

## Ise-Japan Study Program

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Ise and Japan Study Program is one of the best study programs I have ever attended. This program, based in Kogakkan University in Ise, is a fully-funded study program supported by Ise city. It is a well-organized program; we had lectures on different aspects of Japan, including its history, religion, language, literature, architecture, music and so forth. In three weeks' time, we had fostered a deeper understanding of Shinto religion, Ise city and the diversity of Japanese culture. Apart from those inspiring lectures, we also had field trips and experience classes. For example, we had the guided-tours to Ise Jingu, the Uji-Yamada town, futami, Ise business street, Kyoto and Nara. What is more, we also made our own fish cakes and tried on the clothes and outfits in Heian period. As for me, a DPhil student who is doing Japanese literature in the Heian period, I do appreciate this opportunity to get to know more about Japanese traditions.

According to *Nihon Shoki*, the goodness Amaterasu once said, "(Ise) is a secluded and pleasant land. In this land I wish to dwell." Therefore,

Ise is called as “the heart/soul of Japan”, mostly because of the Ise Jingu, where the goodness amaterasu was worshipped (in the Naiku). For this reason, Ise city is closely related to the Shinto religion, as the latter has penetrated into every aspect of Japanese daily life. During my stay in Ise, I was so impressed by people from the Ise, as they are dedicating themselves to protecting and popularizing Ise’s traditions.

Last but not least, the most unforgettable and precious part for me in this program is all those professors, lecturers, the staffs, volunteers and the other thirteen participants. We are such a diversity group and every one is focusing on different aspects of Japan, so we know a lot from each other. It is so hard to say goodbye after three weeks, we all wish it could be longer. I am so grateful that I get the chance to meet those scholars in Heian studies at Kogakkan university, as well as my classmates and those Japanese staffs and students’ volunteers, we have all become very good friends now.

I do hope this program will continue in the following years, it not only brings the students majoring in Japanese studies together, but also gives an insight on the development of Shinto and the role it has played in Japan, which from my perspective, is a very good viewpoint to understand Japan in a comprehensive way.

## 「伊勢」と日本スタディプログラム

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この度の「伊勢」と日本スタディプログラムに参加させていただき、本当にありがとうございました。

皇學館大学で、日本歴史、宗教、文化、社会に関する色々な授業を受けました。そして、伊勢の歴史や宗教や文化だけではなく、日本全体についての理解を深めることができました。伊勢の魅力と日本文化の多様性についても学びました。

授業だけではなく、伊勢の神宮、宇治と山田の町、河崎、二見、大湊、齋宮、京都、奈良といった数多くの場所を見学しました。豊富な内容から多くの知識を学び、毎日が充実していました。私は現在、平安時代の文学について研究しているので、平安時代に関係する齋宮歴史博物館と時雨殿が非常に印象に残っています。また、伊勢の市民たちが一体となって、伊勢と日本の伝統を継承していることに感動しました。

最後にこのプログラムに参加したことで、多くの先生と仲間たちを出会うことができ、国際交流の魅力を体感することができました。私にとり、伊勢でのすべてが大切な思い出になりました。今後も皇學館大学との研究交流を続けていきたいし、また今回のメンバーでいつか会いたいと思います。