

MEMORIES OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

FAMILY HOMESTAY

PROGRAM 2024



Aoyama Gakuin University

**Thank you for giving us a special experience
in Australia for 3 weeks.
We spent fantastic days and came back with best
memories
with our friends, host families and QUT teachers.**



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CLASS 1



Best Experience in Australia

Gen Fukuyama

I went to Australia and did a homestay for three weeks. I studied English at Queensland university of technology and went sightseeing. I had a wonderful experience there, and I want to go to Australia again someday. My most memorable experiences were the homestay and English classes.

The first topic is English classes. I took two hours of classes at QUT on weekdays. At first, I was worried about whether I would be able to understand English in class because I was not good at English. However, the teacher was kind, and their English was easy to understand. I was also able to communicate and cooperate with my classmates during class. I realized the importance of thinking about how to express my opinions correctly. During this program, I gave two presentations: one introducing myself and another about my research. I was the first presenter in both presentations and was very nervous. It was difficult for me to explain my research in English. However, I prepared by practicing my presentation many times and having my classmates to listen to me. When I gave the presentation, I made eye contact with them and was able to explain clearly. The classes at QUT were a meaningful time for me. Through this experience, I want to improve my English skill in the future.



The second topic is the homestay. I stayed in a town about 15 minutes by bus from QUT. At first, I was nervous, but my host family welcomed me warmly, and I had a great time. When I met my host family for the first time, I found it difficult to communicate with my host family in English. I sometimes found it difficult to come up with even simple English words, and I had a lot of trouble

speaking. However, my host family kindly tried to understand me. They also provided a lot of support with housework such as meals and laundry. Dinner was especially delicious, and we had a great time talking and enjoying the meal together. They told me about places I should visit, and I was looking forward to sightseeing on the weekends. I was also looking forward to sharing my experiences with them. I enjoyed spending time playing with the children, and the three weeks went by so fast. I love Brisbane, and I will never forget this experience. I would like to continue studying English and I hope to travel to many countries someday.

Wonderful Experiences in Australia Have Changed My Attitudes

Nozomu Harato

It is definitely the best and most precious experience I've ever experienced. I stayed at an Australian house for three weeks and learned about presentation skills and Aussie cultures. I will share three things in my essay: Aussie culture and my host family.

Aussie culture is really different from Japanese one. Brisbane people say a lot of "Thank you," and talk to other people even if they don't know of them. When I was on my way home one day, many school students got on my bus. Just before I got off the bus, one of them said to me, "Have a good day." It was so surprising that I couldn't reply him, but I was greatly moved afterwards. It is wonderful that they willingly say goodbye or thank you to a stranger and I think Japanese should learn this attitude.



My host family was really friendly and shared a lot about their thoughts with me. Honestly, I didn't like them at first. They had countless numbers of rules on the bathroom, meal, time, and my room. I was really upset and didn't want to have any conversations with them. However, they later told me that they were having me as "a member," not "a guest," so it was natural they imposed some regulations one another. That made total sense to me.

Other than that, I realized they tried to teach several Aussie cultures through some of the rules. After that, I came to enjoy talking with my host family.

To sum up, I really enjoyed this three-week stay. While time flew so fast and there are some situation I didn't like, I reckon I took the most of it after all. All of my experiences in Australia definitely have grown not only my English speaking skills, but also my attitudes and personality.



My Australian Experience

Kengo Honda

Australia is a wonderful country. I spent three weeks and learned a lot of things I had not experienced yet.

In the first week, I spent a long week in Australia, nervous and unfamiliar with life in Australia.

In the second week, I got used to life in Australia. I began to speak positively with local people.

In the third week, I learned about Australian culture and was able to use a little bit of Australian English such as “See ya!” and “G’day mate”. I had three great experiences during my time in Australia.

The first is presentation class. Before, when I gave presentations in English, I had to memorize every sentence. I didn't have the confidence to speak perfectly. However, through this class, I learned that memorizing is not the best way to convey my feelings to others. I learned the importance of thinking about what you want to say and what you want to convey, and making notes.



The second is the homestay experience. There were some differences from life in Japan. Shower time and washing frequency were limited. I learned the importance of water in Australia and felt that the Japanese environment is a blessed.

The third was whale watching. I felt the grandeur of Australian nature. Not only were the whales amazingly powerful, but I was also shocked by the size and power of the creatures I saw in the process of going whale watching.

These three weeks gave me a wonderful experience that changed my values. I want to thank my family for sending me on this experience.



The Adventure

Teppei Horiike

I had never studied abroad before, so this Australia Homestay Program was my first time. I'm not good at English, so I was very nervous every day for the first few days after arriving in Australia. However, as I talked with my homestay family, teachers, and other students participating in the same program, my nervousness gradually eased and my resistance to English began to decrease. I will introduce my memories of Australia, where I had such valuable experiences, in three essays. The first one is about food, the second one is about weekends, and the third one is about photos.

Firstly, I heard that unlike Japan, Australia has a culture of eating animal meat such as kangaroos, emus, and crocodiles. I wanted to eat kangaroo or crocodile meat, so I went into various stores and asked, "Do you have kangaroo or crocodile meat?" but most stores didn't sell it. However, when I looked for it in a supermarket, I found it secretly placed at the edge of the meat section. I learned that even though there is a culture of eating kangaroo or crocodile meat, not many people eat it in general. That's because when I actually bought the meat and tried it, I couldn't say it was delicious. However, I think eating things you've never tried before is one of the best parts of traveling abroad, so I consider it a good experience. Naturally, Australian beef was very delicious, and I looked forward to every meal every day. (But sushi is best in Japan.)



Secondly, I went to many places with friends on the weekend. The one that left the biggest impression on me was the Sunshine Coast. Some people may wonder, "What about the Gold Coast?" but I've been to both and I definitely recommend the Sunshine Coast. Both have beautiful ocean views, but there are fewer tourists than in the Gold Coast, so you can relax. Also, the starry sky you can see from the beach at night is spectacular. It's about two hours from Brisbane, so if you're interested, be sure to check it out. By the way, if you go to the Gold Coast, you can experience reverse bungee and one of the largest roller coasters in the Southern Hemisphere, so it is recommended for those who like thrilling rides. I actually wanted to try skydiving. . .



Finally, This photo was taken at dinner during my homestay. The handsome boy on the far left is me. The muscle boy on the far right is Mickey, who stayed with us for three weeks. He speaks fluent English and helped us many times. If it weren't for him, I would have returned home after three days. In the future, I plan to give him high-quality protein powder. 「Muscles solve everything」. Finally, the kind-

looking madam in the middle is Rhonda, who welcomed us this time. Her cooking was delicious and I looked forward to every meal. She made not only lunch and dinner, but also chocolate slices and muffins, which was like heaven for me, who likes sweet things. Also, even though I am not good at English, she spoke slowly and was considerate in many ways, so I was able to spend a comfortable time, and it was an opportunity for me to seriously think about becoming able to speak English. Thanks to these two people, I was able to spend three weeks in Australia. Thank you very much.

