

KCJS Summer Program is definitely one of the best programs I have attended ever. The program made every effort to provide you with the most in-depth cultural immersion, including the living, dining experience and traditional cultural activities on a weekly basis. I was able to greatly improve my Japanese and make a lot of friends in and out of the program. I was also really satisfied with the geographical location of this program, which is in Kyoto, a historical city with lots of shrines and natural sceneries.

During my stay in Kyoto I lived in a host family with another girl and it's always a joy for us to sit down at the dinner table with our host mom every day and talk about the funny things in the TV news and new stuffs learned at school. I especially benefited a lot from talking to my host family in that I was able to know more about Japanese people's customs and way of thinking. For example, regarding the table manners, it is considered impolite to put your arms on the table or raise the bowl to your mouth while eating.

Besides the couldn't-be-better living experience, KCJS also held a series of cultural activities for students that we can actively participate in such as sushi-making, wadaiko (a Japanese traditional drum) playing and even a trip to Nara, where we were able to see the world's largest well-preserved wooden building and feed and touch wild deer on the street. The program also well prepared us for Gion Matsuri, one of the biggest festivals in Japan and gave us a chance to meet the people who have been performing on the event for years and watch their rehearsal. I would say there is no better way to get involved in a culture than either actually participating in it or talking to the people who have been doing it for years.

All in all, if you are looking the Japanese language study as well as get a wonderful Japanese culture immersion, I strongly recommend KCJS program to be on your list of consideration as it has brought me with a most fulfilling, meaningful and memorable summer.