

Applied Economics Intensive 2022



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I had a wonderful time in Edinburgh studying English and living in a different culture. Why I decided to participate in this program is that I should develop my English skill more. This is because I want to write my thesis in English, and I have a dream to succeed overseas in the future career.

Under the situation of covid-19, we cannot go to school and see our teachers and friends for about two years. But in this program, we could enjoy our college life very much. The teachers at University of Edinburgh arranged the curriculum suitable for us. This is why I can feel that I could develop my English skills through this program. I did panel discussion and made a long presentation in English for the first time. It was really tough but now I have a confident to speak English in front of the audience.

Also, I could experience a lot of different culture. In this season, a lot of foreigners visit Edinburgh. Enjoying the fringe festival, I could make a lot of foreign friends. In addition, I could feel culture gaps because some strikes happened in UK while staying. I realize that I should rethink about Japanese culture, and it is important to achieve true multicultural coexistence in our society.

In conclusion, the reason I feel that I have grown is that I could take the leadership in the class and support other students in English. I'm sure that it will be the most precious memory when I work abroad in the future. Also, I could organize my thoughts and make my self-esteem higher than before. I hope I can go out of into the world holding my head high.



Applied Economics Intensive might be one of the best memories of my university life. It is a worthy experience for me.

In the class, we work on four skills in English, Speaking, writing, listening, and reading. In the first half of the course, the teachers politely told us what we should care about and the tips for the skill. In the latter half, we did some exercises using the skills. It was very challenging for me to write a report in English about the investment of a foreign country. It was a nice exercise for me, I learned how to write an academic essay. After the autumn semester started, I notice that the tips I learned are very useful. We also learned about how to present in English. Cooperating with a partner to make an English presentation and performing it in front of many people from different countries help me get the confidence to present. I think that it is a precious experience for me. I rarely had such an experience presented in front of many people who do not know. Some unique questions from them train my brain. Although I know the answer in Japanese, I should answer it in easy English.

Due to Covid-19, we lived in the dormitory this year. It is a good experience to cooperate with others to make dinner and play with group members. Sometimes, we played bowling and had other extra-curricular events with our tutors. It is difficult to have such experiences after university graduation. Researching where to go was good training for me. I used not only the Japanese guidebook, but also ask local people I can get some interesting ideas. There was Edinburgh Festival in August. I went to musical and military tattoo. I can experience many kinds of cultures in Edinburgh.

Applied Economics Intensive lets me get many inspirations. I learned about practical skills. The time I spent in Edinburgh made me determined to study abroad in the future. I can learn not only English skills, but also about many different cultures from Applied Economics Intensive.



Jota Nambu

Before deciding to join this program, I was quite undecided. I'm not confident of economics classes and the final presentation of it, because I'm majoring in Information Technology in YNU. However, I now feel very happy to have been a part of this program. At the end of life in Edinburgh, I felt that my English talking skill had grown. I didn't think I could presentation professionally for ten minutes without script at the time of departure.

The biggest memory is visiting London for a weekend alone. It was a first time for me to make hotel and bus reservations myself abroad. My friends taught me how to do that, so now I have the confidence to do the same abroad in the future. In addition, I was deeply impressed with the public order of Edinburgh after that journey. I was terrified of some crowds in London.

Needless to say, life in Edinburgh was great. My roommate and I enjoyed cooking and looking around stores. Difference in prices of living is big in Japan and UK, so it was necessary to devise. We made a conscious effort to get in touch with British ingredients and cuisine.

In addition, I found some cultural differences between Japan and UK. Most people in Japan pay in cash, but people in UK pay in credit card. It is shocking for me that some stores didn't accept cash payments. There were other differences regarding residents. The town was home to many different ethnic groups, and Asians were not uncommon. Some Chinese shop supply us some well-known products. However, most people in there don't like to wear masks. It was a biggest difference between Japan and there.



On this trip, I had various and precious experiences. I visited Edinburgh University in August, and its student was in summer vacation. So, I could barely get touch with them. Because of this, I decided to try to speak to strangers in Edinburgh. This attempt was very valuable. I learned many things that I had not known before like cultures and good places, foods and so on from them. I vividly remember that I spoke to some strangers in Leeds city.