In conclusion, I believe that the three weeks I spent in Australia will be a great asset in my life. To make this study abroad experience even more meaningful, I will study English hard and hope to be able to speak it fluently someday. I would like to thank the teachers who planned this program, my homestay family, and my family who allowed me to participate. Thank you so much.



The First Long Trip

Kai Ito

I studied abroad first time in my life. We went to Brisben in Australia for 3 weeks. It was very short span but I got a large amount of experience through this program. I'll write down 3 of what I gain from it.

Firstly, I got confidence of using English. Before going to Australia, I was worry about speaking English because my pronounce was not good even if I had gone to chat room some times. But my nervous was gone first day. When I communicated with Australian teacher and my host family members, everyone could understand what I wanted to say even if my sentence was messed and my pronounce sounded like Japanese English. Through 3 weeks, I didn't use difficult words most of daily times but it was difficult to express my opinion fluently. It was unexpectedly than I thought. I need more time to practice. And then, I could remember how to respond shortly. For example, "I agree", "That's fine", "Sorry?" and so on. I understood that I used them much times and I need to remember more if I go to foreign countries.

Then, I'll talk about the exciting lesson in QUT. The content was how to presentation in English. We learned how to constitute and how to move on to next section in our presentation. It was difficult for me to think how not to make audience be bored. Why did I enjoy this lesson? There are 2 reasons. Firstly, my teacher was so funny like a comedian. He said much of easy jokes and made everyone smile. Secondly, my classmate became friendly day by day. Everyone hung out after school and free day so we could be close gradually. We went to somewhere every day such as morning or night market, rugby game, and South Bank. We were not shy in the group discussion and presentation in the lesson.



Finally, I learned how to live as a foreign people. I sometimes received and saw discriminations as a foreign people from local people while only 3 weeks. I was shocked so much. I hope to disappear this problem but I think that it is difficult because some people are afraid of foreign people around the world including Japan also. In my opinion, I will need to be prepared and not to be care about it if I go to foreign country and be discriminated in the future. It was so bad experience but I think that it was a big experience.

To sum up, I had good and bad experiences for 3 weeks and it was one of the biggest memories in my university and graduation school life. I understood what is not enough in my English skills. I want to learn more and more after this program. I appreciate to my parents, my teachers, classmates, and my host family for letting me join this program and supporting my deaf.



My experience of Australia

Yuan Jin

I recently finished a three-week exchange trip to Australia, where I had the opportunity to immerse myself in a new culture and environment. During my time there, I stayed with a local host family who introduced me to the Australian way of life. One of the highlights was visiting the zoo, where I saw iconic Australian animals such as koalas and kangaroos. These close encounters with wildlife were unforgettable, allowing me to experience a unique part of Australia's natural heritage.



In addition to the outdoor activities, my classes also provided valuable insights into Brisbane's local customs and way of life. My teachers introduced us to various aspects of the city's history, culture, and traditions, which deepened my understanding of this beautiful place. After class, I often had the chance to explore Brisbane's vibrant food scene and breathtaking landscapes. The city's combination of

delicious local cuisine and stunning views made every day an adventure.

My host family played a significant role in enriching my experience. Every day, they prepared meals from around the world, allowing me to taste a variety of international dishes. They also taught me a great deal about Australian customs and culture, offering firsthand knowledge that I could never have learned from a book. Their warmth and generosity made me feel at home, even while I was so far away.

Now that I've returned to Japan, I realize how much this trip has impacted my personal growth. It not only broadened my horizons but also helped me become more adaptable and open-minded. I am excited to apply the lessons I learned abroad to my future endeavors.



My Australian Memories

Seiichiro Kugai

My three weeks at Queensland University of Technology were an unforgettable experience. I had a sense of inferiority about English, especially in speaking. However, in order to overcome my weakness in English, I decided to participate in this study abroad program. While at the university, we had to speak English all the time. In the classes, we had presentations, discussions, and exchanges with international students from other countries, and gradually I became able to speak English, and my dislike of English eased.



My host families were very kind and actively spoke to me even though I could not speak much English. I especially remember that they took me to their favorite place, Thorncliffe Pier, to watch the sunset. It was the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen. Also, my host family was from India and the Indian food they served every day was delicious. I will never forget the taste.

On holidays, I went to the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast by bus or train and enjoyed the beautiful Australian seas. Although it was winter, the temperature was almost 30 degrees Celsius, which was perfect for swimming in the sea. On the Sunshine Coast, I experienced snorkeling for the first time in my life and had a fantastic time swimming with turtles.

Furthermore, the Brisbane Festival was held during our staying and we were lucky enough to see the fireworks. Unlike Japanese fireworks, they were rhythmic and fresh, and we had a great time.

Finally, this 3-week study abroad program was an invaluable experience for me. I am truly glad that I participated in this program.



I would like to thank all the teachers, friends, and host families who were involved in this study abroad program.

Fantastic Days

Jun Nakaema

These three weeks in Australia is one of my best experiences in my life. I experienced many things. I want to share some parts of that. First, I am going to talk about the climate and nature. In August, Australia is in winter. Despite Australia was hot winter this year, Australia was dry so I feel much cooler than Japan. Australia is sunny every day. It is good for hanging out. There were many greens and various animals in Australia. All things are new for me.

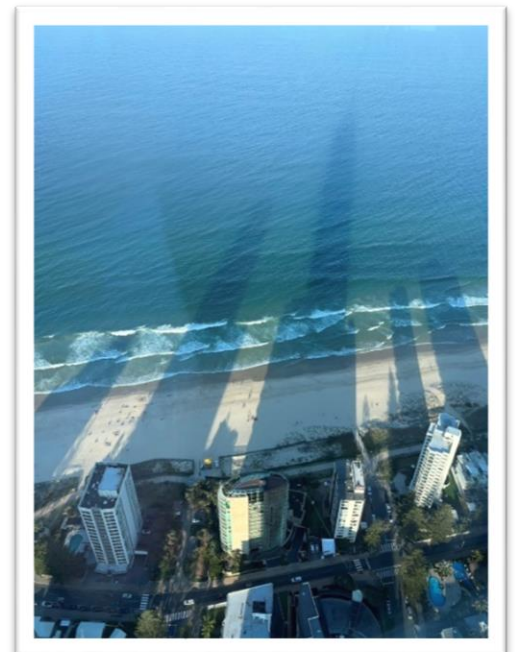


Next, Host family was very kind to me. They are always with smile. I cannot speak English well. Sometime communication was difficult. But they managed to figure it out. At first, I was too nervous to speak, but eventually I got used to it enough to talk about the day's events. I played table tennis with my them twice. Double match was exciting. They were strong. One day I cooked okonomiyaki for host family. It was a little salty for them but they said delicious to me. I want to say thanks to them.

