personnel)  
※ (2)(c)-(d)については、送付する書類添付の所在地及び電話番号を記載すること。  
For sub-item (2), give the address and telephone number of your principal place of employment.

(1)名称  
Name 支店・事業所名  
Name of branch

(2)事業内容  
製造 ☐ 一般機械 ☐ 電機 ☐ 通信機 ☐ 自動車 ☐ 鉄鋼 ☐ 化学  
Manufacturing Machinery Electrical machinery Telecommunication Automobile Steel Chemistry  
☐ 繊維 ☐ 食品 ☐ その他 ( )  
Textile Food Others  
運輸 ☐ 航空 ☐ 海運 ☐ 旅行業 ☐ その他 ( )  
Transportation Airline Shipping Travel agency Others  
金融保険 ☐ 銀行 ☐ 保険 ☐ 証券 ☐ その他 ( )  
Finance Banking Insurance Security Others  
商業 ☐ 貿易 ☐ その他 ( )  
Commerce Trade Others  
教育 ☐ 大学 ☐ 高校 ☐ 専門学校 ☐ その他 ( )  
Education University Senior high school Vocational school Others  
報道 ☐ 通信 ☐ 新聞 ☐ 放送 ☐ その他 ( )  
Journalism News agency Newspaper Broadcasting Others  
☐ 建設 ☐ コンピュータ関連サービス ☐ 広告 ☐ ホテル  
Construction Computer services Advertising Hotel  
☐ 料理店 ☐ 出版 ☐ 調査研究 ☐ 農林水産  
Restaurant Publishing Research Agriculture / Forestry / Fishery  
☐ 不動産 ☐ その他 ( )  
Real estate Others

(3)所在地  
Address  
電話番号  
Telephone No.

(4)資本金  
Capital 円 Yen

(5)年間売上高(最近年度)  
Annual sales (latest year) 円 Yen

(6)派遣予定期間  
Period of dispatch

以上の記載内容は事実と相違ありません。I hereby declare that the statement given above is true and correct.  
勤務先又は所屬機関名、代表者氏名の記名及び押印 / 申請書作成年月日  
Name of the organization and representative, and official seal of the organization / Date of filing in this form

印 年 月 日  
Seal Year Month Day

注意 Attention  
申請書作成後申請までに記載内容に変更が生じた場合、所屬機関等が変更箇所を訂正し、押印すること。  
In cases where descriptions have changed after filing in this application form up until submission of this application, the organization must correct the part concerned and press its seal on the correction.

平成 年分 給与所得の源泉徴収票等の法定調書合計表  
(給与所得者等が提出する 5 (2), 5 (2-4), 5 (2-5), 5 (2-6), 5 (3)及び 6 (2)調書)  
FED 101  
提出用

1 給与所得の源泉徴収票合計表 (5 (2))  
2 退職所得の源泉徴収票合計表 (5 (2-4))  
3 報酬、料金、契約金及びその他の支払調書合計表 (5 (2-5))  
4 不動産等の使用料等の支払調書合計表 (5 (2-6))  
5 不動産等の賃貸料等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3))

6 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-1))  
7 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-2))

8 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-3))

9 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-4))

10 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-5))

11 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-6))

12 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-7))

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14 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-9))

15 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-10))

16 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-11))

17 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-12))

18 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-13))

19 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-14))

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21 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-16))

22 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-17))

23 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-18))

24 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-19))

25 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-20))

26 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-21))

27 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-22))

28 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-23))

29 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-24))

30 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-25))

31 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-26))

32 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-27))

33 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-28))

34 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-29))

35 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-30))

36 所得税等の支払調書合計表 (5 (3-31))

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4

# APPENDIX

## HOUSING

### Garbage Disposal

There is usually lots of garbage when moving out. First, please consider what items you will dispose of when you move out. Next, search for information of how to dispose of the respective type of garbage. Kyoto city has strict rules of garbage. There have been many problems in the past due to improperly garbage disposal. Please make sure to dispose of your garbage properly.