I lost my way, so I asked them how to get my destination. They kindly told me the way and I succeeded to get there. This experience makes me more bravely and confident than before. I learned some speaking skills on this program. I talked with my classmates in English every day. I usually tell them about my recent experiences so I could improve my English skill for daily conversation.

Moreover, I learned how to read and write academic paper. I have never written the paper in English, so this program was very wothy for me. I also gave some presentation on this program. At first my presentation was very awful, but professors gave me some advice so I could improve the skill and have the confidence to speak English in front of many people.

Also, I got to know some differences of the culture between Japan and the UK. People in the UK is more friendly than Japanese. When I entered the shop, they always greeting and do some daily conversation with me. I think this is good culture and I want to be friendly like them.

I had so many experiences on this program that I can't write everything in this essay. I promise that this program definitely adds some values to your life.



The whole things I experienced in the program were memorable. In this essay, I would write about two of them.

The Poster Session in the class was impressive to me. During the stay in Edinburgh, we had class in the morning. We studied about English skills from daily conversation to academic reading, and of course, about Economy. In the English class, I learned not only the English skill itself, but also how to communicate in English with others without hesitation. It was not easy for me at first. Making mistakes was always a fear for me. However, through the practice in the class and after the class with friends, I gradually got feel confident in speaking, and found it fun to share own ideas. In the Poster Session, I gave presentation about Economy in Scotland in front of many people from other countries! I was so happy to be able to carry own idea to others in English about such an academic topic.

The activity after school and the holidays were also wonderful. In August they had a big Fringe Festival, so, the street was always full of people. It was very enthusiastic we cannot experience in Japan. I visited some old buildings and museums in the city too. There were many museums for free which had many famous art works. Just walking around the city was also fun. Climbing up the hills around with my friends was one of the best memories. Overall, the outside of the university was also full of interesting things.

This program was held for the first time since 2020 because of Covid-19. Although I heard there were some differences from before pandemic situation, I just want to say thank you to all who worked hard to hold this program.



Ryuma Sasaki

Through the program in Edinburgh, I gained so many valuable and priceless experiences. I am going to introduce some of them here.

The first one is, of course, the opportunity to use English. I learnt academic English skills at school and daily conversations in other situations. In academic English, I mainly learnt how to do presentations and writing. It included the correct word choice and usage of linking words and they were different from that in Japanese. In everyday conversation, I learnt that before thinking about grammar, it is important to speak continuously and not to be in a silent state. I feel that I am now able to make sentences in English faster than before. And also, I feel I want to improve my English skills and make conversations in English more fluently.

The second is the variety of experiences that can only be gained in Edinburgh. Specifically, the warmth of the local people, visiting tourist attractions including London and other areas such as the Highland Tour, watching Premier League and Scottish League football, and interactions with the students who participated in the program together. The people in Edinburgh were always kind and helpful even to us with poor English, telling us how to get to our destinations and what to do in the restaurants. At the football matches, thanks to Dr. McAulay, I was lucky enough to see the game in seats that were not sold and to see match that might be historic. In the dormitory life, we were able to make connections across grade boundaries.

Overall, it was a fantastic and unforgettable program for me.



This summer, I participated in the summer school held at the university of Edinburgh. I have been thinking of studying abroad, but because of the spread of Covid 19, this program hasn't been held for the first two years after I entered this university. Now, I am a third-grade student, and I have many things to do with job hunting, etc.... So, I thought that this was my last chance to study abroad, and decided to attend this course.

It was my first time living abroad away from my parents for a month, but I had a lot of precious memories in Edinburgh. Though it is dangerously hot in August in Japan, the weather in Edinburgh was very comfortable, like spring and autumn in Japan. It was rather cold in the morning, so I walked to the university wearing a scarf.

We had classes in the morning on weekdays and practiced speaking English. It was also a rare opportunity to study the Scottish economy deeply. We enjoyed sightseeing around the city every afternoon. Especially, I enjoyed the Scottish national gallery, which owns many of my favorite impressionist works that can rarely be seen in Japan.

Also, I stayed at a dormitory of the University of Edinburgh this time instead of staying with host families. That is why we had to cook for ourselves. We procured ingredients with my flat-mates and cooked every day. I usually don't cook very much in Japan, but as we try to cook a variety of dishes, I found it fun to cook with friends, and I could feel my growth in it. Unfortunately, I could not have conversations with my host family this time, but I was able to experience the joy of cooking cooperating with my friends instead.