In QUT class, our teacher Zainal told us many about Australia. For example, Australian news, the history, climate, and so on. These knowledges were very interesting and I could notice the difference between Japan and Australia. The library was very great. We can talk in the library, but not so noisy. I wished I could use in Japan. I had a time to talk with other class mate. It is very fun to exchange the own experience in English.

In weekend, I went Gold Coast for one day trip. Gold Coast is so nice site seeing. Long beautiful beach, and blue ocean welcome me. The waves were not so big and dangerous, but they were good for playing and very fun. After I swam in the beach, I enjoyed the view from sky point. If I can, I would like to live in Gold Coast in the future.

I am so happy to have join this program. I could spend wonderful days. This experience is my treasure.



Valuable Experiences in Australia

Genshin Okuni

I had a lot of good experiences in Australia. Here, I will write about sightseeing, what happened at QUT, and what I am glad I did.



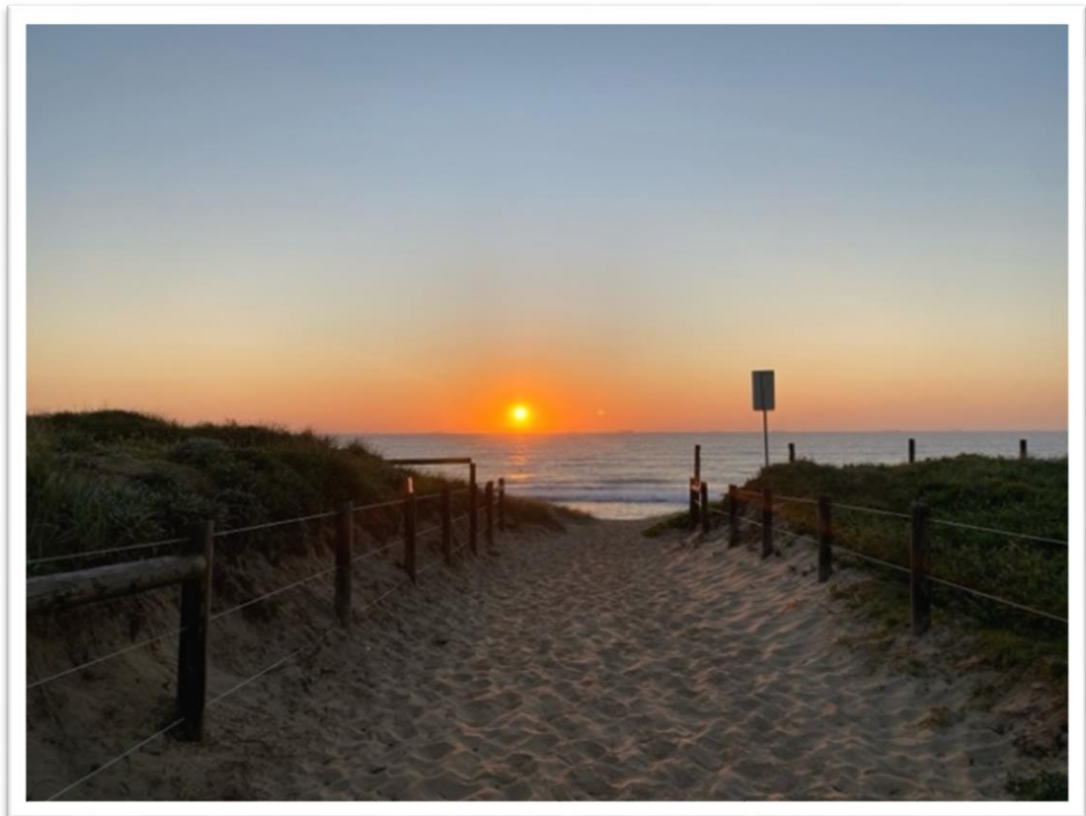
First, I would like to talk about what impressed me in sightseeing. I went to the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Both beaches were vast and so long that you could not see the edge of the beach. The big and beautiful ocean, which we cannot experience in Japan, was breathtaking. On the Sunshine Coast, I went snorkeling with my friends. We could see small octopuses and small fish in the beautiful ocean. We also saw some turtles. The snorkeling was more tiring than I expected but more fun than expected.

Next, I would like to talk about what happened at QUT. At QUT, I took English classes for three weeks. In the class, I had a lot of discussions with my friends in English, and sometimes it was difficult to express what I wanted to say in English. However, the teachers were funny and crazy, so I was able to get through the class and have fun. My friends and I played ping-pong several times at the QUT ping-pong space. It was a great experience to communicate with QUT students who came to play table tennis.

Lastly, I would like to talk about what I enjoyed doing. I went to the Conversation Room in the library in Brisbane three times. There, people who want to improve their English can get together in groups of 5-6 people and talk in English for about an hour. Many of them were from

Asian countries, so I talked with Taiwanese, Koreans, and Japanese, and I also had a good conversation with Peruvians and Brazilians. Although English is not everyone's first language, I realized the importance and usefulness of English while communicating in English. I have been avoiding learning English, but I want to be able to speak it better! I have been avoiding learning English, but now I want to learn to speak it better!

I was able to experience many things during this training program. Everything I experienced became an important part of my life. My host family took my poor English seriously and always supported me. My English teacher was very unique and communicative. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this program.



My Memories in Australia

Kazuki Ozasa

I did a homestay in Australia for three weeks. This was my first time to go abroad. I was nervous and worried about living in a foreign country, but thanks to many friends and my kind host family, I was able to successfully complete the enjoyable overseas training program.

At QUT, through presentations and group discussions, I was able to learn the importance of body language and eye contact and how to make a good impression. Also, I was also to speak only in English when talking with my friends in school, which helped me to become familiar with English.

My host family was very kind and I had a fulfilling homestay experience. They cooked delicious dinners for us every night and we talked a lot about what happened that day, about me, and about my studies at the university. I was very happy to be able to communicate with them through the common language of English, and I felt very glad that I had studied English.

There were two main things that impressed me during my three weeks in Australia: First, my host family introduced me to North Stradbroke Island. The view from the island was the most beautiful I have seen in Australia. I also saw kangaroos in the wild. The other was a zoo called the Koala Sanctuary. There were koalas, kangaroos, and many other animals. I was able to take pictures with the kangaroos up close.

Participating in the QUT program has made me realize that I can connect with many different people by speaking English. I will never forget this experience and I would like to thank the QUT teachers, host families, university staff, and my parents for allowing me to participate. And I hope to meet my host family again someday.



Irreplaceable Experience in Brisbane

Ayano Seki

I enjoyed every day during three weeks in Australia. I especially remember three memories. My host family. I think I was blessed with host family. Trip to Sunshine Coast. I went there on second weekend with my classmates, and it was fun.