#### ■Oversized Garbage

If you have oversized items other than bedding or bikes to dispose of, you will need to call the Kyoto City Beautification Center (0570-000-247) and make an appointment for them to pick up the items. Before calling, measure the size of each item you wish to have picked up so that you can verify the disposal fee. They will tell you the cost per item based on the measurements.

●月●日に引っ越しをするので、電気、ガス、を止めて下さい。この日までの料金は、当日現金で払います。  
(I am moving out on (Day/Month). Please turn off electricity (or gas). I will pay the last fee in cash on that day)

2. The company worker will come to your room on the cancellation day. They will calculate the amount of your last fee. Please remember to get a receipt from the company workers. You can make an appointment when the gas/electricity company employee comes. So please make an appointment before you leave the dorm. Give this receipt to a member of the school staff for the final check.

#### ★Telephone Number of the Electricity Company

The students who are living in Pine-field

・かんてん電気 (electricity) : 0800-777-8031

※ Stopping the electricity can be made from this website.

URL: <https://kepa.co.jp/service/> (ご住所の変更・お引越のお手続き)

Please change the contract information from here.

※ If the last electricity bill hasn't been paid by the time of second room check, please wait for the electricity company employee outside your room.

you tell them. After that you will need to get “ oversized trash disposal ticket/ per 400 yen) for each item at the price that you were told on the phone. Usually you need one ticket per one garbage (in the case of Bedding set Futon, it cost 800 yen). You can purchase these tickets at either the local ward office or a convenience store. Fill out the tickets, then place them clearly on the items. Dispose of the items at the designated area. It takes about two weeks for your trash to be picked up, therefore please contact them in advance.

Please visit a bicycle shop if you are considering selling or donating your bicycle. You will need to take your bike registration certificate, as well as your registration card.

#### ■Appliances Disposal

Appliances can be recycled and is it forbidden to by law to dispose of them. Please inquire at the store from which you bought the appliances if they can take them back. You will need to pay a handling charge and an additional fee, depending on the size of the items. If you don't quite understand how to dispose of these kind of items, please ask the school staff. If your items are new, a recycle shop may take them, please ask at your nearest recycle shop.

#### ■Kitchen items - frying pans, pots, etc

The collection for this type of garbage is once a month. Please put them in a transparent bag and label them 「金属」 (metal)

・PF Kitchinskawa: Third Wednesday

・Shugakuin/ Matsuya: Forth Wednesday

※ The school can be a proxy to dispose of the above mentioned garbages. The fee is ¥1500 for each box. If you would like to use this service, come to the office before 3/10 and pay the fee and we will give you a cardboard box.

#### ■Other Garbage

Futon (Bedding) ※Bedding which KJCL bought ONLY

Only the bedding set which KJCL arranged when you entered, can be disposed. It cost 500 yen per Futon. Please pay it at our office. Then you can use it till you leave your room.

※ You cannot use this service with any bedding which you bought by yourself

Magazines and Stack of paper

Please bring them to KJCL. In front of the office, we prepare a collection box.

Clothes hanger

Please bring them to KJCL. In front of the office, we prepare a collection box and recycle them to new students.

Disposal Box

The school can be a proxy to dispose of the following type of garbages. The fee is ¥1500 for each box. If you would like to use this service, come to the office before 3/10 and pay the fee and we will give you a cardboard box.

These items are available to throw into Disposal Box

Plastic items, Metal (Frying pans, pots, Spray cans), Kitchen knife, Glass

※ (Low garbage, Cleaning Substance, Futon (Bedding you bought), Pillow, Wire hanger are not

#### Cancellation of Gas and Electricity

You need to turn off the gas and electricity services before moving out. Needless to say, you will not be able to use them after the cancellation. Therefore please plan accordingly.

・ Please call up the gas and electricity company by 3/12 you move out and follow the procedures as below.

Please inform them of the following: ① Your leaving date ② Your address or your customer number/refer to the receipt of the bill ③ Your intention of paying the last fee in person to the company worker when they come to turn off the service. If you have a desired date for them to come, notify them of this as well. A lot of people move at the end of the month. You may not be able to make an appointment on your desired date. Please contact them in advance.