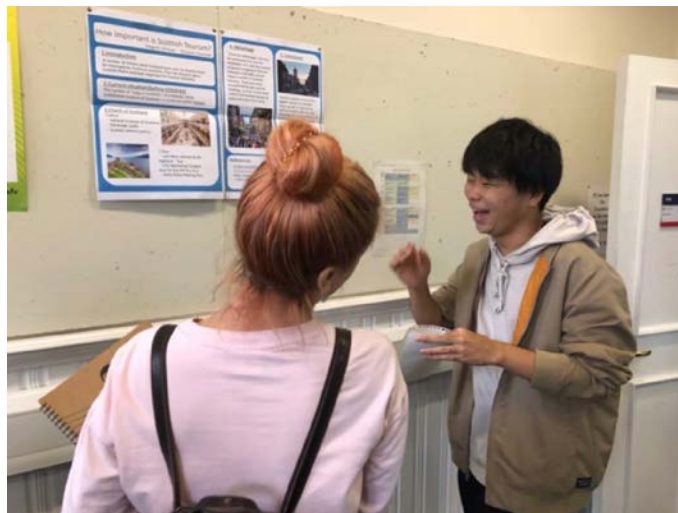
Shuntaro Kawasaki

Through my experience in Edinburgh, I learned so many things about how to improve English skills, daily life in overseas compared to Japanese one and so on. One of the best features of this program is, as you may understand, we need to speak English in Edinburgh. It enabled me to study phrases that local people use in their daily lives, which is very useful when I go to abroad. The classes in University of Edinburgh were also well organized that we can learn communication and writing skills. I could feel progress of my English skills through this program.

It is also one of the best features to know differences between Japan and other countries. I really surprised strike (industrial actions), the progress of cashless payment system and something like that. In the context of the infestation of Covid-19, the policy against it differs from Japanese one. There are few people wearing face mask, and many people made a loud voice when watched the Military Tattoo.

Besides them, this program has many advantages such as making friends. You can make friends who are not only in University of Edinburgh, but also in Yokohama national University.

Through these things, I could understand differences of nationality, development, and culture in front of my eyes, and learned that we need to go to various places and experience various things in order to know the world. I think we should know about them; how the world is.



This program was an amazing experience for me and I had a wonderful time inside and outside the campus. I decided to take part in this program since it was a dream for me to study in Europe since I was in high school. Considering the pandemic and the rest of the time left in campus I thought this was the last chance to make my dream come true. As a result of taking part, I was able to improve both my English skills and knowledge of Economics. I especially learned more about not only the Scottish economy but also about the world economy and what is happening in the world now.

It was also interesting to hear how Scottish people think about the inflation and to know what people do to protest against the government. There were few strikes during my stay and it made me realize what a strike actually is and why it is done. I also realized how Scottish people have great interest in economy and politics. It was also a good experience to interact with people with different cultures. Although, the class was held with only Japanese students, I had chances to talk with the mentors, teachers and people I met in the Fringe. I had fun knowing what kind of culture they grew up in and it was also interesting to hear what Scottish people think about Japan. I was also able to experience Scottish culture. I participated in a traditional dance party called Ceilidh where I danced with local people. I went to a football game and actually watched a Celtic game and was able to feel the momentum and heat in the stadium. I think this whole stay was an experience of my lifetime and I will never forget what I experienced.



This summer, I spent the summer vacation time in Edinburgh, Scotland. As a student participating the Applied Economic Intensive, I had classes which improve my English skill and teach us about Scottish culture. To get English speaking skill, I actively tried to talk foreign students in Edinburgh University. As a result, I could make Chinese friends and I joined 3-day/2-night Highland tour with them. That trip was so excited and give me a new experience and noticed me difference of culture between Japan and China. I had troubles while I was with them, but to solve many communication problems, I studied English harder than before, and made efforts to be able to talk with them. Through this experience, my English skill was improved dramatically, and understanding of culture difference and British culture were deepened.