My host family were very kind for me and taught me manner and culture about Australia and Filipin. They often cook Filipino food, and it tasted good. I miss their food. They took me Brisbane fire festival and we watched fireworks at good place in South Bank. On Father's Day, we went to host father's family house and joined the party. I inspired from these experiences. For Tita, thank you for making coffee every morning. For Tito, thank you for giving me a ride to the bus station every morning. For my roommates, I appreciate to be friendly for me. I want to meet you in Japan and in Korea.

Regarding as trip to Sunshine Coast, I enjoyed a lot of things. I went to aquarium "SEA LIFE" and stayed at house. We bought food at supermarket near the house and cook ourselves. It was fun and the tastes was good. Especially for kangaroo meat, it was like a beef. At night, we went to the seaside and watched the stars. There were beautiful stars which can be seen only in Southern Hemisphere. Next day, we went to Mooloolaba. I heard Mooloolaba was good place from my host father. The surf was up that day, but I enjoyed there.



I spent best three weeks in Brisbane, and I want to go abroad with the same member.



My Unforgettable Australian Homestay

Kai Tanoi

My time in Australia was a life-changing experience. Over three weeks, I bonded with my host family, improved my English, and immersed myself in a new culture. One of the most memorable parts of my stay was learning to play cricket with my host family, a popular sport in Australia. Though it was challenging, they patiently taught me, and we grew closer through shared meals and activities.

One of the most remarkable aspects was attending school in Australia. I noticed how close the teachers were to their students, often encouraging us with positive feedback that helped build my confidence in using English. The learning environment was relaxed, and I participated in fun activities like cooking classes and origami lessons. The school outings were also a highlight, where I got to explore nature, visit zoos, and even try surfing for the first time! It was exhilarating, and the friendly atmosphere made every new experience enjoyable.

This exchange program was life-changing, motivating me to continue improving my English and exploring different parts of the world. I am deeply grateful to everyone who made this journey unforgettable.



The Best Three Weeks in Australia

Mayano Yamanouchi

It was my first experience to live abroad for more than a week, so I was very anxious. However, I felt safe in the knowledge that the program was offered by my school, so I decided to take on the challenge of studying abroad with the desire to grow and develop myself as much as possible. I had been to Australia several times, but this was my first time living in Brisbane, and there was a lot I did not understand. My homestay family welcomed me, but it was very hard for me because I was worried about not being able to communicate well in English, living in a house where many languages were spoken, and going home to a different house from everyone else at school. But thanks to the support of everyone at the school, I was able to enjoy my three weeks there, and I am very grateful to them.



My pride and joy in my homestay was that my host mother was a chef, and the food was delicious every day. In this host family, there were a host mother, a father, my host mother's sister, an exchange student from Colombia, and a Japanese person I met there. There were only a few days when we were able to have meals together, but I really enjoyed talking with them. I was also impressed by the Australian sport of Lawn Bowls, which we all played together. It took me about an hour to get to QUT by bus, which made it difficult to commute to school, but I was able to visit many places and enjoy Brisbane. The lessons on weekdays were very enjoyable, the teachers were very good at pronunciation and the

content of the lessons was easy to understand. The schedule was very hard and I didn't have much time to prepare for my presentation, but it was a good experience.

On weekends, I went to various places. I have loved watching rugby since I was in Japan, so I was very happy to be able to go to see a real rugby league game. We also took the train and bus together to Movie World and the Gold Coast. I love Warner Bros. movies, so I was very excited all day long. I will never forget the beautiful ocean of the Gold Coast and the sandy beaches that I have never felt before. When I held a koala in my arms, I really felt that I had come to Australia. The bullet trip to Sydney was also one of my most memorable experiences.

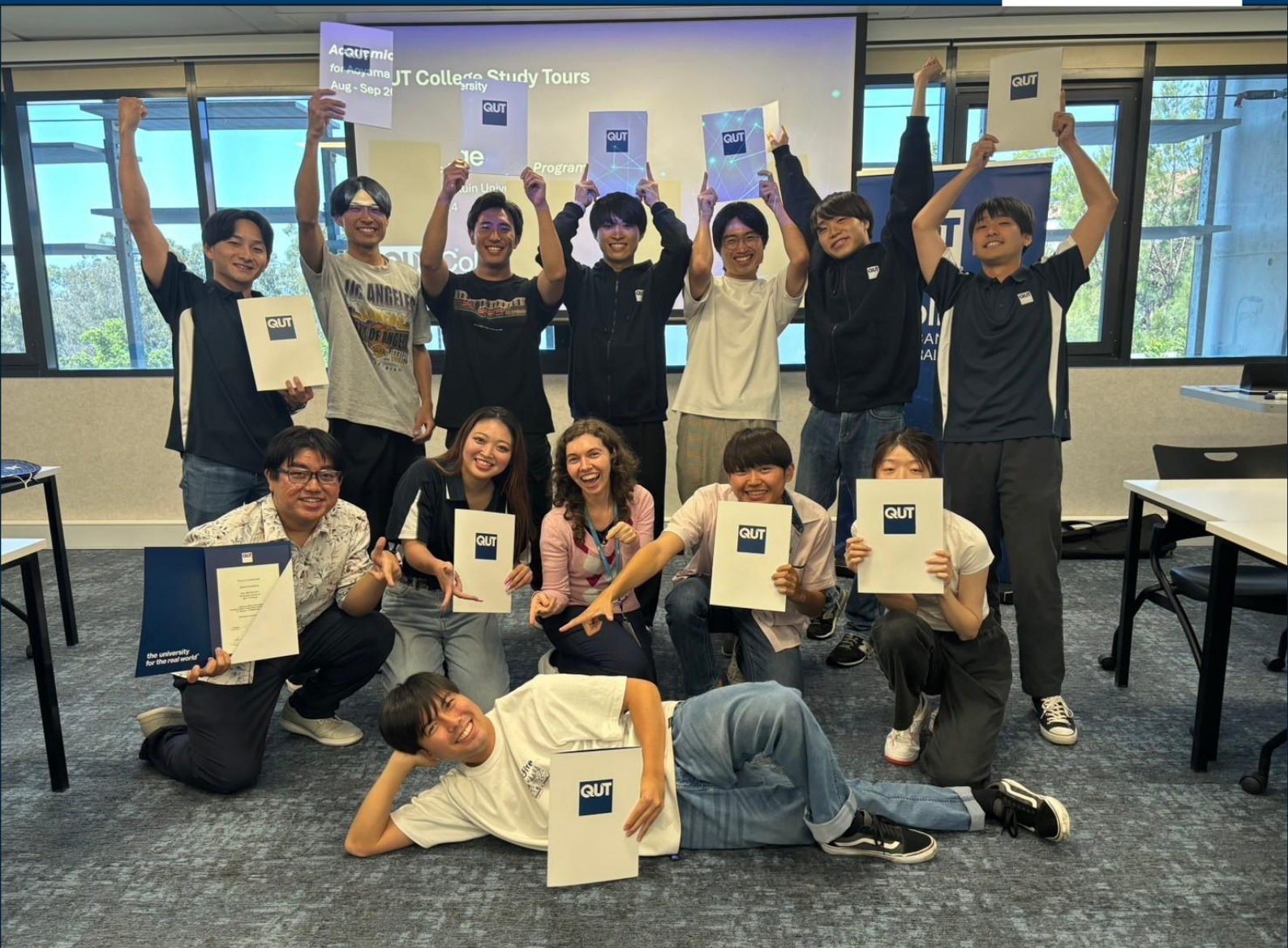
The excitement of seeing the Opera House and the different cityscape of Sydney from that of Brisbane were completely different experiences even within the same country.

