



Tokyo Exchange

Shibaura Institute of Technology

Studying abroad in Japan at Shibaura Institute of Technology was an incredibly rewarding experience. I attended the university from September 9, 2024, to January 31, 2025, during my 5th semester at KEA in IT-Architecture. The support from Shibaura was excellent, as they were always available to assist with course selection, housing recommendations, and settling in. The international office was open during class hours, making it easy to get help whenever needed.

During my semester, I took several courses, all of which were relevant to my studies—except for one. **Exercise on Object-Oriented Programming**

was structured around weekly Java exercises, allowing students to immediately apply what they learned. **Introduction to Computer Networks** was a double-module class, combining lectures with hands-on exercises or reading assignments. **Information Literacy** focused on computer history and required students to research and present a topic of interest.

Introduction to Computer Programming covered Python, R, C, and Java, but at a very beginner-friendly level, with weekly quizzes to assess progress.



One of the most challenging courses was **Foundations of Programming Languages**. While the subject, mathematics and logic behind older and modern programming languages, was interesting, the class had a very fast pace. The professor spoke semi-broken English and used his own calculation methods that differed from what most European students were used to. This meant that unless you followed his exact methods, your answers would be marked as incorrect.

On the other hand, **Operating Systems and Exercises** was well-structured and combined theoretical material with practical exercises in C language. The course concluded with a personal project, where I developed an exam project that allowed users to share files while connected to a server. I also took **Japanese Language 1**, a beginner-friendly course focused on hiragana, katakana, and basic vocabulary. They don't make you learn any kanji. I strongly recommend learning hiragana and katana

beforehand, as it makes the course significantly easier. The in-class experience was particularly valuable, as the teacher was excellent and highly engaging.

The application process for studying abroad was somewhat tedious since KEA did not have a partnership with any Japanese universities at the time. However, KEA was very supportive, handling the necessary paperwork and agreements. Finding accommodation in Tokyo was relatively easy, especially for shared housing. I lived in a shared house in Koto-ku, which was a great location. I purchased a bicycle, making my commute to school only 10–15 minutes. While renting an apartment in Tokyo can be expensive, shared housing options are much more affordable. Some students also stayed in the international dorm, but this was only available for master's students.



In terms of expenses, my monthly housing cost was around 4,300 DKK, with additional costs for food and transportation. Japan, in general, is quite affordable compared to Denmark, so I was able to spend less than my initial budget, even while going on several trips throughout my stay. My income consisted of SU, an Erasmus+ grant, and a salary of around 3,000 DKK per month. Although I applied for additional grants, I only received Erasmus+, which turned out to be sufficient for covering my expenses.

One of the biggest challenges in Japan was the language barrier. I lived with two Japanese housemates, but we had to solely rely on Google Translate to communicate. While this could be frustrating at times, it also led to some funny and memorable moments. Shibaura actively encouraged students to learn Japanese, offering language cafés and additional resources for language learning.



Despite the language barrier, I had many unforgettable experiences in Japan. Climbing Mount Fuji, going skiing, and general just experiencing a completely different culture.

For any KEA students considering an exchange at Shibaura Institute of Technology, I strongly recommend learning hiragana and katakana before arrival. It will make daily life and the Japanese course much easier. Additionally, immersing yourself in the culture beforehand through media, will make the experience even more enjoyable.

Overall, my semester in Japan was an amazing and highly rewarding experience. It allowed me to develop both academically and personally, and I would highly recommend it to any future exchange students.