



TOKYO  
METROPOLITAN  
UNIVERSITY

This edition features interviews with international students and international exchange activities with our partner universities.

# TMUtimes News Letter

2019 Vol.3



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Japan has four seasons, spring, summer, fall and winter. Streets in Tokyo show many different faces according to each season. On the main campus of TMU pink cherry blossoms welcome new students in spring, fresh green trees and the sunshine cheer up students in summer. In fall red and yellow leaves and white snow in winter highlight the beauty of the campus. The beautiful campus painted with many colors and colorful personal characters of students, faculty and staff will never bore you throughout the year.

# Exchange Programs

TMU has signed student exchange agreements with overseas universities and research institutions, and hosting incoming students through the student exchange program.

The exchange program allows students to study at TMU for six months or one year, starting in either April or October. Exchange students can live together with students from different countries and Japanese student Residence Assistants in the dormitory and take courses from among many offered by TMU.

The number of exchange students is 62 as of October in 2018. We interviewed international students studying at TMU on the exchange program.



## Voices from International Students

Voice  
**1**



Name : Karolina Heidinger  
Country : Austria  
University : University of Vienna

### Q1. Why did you choose TMU to study abroad in Japan?

When looking at partner universities in Japan, I kept in mind recommendations from peers I had received for TMU. The curriculum with a large variety of Japanese language classes, the university size as well as the campus location also seemed appealing.

### Q2. How are you currently taking classes at TMU?

For the most part I am taking Japanese language classes. There is a very good variety both in skill type and level, although at times the difference between JLPT levels in the classes is somewhat muddled. Overall I find them excellent, and once I found the right ones they have helped me advance a great deal. I was also lucky to be allowed to sign up for a German-Japanese translation class from the regular curriculum, which has probably been my best class so far.

### Q3. What are your impressions on TMU?

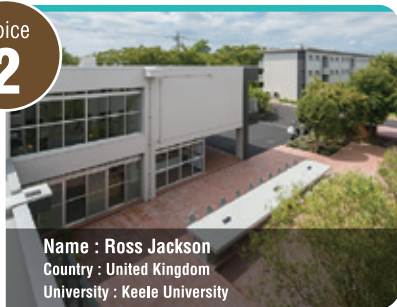
The university offers a great deal of support to its exchange students on all levels, one has the impression there is always somebody to approach whatever the issue. There

is also some flexibility with the curriculum, as mentioned above I was able to take classes from the regular Japanese curriculum, for instance. In terms of size it is large enough to offer variety in curricular and extracurricular activities, but compact enough to feel homey.

### Q4. Advice for international students who are looking to study at TMU.

Don't hesitate to try different classes at the beginning of the semester before settling for ones that suit you. The more precise your choice, the more you will be able to advance. And don't worry too much—the staff is always willing to help and there are plenty of local and exchange students to make friends with.

Voice  
**2**



Name : Ross Jackson  
Country : United Kingdom  
University : Keele University

### Q1. Why did you choose TMU to study abroad in Japan?

I chose TMU as my study abroad place as I had wanted to come to Japan to study as a life-long dream. Upon getting to my home university I found that there were multiple Japanese universities I could attend.

TMU stood out by being in Tokyo, a massively diverse city and its varied courses available to take. Its location also allows for easy travel to anywhere in Japan allowing you to experience the varied culture and places Japan has to offer.

### Q2. How are you currently taking classes at TMU?

I did several English-taught classes alongside several Japanese language classes. I found the mix of multidisciplinary subjects very interesting.

### Q3. What are your impressions on TMU?

I find TMU to be a very diverse and open university, seeing students practicing for their clubs out in the open. At TMU, the atmosphere

that the university creates allows students to feel relaxed and proud to be practicing in the public's view. The class leaders and administration staff have been wonderful and always willing to help as best they can in anyway. Making TMU feel very accessible and welcoming to any new students in my opinion.

### Q4. Advice for international students who are looking to study at TMU.

If they feel they're struggling with courses, they should not be afraid to ask for help from the lecturers. They're willing to explain things, especially as they realise that not everyone has studied the same things at their home university.