As for my growth through my study abroad experience, I felt that my ability to listen to English has improved, but what I felt changed the most was that the hurdle to speaking English has been lowered. I used to have some resistance and anxiety about speaking English, but by placing myself in a foreign environment, I felt I was able to use English as a tool for communication.

I felt that the people at the school were a big part of the reason I was able to stay in Australia for so long. This program is not only a homestay program, but also a university study program and a sightseeing program in Australia, so I would highly recommend this program to anyone who has any doubts about it.



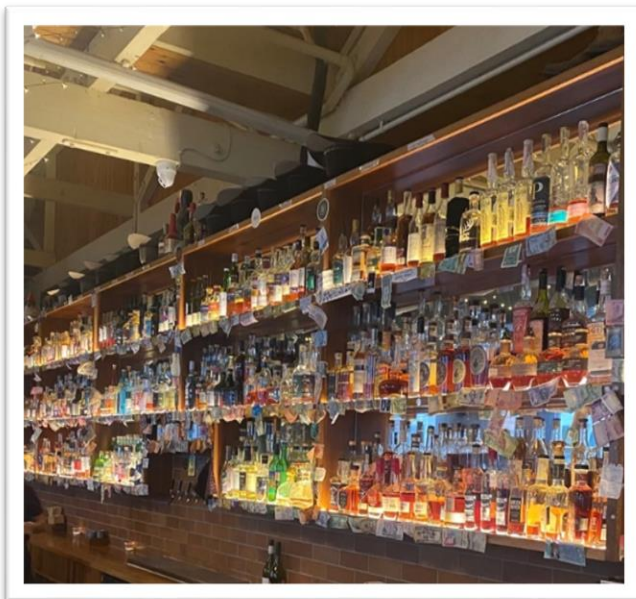
CLASS 2



A Journey Beyond the Familiar

Kento Fujishima

My time in Australia was nothing short of transformative. I spent several unforgettable weeks in Brisbane, a city that quickly became my second home. From the moment I arrived, I was captivated by the mix of vibrant city life and the natural beauty that surrounded it. Each day brought new adventures, and I found myself embracing experiences that were both thrilling and meaningful. One of the highlights of my stay was attending a live rugby match. The energy in the stadium was electric, as the crowd cheered on their teams with a passion I had never seen before. Rugby, which is deeply ingrained in Australian culture, became a symbol of the country's fierce spirit and sense of community. I found myself swept up in the excitement, even though I was new to the rugby. In contrast to the intensity of rugby, I also spent days relaxing at the famous Gold Coast, with its endless stretches of sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters. Visiting a theme park, climbing mountains, and enjoying a barbecue with friends were some of the many activities that allowed me to appreciate both the laid-back lifestyle and the adventurous spirit of Australia. One evening, I witnessed a stunning fireworks display, lighting up the sky in a burst of colors that mirrored the vibrant culture of the country. During my stay, I also ventured to local attractions, such as the zoo, where I had the chance to see iconic Australian wildlife like kangaroos and koalas up close. I even tried my luck at a casino and experienced the lively nightlife of Brisbane by visiting bars with friends. These experiences painted a picture of a country that knows how to enjoy life to the fullest. My travels took me beyond Brisbane as well. A trip to Sydney allowed me to explore one of the world's most famous cities. The Sydney Opera House and the Harbor Bridge were as breathtaking as I had imagined,



and the city's cosmopolitan energy was invigorating. Whether exploring Brisbane's local charms or experiencing Sydney's global allure, I felt a deep sense of connection to the country. Amidst all the adventure, I also focused on my studies. One of the most valuable parts of my academic experience was practicing presentations. The emphasis on communication skills helped me gain confidence in speaking and presenting my ideas clearly, skills that I know will serve me well in the future.

Looking back, it's hard to pick a favorite moment from my time in Australia. Whether I was hiking up a mountain, enjoying a beachside barbecue, or practicing presentations in class, every experience contributed to a deeper understanding of the world around me and my place in it. The people I met, the places I visited, and the lessons I learned have left a lasting impact on me. As I return home, I carry with me the memories of the bustling cities, the excitement of new discoveries, and the warmth of Australian hospitality. Australia has shown me that the world is full of opportunities for growth, adventure, and connection. It has inspired me to continue exploring, to push my boundaries, and to always stay open to new experiences.



Australian Experiences

Sohta Furushima

As I stepped off the plane in Australia, I felt very nervous because I worried that I wouldn't be able to communicate with others. However, I knew I was about to embark on a journey filled with new challenges and opportunities. My experience was shaped by three key elements: bonding with my host family, learning in a unique school environment, and forming relationships with friends from different courses. These experiences not only improved my English skills but also broadened my cultural perspective.



Firstly, living with my host family allowed me to experience Australian life and provided an opportunity to enhance my English skills. On the first day, I was hesitant to speak to them because I was shy and lacked confidence in my English. However, when I expressed my concerns, my host family reassured me that they could understand what I wanted to say and that my English was good. Encouraged by their words, I

began to enjoy communicating with them and their friends. I realized that if I didn't speak up, nobody would know what I was thinking.

Secondly, the English classes at school were a refreshing experience. Unlike the classes I was used to, we engaged in talking activities that significantly improved my English skills and helped me forge close friendships. I learned not only presentation skills but also the importance of asking questions. Before studying in Australia, I often struggled to ask for clarification, which sometimes left me confused. However, I discovered that asking questions is not shameful; it fosters a better relationship between the teacher and me.

Finally, I formed friendships through this program. I connected not only with locals but also with fellow participants from different majors. Before this experience, I had never engaged with people from diverse academic backgrounds, but I found it rewarding to share ideas and perspectives with them. They have become indispensable friends.

In conclusion, my time in Australia was transformative, marked by invaluable experiences that fostered personal growth. The support of my host family, the engaging school environment, and the friendships I formed all contributed to my improved English skills and a

deeper cultural understanding. This journey taught me the importance of communication and the value of stepping outside my comfort zone. As I reflect on my experiences, I am grateful for the challenges I faced, as they ultimately shaped me into a more confident and open-minded individual. This journey was not just about learning a language; it was about embracing new experiences and building connections that will last a lifetime.

