

Osaka Global Letter Vol. 1

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Osaka Global School Short-Term Overseas Study

This year, the newly founded Osaka Global School conducted a short-term overseas study with the USA Course going to San Francisco from July 22 until August 4 and the British Course going to London and other English cities starting from August 19 until August 31. This short-term overseas study was designed to experience study overseas, based on what they learned in the Overseas Study Preparation Course, which started from April. A characteristic program was prepared for each course that students looked forward to the most. The two-week stay overseas of the 2 courses was both very stimulating for the students. They returned home having a clearer idea on what they have to do to achieve their dream of being able to play a role in the global field in the future. Here, we will give a simple introduction of what the situation was during the short-term training.

【USA Course】

The USA Course had San Francisco State University as its base and stayed at a student dormitory on campus. SFU boasts of being in the top 5 most beautiful universities and there, the Osaka Global School students enjoyed campus life, taking a campus tour and interviewing people while taking the English classes and specialized courses prepared for them.



(Lecture)

Making use of the geographic characteristic of the US West Coast, a substantial program to visit sophisticated companies of

Silicon Valley is another large feature of the US Course. They visited Yahoo and Twitter, which everyone these days know, took a tour of Plug and play, the incubation institution that also gave birth to Google, where they learned about how an internet business is born. Here, a lecture by Allen Miner, the CEO of Sunbridge Japan and former President of Oracle had also been prepared. Mr. Miner gave advice for the young people who will bear the next generation on how to achieve their dreams, to which the students were deeply moved.

San Francisco, which has had Nikkei Society since long ago, historically has strong ties with Japan and even now is host to many

Japanese. Among the embassies in the US with the longest history is the Consulate General in San Francisco. This year, the Global School was also able to go there for a visit. The students were able to learn directly from the diplomats at the Consulate about the present condition of the politics in the Consulate's jurisdiction and the local administration, the history and future of Silicon Valley, the history of the formation of the Nikkeijin society, etc. The students were filled with respect at the image of the diplomat who works for



(Japanese Consulate in San Francisco)

the protection of national interest and promotion of international exchange. In the US, the students actively participated in volunteer activities where they could somehow contribute to the society. This year, a 2-day volunteer program was prepared with volunteer work which they could actually experience if they go overseas to study. The students were divided into small



(Volunteer Activities-Sandwich Making)

groups and participated in the volunteer work. Activities included singing songs and fitting yukatas at a Senior home, teaching children at a Nursery school origami, making sandwiches at a rehabilitation facility, beautification of a national park, etc. The local people around were very happy and appreciated the contribution of the students.

The summer of San Francisco is cool, very much different from Japan, but good weather continued, which allowed us to complete the program without anyone getting sick. On the last day, the students visited Stanford University, which is also called the brains of Silicon Valley, before they said good bye to San Francisco.

【British Course】

At the English Course, students could experience a colorful university stay, visiting 7 universities and staying in 4 of them. English universities are divided into two types. There is the city-type, which has the college buildings and dormitories in the city, and the Campus-type, which has its colleges and dormitories within a campus. During the short-term training in England, the students were able to visit both types of universities. The OGS students who participated, aggressively took part in the exchange activities with the local students and university staff. Aside from the campus tours, they were able to deepen their understanding on how to study overseas after hearing about how to go study in the UK.

The first place they visited was the Canterbury Christ Church University. Canterbury Christ Church University is a typical city type university with its buildings, dormitories and library in the city, and it is known for the Canterbury Cathedral of the Church of England. As part of the program, the students also attended the Cathedral's Evensong. It had a very solemn atmosphere that after the ceremony, everyone had a more serious countenance.

After that, the students went to Kent University and University for the Creative Arts, which are both in Kent. Kent University is a campus-type international university having international students from over



(Kent University Campus Tour)

125 countries. Everyone was impressed with the university, being built on a slightly elevated hill overlooking the town, and also possessing substantial facilities with its library and sports facilities. Furthermore, you can study animation, architecture, fashion, cinematography and various arts at UCA, which is a traditional school with a history of over 150 years. The students were also able to view and touch the works of the local students.

The next place they visited was Leeds University in Leeds, a town that



(Harewood House at Leeds University)

developed basically in the woolen textile industry in the 19th century. It is a university that is very international. There was a lecture about the history and lifestyle, in addition to a tour of the traditional Harewood House of England. Moreover, the students were impressed with the beautiful English garden and the decorations and paintings in the rooms. There was also a lecture about 19th Century author Charlotte Brontë and her book "Jane Eyre". The students were able to deepen their understanding of the English society and life in the 19th century by visiting the town of Howards, where the Brontë sisters actually lived, and the museum.

Furthermore, after visiting Cambridge University, famous as a university town, the students visited the University of East Anglia, a campus type University in northwestern



(East Anglia University Programming)

England. There, students could choose from a variety of academic lessons a class they want to take, such as psychology, law, graphics,



(Lecture at Regent College London by Japanese working in England)

stay was Regent College in London. Here, Mami McGuinness, a journalist in England, and Ichiya Yamazaki, an architect, gave a talk to the students about how they came to the UK and about their current work. They also encouraged and gave advice to the students with regards to studying overseas, giving many of the OGS students a clearer picture of how they will study overseas. On the last day of the short-term training, students did a tour of the city, which they have planned themselves, before returning to Japan.

Osaka Global School will continue for a while from September giving a course on Overseas Study Preparation. We hope that many students will take advantage of this experience and decide to go overseas to study and afterwards become pioneers of people who play a role in the international stage, global human resources from Osaka when they graduate and get employed.