

留学報告書

Oxford St. Antony's International Politics Summer School (7/31-8/13, 2022)

The University of Tokyo

Luana Ichinose

With the support of the Tazaki Foundation, I spent two weeks studying international politics at the Oxford St. Antony's International Politics Summer School as a part of the University of Tokyo's GEfIL Abroad Program. The program was comprised of daily seminars, lectures, and discussion groups, which holistically contributed to learning in-depth about our chosen areas (in my case, China) and attempting to find solutions to the world's most pressing problems. It was one of the most rigorous and enriching periods of my life, and I am immensely grateful to the Tazaki Foundation for sponsoring this opportunity.

The Oxford experience was different to many aspects of the UTokyo experience. It was my first time on a residential campus, and the experience of staying in communal dorms and eating almost all meals in a dining hall was unprecedented. Every moment was memorable, from the memories made through active discussion with my classmates, to writing essays in my room while the church bells rung in the distance.

One lesson that has remained with me from my Oxford experience is how important it was for me to know about my Japanese heritage and history. The students had gathered from all around the globe, and in the context of international politics, talked about their countries with confidence and pride. I was also asked on many occasions about Japan, including on topics such as Japanese constitutionalism, the aging population, and the legacies of the atomic bomb. I was pleased that many of my studies in law at the University of Tokyo had given me the grounds to give a somewhat satisfactory answer in many situations. At the same time, I recognized the need to continue learning about Japan and embrace my bicultural background. The 'Japanese perspective', if I may call it so, has many things to offer the world, both in terms of balancing out the Eurocentric perspectives which dominate the discussion of international politics and providing lessons from our unique history. In a sense, I return home with a renewed sense of purpose in having a Japanese identity and attending the university which has formed the intellectual backbone of Japanese history.

It was an English summer of unusually good weather, and I enjoyed every single moment of it. Once again, I would like to thank the Tazaki Foundation for their continued mission to support future bicultural leaders and to connect Japan and the UK.



An afternoon at Christ Church.

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