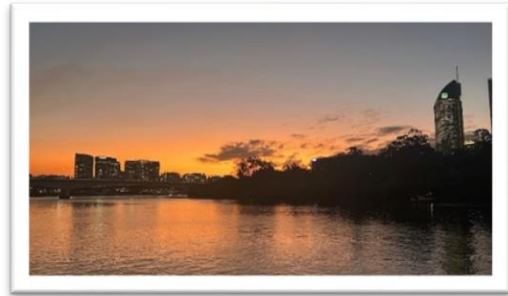


Connection

Ayaka Hoshi

This was my first homestay in my life. I am lonely and I love my family, so I was worried about living away from home. The day before I left Japan, I really regretted going to Australia. However, the three weeks I spent in Australia went by in a flash and I had so much fun that I forgot about my regrets. I even thought I wanted to stay in Australia longer. This is thanks to my host family, the teachers at QUT, and the friends I made through this program.

My host family spoke slowly and with simple words to help me communicate with them, even though I couldn't speak English at all. They praised me every time I started to speak little by little, so I felt like I should try my best to communicate.



All the teachers at QUT were warm, kind, communicated a lot, and were friendly. Niamh and Jason, who were in charge of class 2, where I was in, would talk to me in simple English when I was having trouble during class because I'm not good at English. When I went to Niamh to ask her questions after class, she would explain until I understood. I was also happy to be able to talk a lot during the classes outside the classroom. Zainal, who teaches class 1, remembered me and talked to me when we met, which made me happy. I got lost on campus once, but the teacher who showed me the way was very kind. He gave me detailed directions to my destination, and thanks to him, I was able to reach the classroom safely.

Before I joined this program, I only knew three people among the participants. I'm shy, so I was worried about whether I would be able to get along with everyone. But that worry was fleeting, and I quickly became friends with them. I especially had a lot of time to talk with the people in class 2, because we took classes together, so we became closer.

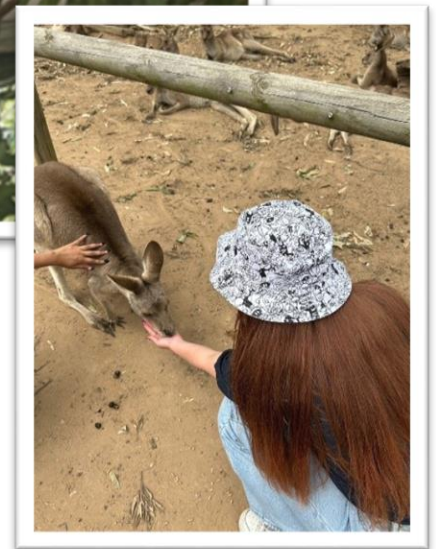
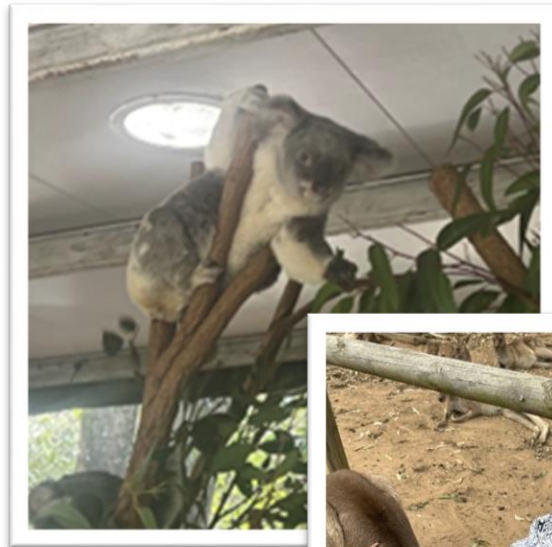




I played with my friends almost every day after school and on weekends. After class, we would ask each other, "Where are we going today?", and we had conversations that reminded me of elementary school. It was nostalgic. Every day was fulfilling: I went to the zoo to hold a koala, swam in the ocean, watched the sunset, watched rugby, toured a brewery, went to bars, the night market, and MOVIE WORLD, went shopping at Queen Street Mall and DFO, and bought and ate the world's best croissant (LUNE) in the morning.

I was helped by "people" during these three weeks. I am grateful for the "connections" I made with people.

I want to cherish these connections even more, so I once again realized that I want to be able to speak English so I can communicate more.



English is Communication Tool !

Ryuya Kaji

When I heard about this program for the first time, I did not have any intention of coming here. Because I was not good at English. Was? I am still not very good at English. Now I think that not to go study abroad because I'm not good at English was a very bad idea. One day, a friend invited me to go to Australia with him. I had been torn for a long time, and decided to go to Brisbane to improve my English skills. I think this choice is the best one in my life.

Before I went to study abroad, I had been thinking that English was studying for exams. However, After I experienced abroad life, I realized that English is a communication tool. People are speaking English to tell others their mind and their opinion. I spoke English a lot too. At cafes, school and my house. If I did not speak English, I could not tell my mind to other people. I had never been overseas, so speaking English every time was a fresh experience for me.

The best memory in these 3 weeks is the daily life with host family and roommates. After dinner, we always talked about ourselves, the day's events and our questions. They spoke slowly for me and I enjoyed speaking English. Roommates have been staying in Brisbane for 2 months and they have 6 more months. They are younger than me, but they are teachers for me. They taught me how I should learn English. On the weekends, we went to see river works and visited to the river. My host father made memories for me so that I will not forget our Australian life. It was a short time, but we were exactly like family. Building deep connections through English was a really valuable experience.

I thought 3 weeks was a long time before I came here, but it was actually very short for learning English. But I got many experiences here. I will never forget these 3 weeks. If possible, I would like to go to study abroad again. Next time, maybe for about 6 months.(lol) I want to say thank you to the people who made these 3 weeks. QUT teachers Niamh, Jason, Finally, my host families and roommates. I'm happy to go to Australia.



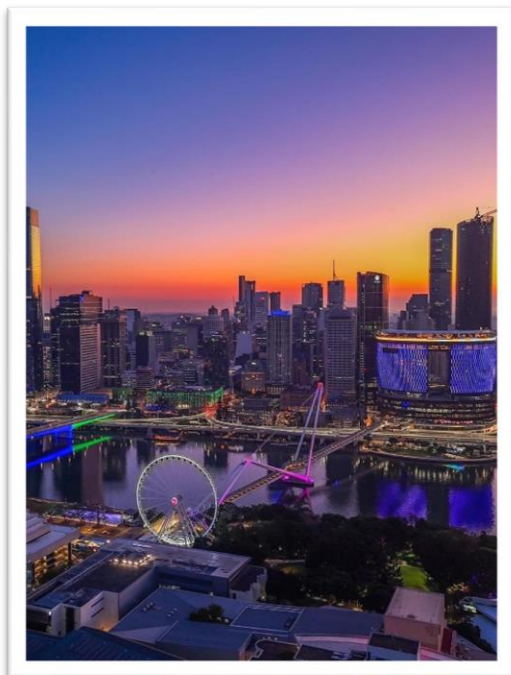
Experience in Australia

Ryohei Miki

I have learned a lot during these three weeks. I have always lived abroad and thought I was familiar with and understood non-Japanese cultures. However, after doing a homestay for the first time in my life, I feel that I have truly come to understand other cultures.