## Student dormitory

Exchange students can stay at the student dormitory easily accessible from the university during their study at TMU. The recently renovated dormitory offers not only private rooms but also spaces where exchange students do many activities together with other students. In addition, student resident assistants support exchange students in their everyday life.

You can spend a comfortable student life, and the life in the wonderful dormitory where you can make many friends will make your study abroad more fruitful and enjoyable at TMU.



# Winter Programs

## “Learning Japanese through pop culture”

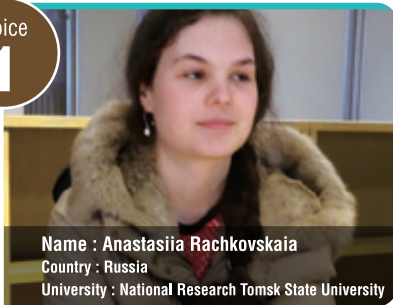
TMU offers students from overseas universities on student exchange agreements a three-four week intensive Japanese-language and culture program twice a year. The program aims at providing a comprehensive introduction to Japanese language and culture. Students can develop their language skills, experience traditional and pop culture of Japan, and increase their understanding of Japanese society. We introduce interviews conducted on 7-26 January, with students who participated in our winter program.



### Voices from International Students

Voice

1



Name : Anastasiia Rachkovskaia  
Country : Russia  
University : National Research Tomsk State University

#### Q1. Why did you apply for Japanese Winter Program of TMU?

I wanted to study at TMU one more time because of my previous experience being an exchange student here. After my graduation in Russia I chose Asian Regional Studies as Master Program. That is why this winter program is an ideal place to become more informed about Japan, Japanese culture, to

go deeper in understanding and researching this topic. Moreover, I can meet my old friends and make new ones among Japanese and international students and develop international communication skills.

#### Q2. Have you ever experienced any culture shock while in Japan?

Actually, I can't remember the exact situation of culture shock in my case because it's my third time in Japan. I think it's impressive that Japan is a very safe country. For example, when you want to go somewhere at night you don't have to be afraid that something happens.

#### Q3. What are your impressions on Japanese Winter Program of TMU?

I really like TMU. People here are kind and everything is interesting. I'm very happy to

be able to continue club activities with my Japanese friends at TMU. What is more, I like the level and quality of teaching here. So, here you have a very friendly and productive student life at the beautiful campus.

#### Q4. Advice for international students who are looking to participate in Japanese Summer/Winter Program of TMU.

I would like to suggest to international students that they should try to make friends and stay in contact with Japanese students. It will definitely broaden your horizon; help you in better understanding Japanese society and culture or learning Japanese. One more piece of advice would be to go out from your comfort zone, try to learn something new or unusual together with other people and stay positive.

Voice

2



Name : JIANG Kunjia  
Country : China  
University : South China University of Technology

#### Q1. Why did you apply for Japanese Winter Program of TMU?

I am a fan of Japanese idols from very young age. When I came to Japan for a concert, I

became interested in Japan. Then, I found that there was a short program at TMU. I wanted to have study experience in Japanese classes, and then applied for this short program.

#### Q2. What are your impressions on Japanese Winter Program of TMU?

Professors at TMU and the staff at my hotel were all kind to me. The classes were interesting, we could learn about subculture like anime, and I could get a lot of knowledge. I am really grateful to people at TMU, and I will never forget for the rest of my life that I spent good time with other students on

the same program during my stay in Japan.

#### Q3. Advice for international students who are looking to participate in Japanese Summer/Winter Program of TMU.

This program can give us a good opportunity to study happily together with wonderful professors and students at TMU. I really want other students to enjoy the classes. Food here is also good. I wish upcoming students good luck.

On the 2018 Summer Program we had 32 participants from 13 universities, and on the Winter Program, 17 students from 6 universities.

These programs give an opportunity for participants to learn Japanese as well as knowledge about pop culture, and discuss it and make a presentation on it.

We saw every single creative content they produced in a group collaboration was awesome!



TMU recently started a new program to designate overseas universities as its strategic partners in international relations choosing from among the universities on international exchange agreement with TMU, in an effort to further strengthen the international exchange network. Currently, National Research Tomsk State University in Russia and the University of Leicester in the U.K. are our strategic partners, with which we will support the program proactively to deepen the international exchange.

