

## **Program at UQ: Bachelor of Arts**

I could still speak of the details on the day when I have just arrived at the Narita Airport. It seems like just happened yesterday. When I finally came out of the strictly checked customs I could see at once the volunteers from Waseda University were waving the sign "Waseda" to me and I felt such a warm welcoming from this outright new environment. I was soon arranged to take Airport Express to the Shinjuku station which is at the centre of Tokyo city. That is also close to my boarding school, Waseda University.

It was inauthentic even when I was settled in my dormitory. I stared into the brilliant night view from the balcony of my room. I was trying to convince myself in the chill air of early Spring by kept saying, "I'm in Japan! I'm in Japan! I'm right here in Japan!!" It was such an excitement. However, the exhilarating things promptly started from the second coming day. Waseda University is known as having most population of exchange students in Japan. Their international clubs has many kinds of activities which enable foreign students easily get involved into Japanese culture.

During the one year intensive Japanese course in Waseda I have not only improved my Japanese but also been able to see many aspects of Japanese culture which I could not experience elsewhere. The most impressive way of learning Japanese in Waseda (or Japan) is to permeate into their society through lots of media sources. News papers, TV news and even internet video news are wisely used to grasp the information of Japanese society and also international affairs. This also demonstrates how Japan is raising to prominence among other Asian countries.

Despite hard working on study I have extremely enjoyed the distinct four season scenery. Pinky Cherry blossom in early Spring; lively emerald trees in the midsummer; fiery maple leaves in Autumn, which Japanese also calls "a season of good appetite". I am experiencing the winter right now. And I also traveled around Japan Island, west from Kyoto to north, Hokkaido during two months summer holiday. There have been so many unforgettable memories here during this one short year. I cannot explain more but it is really worth saying that studying abroad is what you ought to have at least once in your life!



Enormous *Ema* (wishing plaque) in Meiji temple.



Anime "Naruto" scene at Odaiba. Left is the Waseda exchange student in UQ 2008.



Countryside experience at Nagano prefecture in summer holiday, (Huge Lotus)



Fireworks are typical icon in summer of Japan. You cannot miss out having a bottle of cold milk after the hot spring!