Before going to Australia, I thought I would just need three weeks to get away from the Tokyo summer and relax, but life in Australia was more comfortable than I had expected, and I ended up being busy with something planned almost every day.

The classes at the school were not boring at all, and there were interesting activities every day, plus events twice a week, so I was able to enjoy stimulating days. I was accustomed to teaching and speaking in English, but since there was a rule that I could not speak Japanese, I was able to learn while thinking about how to effectively communicate in easy-to-understand English to my friends, so even returnees may be able to further improve their English skills.



I had no friends at all, but I was able to enjoy the three weeks because everyone was quite friendly, and I had already made friends at Narita.

My Memories in Australia

Shunsuke Miyazawa

I stayed in Australia for 3 weeks and had a lot of unforgettable and invaluable experiences.

It was my first time to study abroad and do a homestay, so I was very anxious. However, when I met my host family, all my fears disappeared. They listened intently to my poor English and put me first.

My host family was very kind, and the Australians in the city were very friendly and helpful, making me feel comfortable and at home.

On the second day in Brisbane, when I was looking around for a bus stop to take me home, my host family called me and eventually gave me directions all the way home. Even after I left, they gave me detailed instructions on how to get home and I was relieved.

I had a meaningful time in the classes at QUT and all the excursions. In class, we learned about discussion and developed our skills. During the excursion, we visited university laboratories and went to the zoo, where we learned about technology that we would not normally be exposed to, and we were also able to experience Australian culture. Especially at the zoo, I had a great experience of talking with the teachers in English and interacting with animals that are unique to Australia.

I would like to express my gratitude to my parents for giving me the chance to study abroad, to the teachers and friends I met during my stay, and to all the people who helped me.



My best memories in Australia

Kensuke Sasahara

I had been very nervous until I met my host family. That is because living in foreign country, home stay for three weeks, and different culture and language were for the first time for me. But My host family welcomed me kindly. Since the moment, my enjoyable daily life in Australia started.

I'll talk about two topics. First topic is connection to people. The other one is life in Brisbane.



Firstly, I'll talk about connection to people. In this program, meeting to host family is fresh experience for me. It is very important that memories with my host family. In the first week, I shared anything that does not require language such as my favorite song, recommended locations in Japan and so on. Because I was not good at English, I wanted to get on well with them without English. And I learned that it is important

to open my heart once again. If I had not opened my heart at that time, I could not connect to them so far. Through three weeks with them, I could not only learn English and culture of Australia, but also how to interact with foreigner without language.

Secondly, I'll talk about life in Brisbane. Life in foreign country is so different from Japan that it is good stimulus for me. For example, whether is very comfortable because of low humidity and proper temperature but price of Australia is shocking for me because it is as about three times as Japan. Through this kind of experience, I expanded my values and perspectives. And my feeling toward going to foreign country came to be positive by having seen many things in Australia and been shocked so much.



In summary, through this program, I could understand that it is very important to connect to people and experience various things. Lastly, I will never forget life and people in Brisbane.

Australia is My Another Home

Shinnosuke Shimodaira

First of all, I really appreciate David Reedy and QUT staff members holding this fruitful opportunity. And Mav, Roger and Edward Green taking me in their home as family. Three weeks are too short for me to improve my English and get used to live in Australia, but I really enjoyed my stay and that was definitely my turning point of my life. I will introduce some of my enjoyable experiences of my stay with my host family and my classmates.

I spent a lot of time with my host family and they took me various place. I saw the first communion in a church, school music concert, football game of which a club my host brother belongs and school festival. It was my first time to experience that is like a neighbor's community. Everyone knew and greeted each other friendly. I was so impressed that community and felt like I'd like to have that community. The most enjoyable memory is seeing football game.



My host brother belongs to a strong football club and he invited me to a game, because he had a ticket. All spectators were cheering and shouting, it made me excited. First, they were scored 2 goals, but they scored 3 goals after that, it means they won the game finally! That was so exciting experience for me. The sport community was also good, so I will start new sport in Japan.



In enjoyed a trip to Gold Coast around Surfers Paradise with my classmates from 30th Aug to 1st Sep; 2 night and 3 days. We tried surfing at first time. Though it was pretty difficult to stand up on the board, I could finally stand up. The photo I attached below is my favorite one before trying surfing. That was so fantastic moment of my life. We also walked around there and saw sunrise in early morning. That was one of the most beautiful sunrises ever.

There're a lot of memory I'd like to talk, actually. That means I enjoyed all the moment in Australia! I love the life in Australia, that made me want to stay in there. And I'm sure that I overcame my fear to try something unfamiliar. I'm glad I made a decision to join this program. I will be back MY ANOTHER HOME definitely!

An amazing Experience in My Life

Yuto Suzuki

It has been a few days since I returned to Japan, but I cannot forget my time in Australia. I will never forget my time in Australia because it was an amazing experience that had a significant impact on my life, including the homestay, classes, and communicating with local people. Through these experiences, I learned not only English but also the importance of communication and Australian culture.



First of all, I spent a lot of time with my host family. They kindly accepted me as a first-time homestay student, and I am very grateful to them. They cooked for me every day and would ask me, “How are you?” in the morning, and when I came home, they would ask me “How was your day?” They created an environment where I could relax. They also gave me many opportunities to improve my English skills, talking to me and

giving me English tests. At first, I was nervous about speaking English, but as I casually talked with my host family, I became less nervous and more eager to express my thoughts. Although it was only for a short time, my resistance to speaking in English noticeably decreased. Furthermore, I was very happy when my host family told me that my English had improved since I first arrived. I was also deeply touched when they said, “You are part of our family” and “Please come back and stay with us again”. I will never forget the wonderful days I spent with my host family. Thank you very much for supporting me for three weeks.



Secondly, I would like to thank the teachers who taught me at QUT. The teachers were always kind and explained things in a way that was easy to understand. At first, I was anxious about the English-only classes, but my anxiety soon turned to enjoyment. They actively talked to me and listened to me, so I gained confidence in communicating in English. I really enjoyed the daily classes. Thank you very much, teachers.