## Strategic Partnerships Program with National Research Tomsk State University

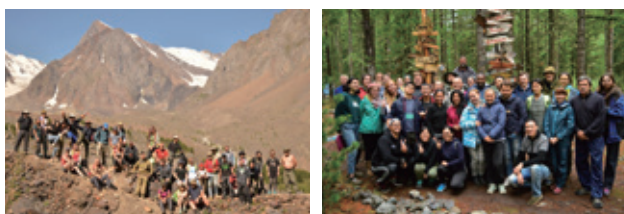
The Strategic Partnerships Agreement signing ceremony was held in September 2018.

The Agreement was signed by Professor Eduard V. Galazhinskiy, Rector of National Research Tomsk State University and Dr. Jun Ueno, President of Tokyo Metropolitan University in presence of the Governor of Tomsk State and other people concerned. At the Joint Symposium prior to the signing ceremony, presentations and discussions were made on research projects in a wide range of topics in the field of physics, chemistry, ecology, geology, humanities, and another discussion was held for future collaboration between both universities.



We promote not only exchange between academic staff of both universities, but also exchange involving students.

In July 2018, our faculty members and students participated in a summer school organized by National Research Tomsk State University, together with over 40 participants from South Africa, Singapore, Italy, the Netherlands and others. They, then, did observational research on birds in the glacial terrain, and survey on vegetation, mammals and beaver dams.



## Strategic Partnerships Program with the University of Leicester

Faculties of both universities have developed research exchange and lecture exchange where TMU's faculty gives lectures at the University of Leicester, and the University of Leicester's faculty conducts lectures at TMU. In this way, both universities have explored many collaborative activities in addition to sending and accepting students based on the student exchange agreement.



In March 2019, a joint symposium was held for further elaborating research of both universities as strategic partners, with presentations made on a wide range of topics in astrophysics, neuroscience and structural biology, mechanobiology, biosensing and anthropology, and discussions on possible future research exchanges.

In the meantime, our president, Dr. Jun Ueno and Vice President, Professor Takaya Ohashi frequently exchanged ideas with the representatives of the University of Leicester, Professor Paul Boyle, President and Vice-Chancellor and other professors regarding concrete future projects.



# News & Topics 2019

## Reporting Session on AIMS Program (TMU - University of Technology Malaysia, University Putra Malaysia)

Reporting Session on AIMS Program was held on January 29, 2019 at TMU's International House.

AIMS Program is a collaborative student exchange program with an aim of enhancing academic exchange among ASEAN countries and fostering global leaders.

TMU has been promoting student exchange with our partner universities in ASEAN through TMU's Faculty of Urban Environmental Sciences as one partner university on AIMS Program, focusing on regional development driven by tourism based on a scientific perspective.

(For detail, visit <https://www.aims.ues.tmu.ac.jp/ja/index.html> )

Our students who studied in Malaysia and Malaysian students who studied in Japan made presentations using English about their study outcomes and various experiences in their host universities. They shared their broadened study/widened exchange network as well as deepened understanding of the counterpart's culture with the audience.



## A Look at Numerical Facts (Data)

- Ranked 7th among Japanese universities (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019)
- Over 9,000 students (about 7,000 undergraduate and about 2,300 graduate)
- About 700 faculty staff and 500 administrative staff
- Over 600 international students from about 40 countries
- Over 200 Student Associations

## Academic Composition (7 faculties and 7 graduate schools)

### Faculty

- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Urban Environmental Sciences
- Faculty of Systems Design
- Faculty of Health Sciences

### Graduate School

- Graduate School of Humanities
- Graduate School of Law and Politics
- Graduate School of Management
- Graduate School of Science
- Graduate School of Urban Environmental Sciences
- Graduate School of Systems Design
- Graduate School of Human Health sciences

## International Affairs Office

Email: [kokusai-center@mj.tmu.ac.jp](mailto:kokusai-center@mj.tmu.ac.jp)

Web: <http://www.ic.tmu.ac.jp/english>

