



Teikyo University
of Japan in Durham

Gazette Vol.XXXVII
September - January 2025

Meet Our Students



St Mary's

Mr Shota Tsuda

Mr Hiroki Nao

Mr Katsumi Kondo

Miss Kanon Sato

Miss Natsuki Inomata

Mr Hayao Mikami

Mr Takumi Watanabe

Mr Yutaro Nagumo

Miss Rio Takaki

Mr Syoki Miyamori

Van Mildert

Miss Hyobi Song

Miss Hibiki Tamura

Mr Kaichi Motono

Mr Masato Koshimizu

Mr Akito Shiga

Mr Kazuki Inoue

Miss Mikoto Mutoh

Mr Shinnosuke Hosoya

Mr Yuki Iwasaki

Mr Shunsuke Hirai

Miss Waka Kashihara

Collingwood

Mr Takumi Harada

Mr Jun Komoriya

Mr Kan Ito

Miss Emi Katagishi

Mr Mitsuki Yoshida

Miss Mii Kin

Mr Toshikazu Kondo

Miss Akari Fukuchi

Mr Toranosuke Ishioka

Miss Hanon Oguri

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Principal Eishu Kosuge

Congratulations to everyone for your successful completion of the Autumn Course at the Teikyo Durham Campus!

As appointed as the Principal in April 2022, I am so grateful to accept all of you in my third and last year at this campus and to see everyone having a fruitful time without getting injured or without suffering serious illnesses, while improving your English skills and, above all, being deeply exposed to British culture.

A lot has happened in your participation in the study abroad programme in the UK. Induction Course in the authentic city of Cambridge, day trips to Edinburgh, York, Newcastle and Whitby, a pleasant field trip to London and Paris, your weekend trips to the various cities in the UK, DJ performances for Purple Radio, various work experiences, days spent with friends at Durham University, and so on.

I believe, in addition to the good attendance at the campus, the unique feature of the students this term is the remarkably diligent behaviour for evening study at the Reading Room. I have seen several students continue to study at the Reading Room until 6 pm almost every day. I think it was the first time I've seen such an extra work to continue for many weeks. Thanks to such efforts, everyone achieved a good progress in the TOEIC score. You can praise yourself for your hard work. Well done!

I firmly believe that all of these have become precious memories for everyone and hope that you will use what you have learned in this programme to help you in the rest of your student life at Teikyo Japan and in your life after graduation.

Thank you indeed for choosing to study at the Teikyo Durham Campus. I wish all of you for every success and a wonderful life in the years to come.

Eishu Kosuge - Principal
22 January 2025

Bursar

Andrew Davies



As the Autumn Course comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work during your time studying English as a foreign language at Teikyo University of Japan in Durham.

Your commitment to mastering a new language and embracing a different culture is commendable and truly inspiring. Language is more than just a tool for communication; it is a bridge that connects us across cultures, fostering understanding and collaboration. As you navigate the challenges of learning English, I have witnessed your hard work, determination, and enthusiasm in the classroom and beyond. Your participation in various activities, from language exchange programs to cultural events, demonstrates your eagerness to engage and share your heritage while learning from others. This spirit of cooperation embodies the values we hold dear at Teikyo University.

I hope that your experience has been both academically rewarding and personally fulfilling. It has been a pleasure to witness your progress, and I trust that the knowledge and skills you have acquired will serve as a solid foundation for your future endeavours.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of maintaining the connections you have made with your classmates, professors, teachers, and the broader Durham University community. These relationships can continue to be a source of support and inspiration as you navigate the next chapter of your academic and professional lives.

Once again, congratulations on your progress and achievements. Your efforts are paving the way for a brighter future, both for yourselves and for the global community. Keep up the fantastic work.

Andrew Davies MBE - Bursar
21 January 2025

Helen McAree

EFL Coordinator



During student meetings, Helen is very easy for us to understand. She is very helpful to all of us. She is also very humorous and is always fun to talk to. I'm glad I met such a wonderful teacher.

Natsuki Inomata

Helen is a very kind and friendly character, and she always speak clearly so we can understand her. If you want to improve your English skills, I really recommend you to speak to Helen.

Katsumi Kondo

Jill Johnson

EFL Tutor



Jill's classes helped me improve my listening and vocabulary. When I couldn't understand she always gives me a hint. She is very kind teacher. Thank you Jill.

Kazuki Inoue

I submitted my diary to her every day and she left some comments every time, which were hilarious, so I always looked forward to the comments. She also taught the academic class, which showed me how to write essays and read text which includes unknown words. I learnt lots of things from her, which I never knew when I was in Japan. Thank you so much for your kindness and support, I had so much fun with you!

Hanon Oguri

Michael Davies

EFL Tutor



I think Michael is one of the best teachers I've ever met. He taught us practical English in his class which improved my English. He also helped solve some problems I had.

