



Personal Information

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Degree Program at TAU: MBA in Management of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MoTIE)

Host University: NUCB – Nagoya, Japan

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Exchange Experience

About the country and city

Japan is probably the most stunning country I visited in my life. The cities, the nature, the unique culture, the food, the historical locations and much more, are things that words cannot describe. It was very surprising (and amazing) for me to discover an almost parallel universe in a western country. Adding that the opportunity of studying abroad with students and professors from all over the world, made it an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.

I truly recommend this experience to anyone who is interested in participating in an exchange program. Furthermore, I believe it is that it is a very good choice for those who seek or are able to do the exchange for a relatively short period.

Although Nagoya itself is maybe not the most touristic city in Japan (but still has what to offer, as I'll describe below), it has a convenient location in the middle of the way between Kyoto and Tokyo, and a good starting point for a trip to the Fuji mountain, the Japanese Alps and other hiking trips.

About the Host University

The campus is located in a quite central location in Nagoya. The high NUCB building and its prestigious design cannot be missed. The atmosphere is great: the diversity of students and their origins make the stay to feel very international and interesting. Moreover, the administrative staff is very helpful and cooperating.

The campus offers large and convenient auditoriums in which the lectures take place, groups' working class rooms, dining room (including lunch on weekends), computers, printers and more facilities.

Many restaurants and convenient stores are located closely to the campus.

Beside the academics, NUCB offers social activities such as parties, trips, company visits and much more.

Courses and professors

There are 2 types of courses: regular courses, which take place during the entire semester, one session once a week; and intensive courses, which are being held in 4 full days.

Due to the fact that I stayed in Japan for a relatively short period (1.5 months), I took only 3 intensive courses.

On the one hand, it was a very convenient studying method – studying hard (very hard) for 4 days, completing 1 Yas, and then having spare time for traveling until the next course begins. On the other hand, there was quite big pressure of completing all the readings for each day and submitting the assignments and/ or being well prepared for the quizzes and exams, all in a very short period. The pressure gets even bigger considering the grading policy NUCB institutes and the fact that active and high-quality class participation constitutes 40%-60% of the grade of each course.

Having said that, for me the advantages really overcome the disadvantages, and I managed to acquire new academic point of views that I was not familiar with before, in a short period, that allowed me to have also time for social activities, in which I had the opportunity of knowing and having a wonderful time with people from all over the world and of exploring what amazing Japan has to offer. Just keep calm, be positive, and remember the great adventure you are experiencing 😊

The professors where also from very diverse origins: Brazilian, Filipino and American, and it was interesting to experience the differences in each one's way of teaching. For example, the rate of case' facts discussion vs. critical discussion held by each professor, the relying on business frameworks, the emphasis on group work – where all changing from one lecturer to another.

My favourite course was Entrepreneurship and Family Business, taught by prof. Francisco Roman. Firstly, of course, I found the subject and the professor interesting. In addition, I liked the fact that prof. Roman focused more on critical discussions in class and on the expressing of real-life experiences by him and by the students, and less on repeating the already known facts of the reading cases (like in other courses). The course requirements included, beside the readings, only one short report and an exam at the end.

Accommodation – dorms and other solutions

Because of my short term studies in Nagoya and the fact the between courses I visited other cities, I did not stay at the dorms. Instead, I booked a hotel which was 1 minute walking of campus and convenient stores, 2 minutes walking from the subway station, 10 minutes walking from the city centre (Sakae). The hotel was Hotel Wing International Nagoya, of which I recommend: clean and not very expensive (but I also noticed other hotels around with good reviews and same price). Like in most hotels in Japan, the rooms are small. However, the Wi-Fi quality is perfect, and you have a desk which is convenient for studying.

In my circumstances, that was a good and reasonable choice, by if I had the opportunity of staying in Nagoya for a full semester, I obviously would have chosen the dorms – I got the impression that the students over there had a very social atmosphere.

Visa

Since I stayed for less than 3 months in Japan, no visa was required in my case.

Transportation

The public transportation in almost all over Japan, including Nagoya, is very efficient, frequent and convenient. It is very easy to get from one point to another, and many alternatives are offered, depends of course your destination. Unlike other products and services in Japan, the public transportation is one of the very few services I found to be more expensive than in Israel (for example, the Sinkansen train from Nagoya to Tokyo costs around 11,000 yens = 360 NIS, for less than 2 hours ride).

The university offers some discounts for the public transportation.

Another common option is renting a car (a special driving license for Japan should be issued in Israel, the information can be easily found online), but it is more recommended for the nature trips and less for the urban cities, due to parking expenses, lack of parking spots and a very good public transportation). I used only public transportation in each and every site and I did just fine, but I know that other students rented a car, which is probably more convenient in the Japanese Alps and other similar places (nature trips, etc.).

Insurance and Health Services

Offered by NUCB. The administrative staff will send all the information needed before the studies start.

Living expenses

For me, as a Tel Aviv resident, I surprisingly found the living much cheaper (despite all the rumours about Japan being expensive). Of course, that as more touristic the

area is, the expenses are getting higher – for example, Tokyo is more expensive than Nagoya. Yet, beside the public transportation, most prices of hotels, food and shopping are lower than in Tel Aviv.

Food

I probably don't need to write too much about the Japanese great cuisine. The Sushi is the best, the Ramen is delicious.

Around NUCB campus, you can enjoy all types of food, from fine restaurants, authentic Japanese restaurants, western food and even to find a good meal in the convenient stores, like most of the students do (fresh and cheap choice when you don't have much time between class sessions. Really not bad as it sounds). You also have good hamburger place, sushi restaurant and curry restaurant nearby the campus.

Pay attention that if you are vegetarian or vegan, things are more complicated, since the Japanese use meat or fish almost in every dish, and the awareness for the subject is very low.

Night life

Nagoya offers a nice night life, mostly in Sakae, in which you can find clubs (the most popular are ID Cafe and Orca) and bars. In most clubs in Japan you need to pay for the entrance (the price is rising according to the entry hour and your gender), but usually the ticket includes 2-3 drinks, so it's actually not that expensive comparing to Tel Aviv.

Tips

Bring A LOT of cash with you. Most places do not accept credit cards. Japan is very safe, so you don't need to be worried of carrying a large amount of money. It's probably cheaper to get as much Yens as you can in Israel in advance.

You should also carry a plastic bag with you for your trash – no trash cans in the (very clean) streets. You can find them in convenient stores.

Don't carry a lot of clothes or cosmetics. You can find it all in a good quality in Japan, and not in very expensive prices. Leave enough free space in your luggage.

Be prepared for each and every class, from the beginning. Not like in Israel, if you don't participate from the start, it is very difficult to catch up the gap afterwards, and the grading is strict.

Google maps will be your bible.

Google translate will assist you a lot, since most Japanese people don't speak English. Don't worry about this fact, they will still do as much as they can to help you.

General experience

One of the best decisions I have ever taken. Especially for me, who has work constraints, the possibility of participating in a short term exchange, during the Jewish holidays (which made it much easier for my boss), in wonderful Japan and its so unique culture – was amazing! Just look at the photos.

Feel free to contact me for any question!

Photos:







