

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsaufenthalt

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Persönliche Angaben	
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Art des Aufenthaltes:	Studium
Gasteinrichtung:	University of Tokyo – School of Engineering
Gastland:	Tokyo, Japan
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	Electrical Engineering and Information Systems
Aufenthaltszeitraum (WS, SS oder Jahr):	WS 2017/2018
Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?	JA
Wenn JA, dürfen Name und E-Mail veröffentlicht werden?	Beides JA

1. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung)

When I came to FAU, I took the Welcome Meeting. Then I found this program exchanging to Japan and other countries. It is a really good chance to contact with different culture. At that time, I decided to apply for this program. I searched all the information about exchange on the website of FAU and choose two countries which I prefer, Japan and Singapore and then got the time for application.

I attended the meeting about exchange to Japan and sent emails for the details and prepared the documents as following:

- Letter of Motivation
- Curriculum Vitae
- Englischer Sprachnachweis (interner universitärer DAAD Sprachtest ausreichend; ein Termin sollte so früh wie möglich stattfinden)
- Letter of Recommendation (Empfehlungsschreiben sollten im Idealfall von einem Professor und einem Betreuer aus der Wirtschaft, wie z.B. vergangene Praktika, angefertigt werden)
- Bachelorzeugnis (falls schon vorhanden)
- Abiturzeugnis
- Aktuelle Immatrikulationsbescheinigung
- Eingescannter Reisepass (falls keiner vorhanden ist, ist zu diesem Zeitpunkt auch eine Personalausweis ausreichend. Tipp: schnellstens jedoch einen Reisepass beantragen, da dieser bei weiteren Bewerbungsschritten von Nöten ist)

The application in FAU was not difficult. The staffs were very kind to help me about applicaiton. After the application process, I need to go to the next step, UTokyo applicaiton process. It was a little bit complex. The relevant information is all in this website, http://global.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/t-cens_EAP/general-information/.

During the application, the most important part was to find a supervising professor. According to rules, I need to write a study plan before I apply for a supervisor. But the professor may not need a exchange student. After failing several times, I began to send emails to them first and if they were interested in me, I began to write the study plan.

2. Anreise, Visum, Anmeldeformalitäten vor Ort

Visa application was very easy. I just sent the documents to the consulate in Munich and a personal appearance on pickup was required. The visa is free and valid for one year (even if only one semester is completed in Japan).

For me, I go back to my country, China for a week and then went to Tokyo International Airport(Haneda Airport) from Shanghai. It was very convenient to Japan from Shanghai. After arriving in Haneda Airport, the service there is good enough for you to the bus or train. But actually Japanese's English is not as good as European. So before going to Japan, you would better study some simple Japanese words for your daily life.

3. Unterkunft (Wohnheim, privat)

UTokyo didn't provide me with a dormitory. So I had to find it by myself. It was a hard time to find a room as a foreigner. For normal house, they asked me to rent it at least one year. So now I have to pay it even I have left Japan. There were some private international sharing rooms in Tokyo. If you fail to apply for a dormitory, this is a good choice.

4. Studium (Lehrveranstaltungen, Stundenplan) sowie Sprachkurse (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig) an der Gastuniversität / bei Praktikum oder Abschlussarbeit: Beschreibung der Tätigkeit

UTokyo is research-oriented which means every student have their own laboratory to do some research and they do not have so many course like German universities. You can apply for the Japanese course in the Language Center and they will also provide some language club for you. All the schedule you can discuss with your supervisor. For me, I had one meeting each week with my professor about Python learning. He will supervise me and give me a lot of advice. It was like a small presentation on the meeting. I need tell him what I have learnt by myself during the past week. The course I took was not included.

Also, there were so many activities organized by UTokyo. I used to take a trip to Tomioka and took the activities about tea and kimono. All of these were interesting and made me to learn more about Japan.

5. Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office und Fachbereich) bzw. bei Praktikum oder Abschlussarbeit: Betreuung an der Gasteinrichtung

The International Office is helpful for questions during the application process. They gave me many advice about studying and daily life. For my supervising professor, I took a small presentation with him every week about what I had learnt during the past week. He is so kind and help me a lot both on studying and daily life.

6. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität bzw. Gasteinrichtung (Bibliothek, Computerräume)

There are many libraries in the Hongo campus. You need to register online before you enter the library. They are good place for you to study. For the computers in my laboratory, when I

came to my lab, my professor allocate a new computer to me for research. It is fast enough for me to run python and other coding language. In a word, UTokyo will equip you with well done equipments.

7. Alltag und Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobs)

Tokyo is a big and beautiful city. I searched for the activities in Tokyo online and found every month there will be lots of activities held in Tokyo. If you were interested in ACG, Tokyo is the best place for you to travel. The food in Japan is eastern style which is suitable for me. Ramen is quite delicious here and Sushi here is the best. You could taste the freshest Sushi in Japan. There is a website named tabelog.com which is useful for you to find high rank food.

For the bank part, every student need have at least one bank account for your rent or tuition fee. When you open a account, you need have a address to receive mails from bank but when you want to rent a room, you have to show you bank account in Japan. It is unfriendly for foreigners. For me, I have friend in Tokyo and use their address to apply for bank account and solved this problem. ATMs are everywhere in Tokyo. So it is convenient. Also, you can use credit card with VISA or JCB in most of place.

For mobile, also you need address first. In Japan we must sign a SIM contract for at least one year. And most of operators' fee are much higher than in Germany. I chose a internet operator, iijmio, which is the most cheapest, 1500JPY/month.

For jobs, most of part-time jobs require well Japanese language. And the salary is 1000JPY/hour in average.

8. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien)

The cost of living in Tokyo is much higher than in Erlangen. My rent was 50000JPY/month which is much cheaper than my friends and Transportation expenses is around 3000JPY/month.

For scholarships, few shcolarships are provided from UTokyo for our exchange program. You can get the information from international office and DAAD.

9. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

Anyway, the experience in UTokyo is one of my best memory in my life. I experienced the different culture in Japan and make many friends there. I did a lot research in my lab and my professor helped my a lot.

However, there were some bad experience. Till now, I still pay for my rent because of the contract for one year.

10. Wichtige Kontakte und Links

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Important Links	
http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/	<i>University of Tokyo</i>
http://www.eeis.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/index.html	Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Systems
http://www-sato.cc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/	<i>SATO Laboratory</i>
http://www.tf.fau.de/fakultaet/international-office.shtml	<i>International Office of FAU</i>
https://www.fau.de/international/referat-fuer-internationale-angelegenheiten/	<i>Referat für Internationale Angelegenheiten der FAU</i>
https://www.daad.de/	<i>DAAD</i>
http://tokyosharehouse.com/eng/	<i>Tokyo Share House</i>