Kaichi Motono

My great English teacher, Michael is one of the best teachers I've ever had in my life. He made my stay in Durham enjoyable with interesting classes and fun conversations. Moreover, he is crazy about playing games and so am I. So I really enjoyed the esports events that he held. These are one of my best memories from studying abroad and I'll definitely always remember him and these memories.

Toranosuke Ishioka

Debra Pattison

EFL Tutor



She is a very kind and cheerful teacher at LHCC. Whenever I couldn't understand something, she would patiently explain it to me. Her classes were always fun and full of smiles.

Yuki Iwasaki

Debra is so cute, bright and fashionable teacher who always has a smile on her face. She is loved by everyone and her personality makes her classes a lot of fun! Her classes involve a lot of communication and games. Debra is friendly and easy to talk to and you will find it easy to ask her questions.

Kanon Sato

Jacob Dace

EFL Tutor



Jacob is the funniest teacher and one of the best teachers I've ever had. He also loves doing training, and often hosts sports and training events. I really enjoyed them. These are some of the best memories I have from studying abroad and I'll definitely always remember him and these memories.

Toranosuke Ishioka

When I first met him in Cambridge, I thought he looked like a gentleman. During the 3km run, he was so fast it was difficult to keep up. He also performed a funny dance after the formal dinner which was pleasantly surprising. Even on sleepy mornings, his smile encouraged me and helped me to work hard in class. I think I've found a good teacher.

Kan Ito

Terri Edwards-Okazaki

EFL Lecturer



Terri taught me many things about the differences between the UK and Japan, including culture and music. It was great to learn about things I didn't know and to experience the culture first-hand while being in the UK.

Emi Katagishi

She is a great teacher. Her classes were every Tuesday afternoon which I looked forward to every week. She is always laughing and very kind when talking to us. I miss her and her classes.

Yutaro Nagumo

Miki Binks

Librarian



Miki is a librarian in LHCC. She has lived in England for 27 years, so she knows lots of things about England. During book club, she would explain an English story in a very short time, so I could understand. She gave me a lot of advice and often helped me. I'm glad I got to meet her.

Mii Kin

Her book class is really fun!! We read "Love Actually". When it comes to talking about the book, she gets really excited which makes it fun and never boring. I love how she sometimes throws random, unexpected questions at me. I think she is very good at making people laugh and have fun.

Akari Fukuchi

Junko Miura

International Student Coordinator



Junko is a very kind and reliable person. When we have a problem, Junko is there to help us solve it. She always listens to us and we have a great time together.

Natsuki Inomata

Junko took care of our health for us while we were staying in a Durham. She is very kind and the best person to consult with at any time. There will be countless students who have been helped by her. Thank you very much!

Masato Koshimizu

Porters

The porters are the funniest and most lovely people in the world. Every time I see them they say "Hi are you alright?" I loved that. They took such good care of us, especially when I was ill.

Hanon Oguri

The porters were funny when they took me to my work experience every week and they told me a lot about the UK so I always enjoyed the journey.

Kaichi Motono



Cleaners

The cleaners were always really kind. When I practiced football with Shinnosuke in the common room of Etsuko hall, they wished us good luck for our match. I really appreciated them keeping my room clean.

Mitsuki Yoshida

They always kept our dormitory really clean and greeted us cheerfully every time we saw them. So I was happy after seeing them.

Shinnosuke Hosoya





Cambridge Induction

After a long journey from Japan, our students arrived at Heathrow Airport, where they were warmly welcomed by our staff. Together, they travelled to the historic city of Cambridge to begin their induction program at St Edmunds College, Cambridge University.

In Cambridge, they delved into the rich history of the city, enjoying a guided punt tour and engaging lectures by Anne Muston. The experience was further enriched by a delightful formal dinner, a perfect blend of tradition and learning.

This inspiring start to our program left everyone energised and excited as they departed for Durham, eager for the adventures that lay ahead.



I still vividly remember how I felt when I arrived in Cambridge for my first trip to England. The neighbourhoods were so beautiful that I was always busy taking pictures. I already miss the memories of riding the boat and playing football together. In particular, it was my first time experiencing a formal party, and it was good to learn how to enjoy a formal course meal. It was a special experience. I was able to go for walks with my friends in, buy things in English, and enjoy the atmosphere of England as well.

Hyobi Song





We stayed in Cambridge for our first week in England. Although we had some classes and a test, we also had some free time, so we could make the most of Cambridge. We went to see historical buildings, took punting tours, went to museums, and went shopping. The people of the city were very friendly, and I felt very happy to be in England. Although it was a short period of time, my time in Cambridge was very fulfilling.

Mii Kin



My memories of Cambridge were trying out new foods and exploring the city. In addition, I had experiences there that are quite rare in Japan, like punting. I was also thrilled to see wild squirrels and rabbits for the first time!

Rio Takaki



Durham

After settling in and unpacking on arrival at Durham, students explored their new home with a walking tour, helping them get acquainted with the city where they will be spending the next few months.



