

# Exchange Report

at Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus

August 2018 – July 2019

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Global Studies and Social Entrepreneurship Major

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## Information

Name: Makhawee Sukawatano Nickname: Gino Faculty: School Of Global

Studies Major: Global Studies and Social Entrepreneurship

Exchange at: Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus Country: Japan

Length: 1 year August 2018 – July 2019

Program: PBL (Problem Based-Learning)

Qualification: 3.00 Minimum TOEIC: 550

Scholarship: ทุนส่งเสริม

## Transportation to Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus

Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus located at 56-1 Toji-in Kitamachi, Kita-Ku, Kyoto 603-8577 Japan. Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus located on the Kinugasa mountain. From Kyoto Station, there is a Japan Rail (JR) stop nearby Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus at the Enmachi station. Enmachi station stayed in the Sagano Line. From the north of Enmachi station, it takes 15 minutes to walk to reach the Campus.

My dormitory is Ritsumeikan University International House Tokiwa. From my dormitory, there are 3 ways to reach Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus. First, I regularly take a bicycle to the campus which takes around 20 minutes. Secondly, it takes 40 minutes by walking to school. Lastly, there is a tram from the back of my dormitory to the campus. The station located back of my dormitory is Narutaki Station. From Narutaki Station, it takes around 220 Yen or 66 Baht to the Tojin Station which located the nearest to the school.

## Accommodation

At Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus, there is 3 university own dormitory. I stayed at Ritsumeikan University International House Tokiwa (I-House Tokiwa). I-House Tokiwa located at 23 Tokiwa Kanda-Cho, Ukyo-Ku, Kyoto-shi, JAPAN 616-8219. The I-House Tokiwa is for the international student who studies at the Ritsumeikan Kinugasa Campus. The dormitory fee is 36,000 Yen (Around 10,000 Baht) which included the electricity and water bill.

Most of the facility in I-House Tokiwa is a shared facility, such as Kitchen, Toilets(separated by gender), Bathroom(separated by gender), and study room. Every place in Tokiwa is very lively and friendly atmosphere since everyone is quite far from the university and there are around 40 residents in the dorm. Every International house in Ritsumeikan has Resident Manager (RM) who are the Japanese Ritsumeikan students. The RM will always provide international students information. Moreover, every international house will organise the dormitory assembly in a lot of every occasion, such as Welcome party, Halloween party, New year party, Farewell party, etc.

## Academic affair

I came with the Problem Based Learning program or PBL program to Ritsumeikan University. Since I came to the Ritsumeikan university Kinugasa Campus, I studied at the International Relationship Faculty, Global Studies major. The program provides special courses to the PBL students which is

Global Simulation Gaming and Problem Base Learning course. At Ritsumeikan University most of the classes are 2 credits. The minimum credit per semester is 14 credits which are 7 classes. Most of the classes are a score from the final report. Moreover, the PBL program let the PBL study basic Japanese language courses.

### Academic Affair Problem

The transfer credit from Ritsumeikan is quite unpredictable because the courses outline that provides before the program always change. Working culture in the group with Japanese students is quite hard since most of the Japanese student focus on college activity and a part-time job which will give you a hard time to study with them.

### General Problem

Language problem for non-Japanese major is quite hard to learn in a short period because Japanese people can not speak English well and most of the time shy to speak English. Mental health management is quite a big issue to most of the exchange student. It depends on the person but the best solution is to find someone to understand and be able to talk to you. The financial management for non-scholarship student is the biggest concern. It is a necessity to talk to the family before going for exchange if they can support or not. Last but not least, the person who interested to find a part-time job should check the document carefully with what kind of job will they let the person do.

### Impression

Japanese administration on the campus is well organised in the orientation of arrival and departure. All of the international offices at Ritsumeikan is very high capability to solve every issue for every exchange students. There is a lot of document to fill when we arrive in Japan. The RM will help explain very clearly in the arrival date to fill the banking form and ward office form. They will help every exchange student in the international house which is perfect for no Japanese student who can not speak Japanese well. The International House is a very good place for all the international student who might not have a lot friend, the international student will be able to explore a lot of new people in the university dorm. Furthermore, Kyoto is very rich in cultural architecture, people and food which will let you understand Japan towards the Kyoto lens. Lastly, having good friends mean good life in Japan. I met South East Asian student who recommends me to a part-time job and studies with me.

### Cost of living

Japan is an expensive country. Tokiwa international house that I stayed is very cheap compared to other accommodation with 36,000 Yen(10,000 Baht) per months. The living expense will be at least 30,000 Yen (9,000 Baht) per months incase that you cook yourself. To reduce the cost of food burden, the exchange student should cook yourself. On the other hand, I did a part-time job which gets some money that can sustain myself in Japan with 1000 Yen (300 Baht) per hours.

### Suggestion

1. Well prepare on financial for the duration and city that you stay
2. Open Heart and Open mind
3. Chose the right class to you
4. 6 months might be a good decision more than 1 year
5. Part time job should find a work and study balance