Thirdly, I would like to thank my friends with whom I shared a friendly competition every day for three weeks. We enjoyed classes and holiday activities together while challenging ourselves to speak English every day. I will never forget the friends I made during these three weeks and the valuable experiences we had together. Every weekend, we visited different places and enjoyed the beautiful scenery, like the city of Brisbane and the Gold

Coast and Sunshine Coast beaches. These trips allowed us to create unforgettable memories.

Fourth, I would like to thank Australia. The people in Australia are all very kind, and the climate is very comfortable. Public transportation was cheap and easy to get around. It was a wonderful country that made me want to live there. I definitely want to go back, and I'm looking forward to visiting again.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents for allowing me to participate in this program, the teachers at Aoyama Gakuin University and QUT for making me feel safe and comfortable in my studies, my host family, and my friends. I will continue to study English.



A Short Memory of Australia

Kaiya Tsujikawa

To be honest, I had mixed feelings about participating in the program. Originally, I had a strong desire to study abroad because I love traveling abroad, and since I had never had a homestay experience, I was looking forward to studying abroad in a homestay. However, due to personal circumstances I was forced to join 10 days late, so I was worried about whether I would be able to get along with the other friends. In fact, I was immediately welcomed warmly and have only great memories of the 10 days since my arrival.



I will tell you one of the most interesting memories in Australia. It is a "e-sports class". When I heard about this class, I assumed it would take place in a facility such as an arcade. However, it took place in a campus! I was so surprised. This is because I thought that a university is a place for learning academics, not a facility for playing. I was struck by the idea that university is not just a place to learn, but also a place to have fun. There are other facilities on campus that reflect this idea. Every time I see a bar or billiards facility on campus, I realize how different it is from Japan.



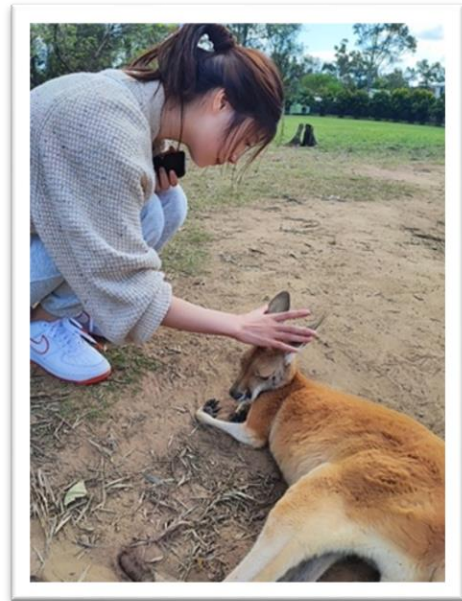
Even in Sydney, I felt the Australian way of life, which is to enjoy every moment to the fullest. The outdoor bar next to the Opera House was crowded with people from 4pm, with a DJ playing music inside and a party being held on a nearby river on a tour boat. All of these things made me feel the freedom and joy of life in Australia.

I was only able to stay in Australia for 10 days. But in these 10 days, I was able to experience life in Australia and its values. Although I don't mention it in this essay, I was also very attracted to the personalities of the people living in Australia, including my homestay family. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the hosts. For me, Australia is a country I wanted to visit again. Thank you for everything!!

My Memory in Australia

Zhuoyue Xi

These three weeks in Australia is one of my best experiences in my life. I experienced many things. This program gave us the chance to stay with host families, allowing us to feel more connected to local families and experience the local culture. Host family was very kind to me. They are always with smile. Over these three weeks, we experienced so much. We saw koalas and kangaroos, watched the Brisbane Festival fireworks, took buses to various places, and enjoyed shopping as well. We were also lucky that the transportation fee dropped to just 50 cents during our stay! The classes at QUT College taught us lots of speaking skills and how to communicate more effectively. We've learned how to listen, express ourselves. As we leave this program, we will continue to use what we've learned and practice English in our daily lives. I feel so happy to join this program so I could spend wonderful days. This experience is my treasure.



Shortest Three Week

Kakeru Yokota

The three weeks I spent in Australia were probably the shortest three weeks I have ever spent in my life. Numerous experiences were had during those three weeks. I interacted with kangaroos and koalas, went to casinos, saw big fireworks and visited islands.

First of all, let's talk about the food. All the food in Australia was very good, except one thing. Kangaroo meat, beef pie and fish and chips were all very good to my palate. And I could eat sushi everywhere. I had three sushi rolls, which were delicious and had a strong vinegar flavor. Only the Vegemite was not to my taste. Vegemite is like natto (fermented soy beans) in Japan, a food that some people like but others don't like, and it is spread on bread and eaten. When I took a bite of it, my brain instantly decided that it was a food I didn't like because of its distinctive smell and texture. I couldn't believe that there were people who liked to eat it. However, I was very happy to be able to experience Australian culture.

Next, we touch on life in Australia. I had heard that because of the water shortage in Australia, there are restrictions such as washing clothes once or twice a week and using showers for as short a time as possible. However, at my homestay, there were no restrictions on the amount of time I could use the shower, I washed my clothes twice a week, and I washed my dishes in the dishwasher. This allowed me to lead a comfortable life with no inconvenience at all. I cannot thank my host family enough. Also, the Australian climate, with a temperature difference of about 10° C between day and night, was difficult for me. It was cold when I went to school in the morning, but very hot during the day. Australians were going to work or school in short sleeves in the morning and did not look cold at all. I realized that I would have to get used to this temperature difference. I felt that the Australian manner of using public transport and being quiet in public was something unique to Japan. Many people were talking quite loudly or viewing videos on their smartphones with sound on. Also, on buses, the lack of announcements for the next stop was very difficult. Therefore, when travelling to school by bus, it was necessary to remember the scenery near the bus stop they were using. I think this problem was the most difficult of the three weeks.

As regards the school, it was impressive that it was larger than the Aoyama Gakuin University campus. Everything on campus looked fashionable, including a ping-pong table that could be used freely, a basketball court and a bar with billiards. In the cafeteria, there was a wide range of white food, including ramen, teppanyaki, rice bowls, burgers and tapioca. However, the prices were also Australian prices, and from my point of view as a Japanese, everything was expensive. Also, the people working in the cafeteria looked about the same age as us.

I had to do everything in English, which is normal in everyday life. I had never lived in such an environment before, so it was very difficult. But I think my English has definitely

improved. What I valued in my daily life was to express my gratitude. In my daily life in Japan, of course I always try to express my gratitude, but in Australia I was even more conscious of this. There were many words and expressions that I could not understand in my own English. In order to build smooth relationships, I thought it was important to express my gratitude, no matter how small. I tried to say many words of thanks to many people, such as when I got on and off the bus, to my host family who cooked for me, and to the shop assistants who helped me. This attitude is something I will always cherish in Japan.

During these three weeks, I came into contact with a different culture from Japan, Australia, and I think my English skills improved. I would like to thank my professors and friends who were involved and my parents who kindly sent me away.



Lastly...

We are grateful to the people who helped us in Australia.

Thank you so much.



See ya!