Moreover, we had a presentation about Scottish economy. I searched about “Scotexit” which mean that Scotland and exit are mixed. Main purpose of this theme is to know present economic situation in Scotland influenced by exit of the UK from EU and discuss the future of Scotland about economic and politic aspect. Through this presentation, I get some extent of confidence of speaking English in front of classmates and teachers.



For me, this course is the first time to spend around one month in foreign country. I'm satisfied with this course because I could get the self-confidence to speak English and this course eliminated worrying about all-English class. In UK, all I could choose is talk in English. Therefore, I had to do so in grocery shop, restaurant, and classes. At first, I hesitate to speak, but at last I don't mind doing. It is because I found myself to make listener understand what I want to say. Thanks to many experiences like this in UK, I don't worry about the situation where I must speak English. In addition, teachers in this course are very kind, and they encourage us to speak English. By the way, I'll explain why I don't afraid from the all-English course. This course is conducted by English speakers. So, we can't use Japanese and must listen to English and speak English. I had thought it needs much time to understand what teachers say. But I could be used to listen to them immediately. It benefits me because I become not to mind if a class is conducted in English. It increased the number of classes I can take. Before I went to Edinburgh, I didn't have the self-confidence to take the classes which are conducted in English such as International Economics in YNU. But after this course, I think I can keep up with such classes. Therefore, this course made me spread classes I can take in YNU. In addition, I could feel the differences of culture. This made me realize it truly. I had known the differences, but I didn't have the reality of them.

The one-month life in Edinburgh realized them. As a whole, this course satisfy me, and I can get the experiences which are difficult to get.



Yoshimasa Kikuta

Reflecting on my experience on this Edinburgh program, my trigger to apply for this program was different from other students. I always had a backward and negative thinking. Rather, my best friend decided to go, and I do not want to go to the summer internship for job hunting. Of course, all the surrounding environment in Edinburgh was so different from Japan. The most annoying thing was that students who took the same program was so skillful for me. Some students talk in English fluently, some are smart to think and to study and some have work efficiently and do a flawless job. I was always mentally exhausted and be in a hurry to catch up with them until the final presentation.

Before the presentation, all the students searched, memorized and present calmly, closely, confidently, and logically. After went back to Japan, we received the record but mine was not good. I learned two following things in this program.

Firstly, if comparing with others and have an inferiority complex, I must concentrate to myself. For example, think what is a point I can improve. For me, I tended to work in detail, so it was better to finish works roughly then brush it up. Also, my lack of confidence could be pointed to improve. To find why I cannot do was important. Like, is there something experience, or knowledge others had?

Secondly, I improved my listening and reading skills. The native people speaks fast so if you go back, and you maybe will find the listening test in Japan is easy. Every year when joining to this program, students must take English exams and a higher rank of it could join this program, but this year, there are few students who want to go, so I luckily could go. It's embarrassing, but before taking this program my listening score of TOEIC was under 60 marks out of a 100 but after this I could pass over 90 marks. The experience in Edinburgh was the best exciting and memorable experience I ever had.



Megumi Ishihara

I could have various experiences and grow up very much for one month in July. This time is first time to go abroad for me, so I was very nervous at the first time. However, when I compare before summer school and after, I can find clearly that I grow up.

First, I could improve my English skill. of course, classes in Edinburgh University are useful to improve my skill because we learned not only reading and writing but also speaking. In Japanese English classes, I had a little time to speak English, so I wanted to improve my speaking skill in this time. It is a little difficult to speak my idea in English, but I enjoyed speaking English in these classes. In addition to this, I have a lot of chances to speak English in the daily life. In the UK, of course, I could use only English when I talked with people there, so I could speak English automatically. At that time, I found the most important thing is whether he or she who talk with understands what I speak, not English grammar. I started not to mind grammatical errors since then when I speak English. After coming back to Japan, I have chances to speak English in English classes. I can speak English without worry and have high motivation to study English more than before.

Moreover, I could have matured as a result of various experiences in summer school. Before the summer school, I was always nervous a stranger but, I am good at talking with people after this. Also, I have no resistance to start new things, because I learn it is important to challenge without fear of failure, for example, taking an English class, making friends from abroad, and studying Chinese.

Therefore, this summer school made me wise, strong and brave. I feel this one month is the most fulfilling month in my life.

