

The Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation

Report

I went to Kobe University as an exchange student from late September 2016 to the end of February 2017. I have previously studied abroad for half a year in Akita Japan, so I already knew what to expect. Financing your own trip can be very expensive, seeing as you have to resettle into a completely different and new life. Everything you own is in one or two suitcases which you bring along. Additional payments regarding books, tuition, housing, bills and inventory needs to be considered before a complete resettling can take place. To meet this end, I decided to apply for The Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation grant, which I received.

My original aim studying abroad was to engage in active research supporting my upcoming thesis. I managed to conduct surveys based on much of what I learned about Kobe University and it has prepared me thoroughly for what is ahead. Now that I am back in Denmark, I feel well-equipped for my thesis. The reason why the grant was important to me, was because it helped me utilize my resources to an optimal extent. What I needed for my research included a variety of social aspects and I was required to actively engage socially for this reason. In my case, transport was very important. I quickly made friends and acquaintances, and in order to meet these people occasionally, I had to find a way to fund transporting. It would obviously be impossible for me to know beforehand that I would need funding in this exact area and for that reason, however, my previous experience abroad taught me exactly this, which is why I could make the prediction.

Receiving the grant has provided me with untold opportunities. Besides aiding in my adjustment process, it managed to lift a burden off my shoulders when it came to exploring the social depths of Kobe. Being able to participate at most events, I was able to expand my network to a degree where I have connections all over the world. Many of these connections have already come in handy and I am

sure others will be useful another time. These connections not only include Japanese people, but also Italians, Koreans, American, British, German and Australian people as well. Beneath I have attached a few pictures showing myself and some of the friends I have made along the way at different social events.



These experiences have made me a better person. I have reached a point of understanding towards other nationalities through knowledge that I never could have achieved, had I not engaged in meaningful interactions. They have, at the same time, become people of interest regarding my thesis, and one of my surveys have been aimed at the people I got to know in Kobe. The funding provided by The Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, has given me an opportunity to chase my dreams of learning about the country that I love.