The first thing I thought when I came to Durham was that it was a city where people are close to nature and time passes slowly. From early in the evening, everyone was free to spend their time however they wanted. I really liked the atmosphere of Durham. About a month after we arrived, a lot of local students came and the city quickly transformed into a student city. The students at Durham University were lively and loud, but also very warm and welcoming people.

Kan Ito

Durham Cathedral and Castle are famous landmarks of Durham, and are also World Heritage Sites. I found out that it was built in the 11th century and is one of England's best examples of Norman architecture. Its interior is impressive, with beautiful stained glass windows and historic decorations. You can even see the place which was used in the Harry Potter films.

Hayao Mikami







Durham was very beautiful and all the photos I took were amazing. I was able to see a lot of things that I can't see in Tokyo. I will never forget my life in Durham.

Shota Tsuda

Thanks to the teachers and Durham students, I was able to live here as relaxed as I did in Japan. Although there were a few difficult times, I made many happy memories.

Katsumi Kondo





Accommodation

Our students lived between two buildings, Etsuko Hall and the Williamson building in St. Mary's College. With facilities in both such as private living quarters, common areas, and gyms, our students have everything they need for a comfortable stay.

I stayed in Etsuko Hall. It was a nice building and I was glad I was able to stay here. Because my room was in front of the bathroom and next to the laundry, I felt very comfortable. I want to stay again.

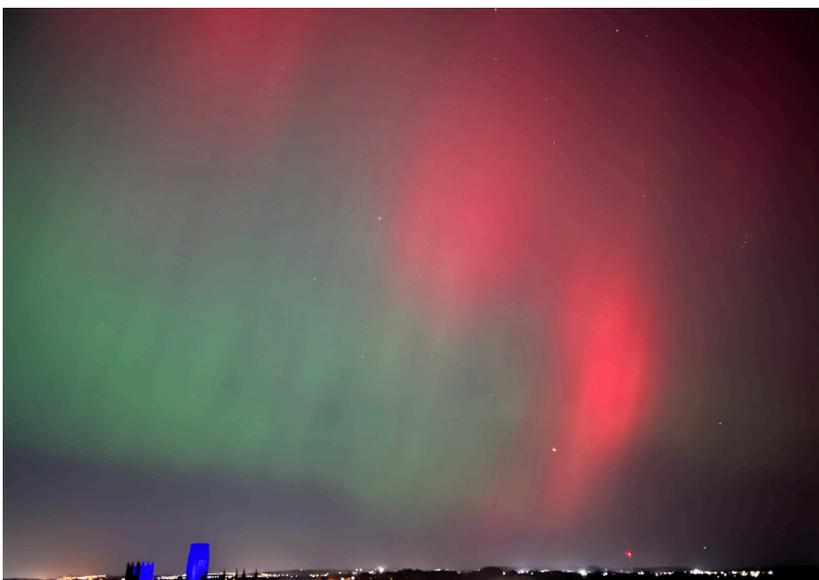
Jun Komoriya

The Williamson building is where St Mary's students live. The rooms are very clean and have beautiful red carpets. There's also a place where you can play hockey and talk to everyone.

Takumi Watanabe

In Etsuko Hall me and Shinnosuke would go to the gym every day, after he would then make pasta for me. We became friends with many Durham students who were interested in Japan. My room was really tidy so it became a common room for everyone. I always had such fulfilling days that I thought it was a waste of time to sleep.

Mitsuki Yoshida



My favourite memory in Durham is Seeing the Northern Lights with my friends. I took a lot of pictures that night. It was my first experience, so I was very impressed. This is a memory I will never forget.

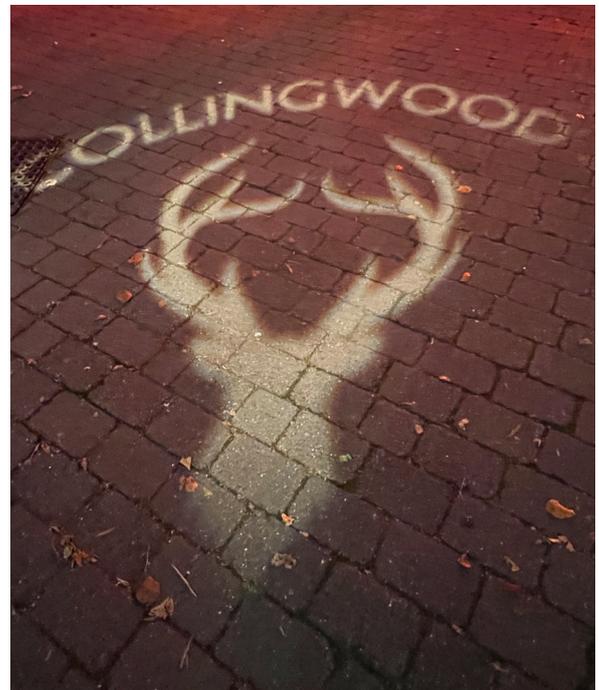
Takumi Harada





Collingwood is the largest college in Durham and has a lot to offer students. Collingwood has incredible sports facilities that are available to students. There is a multi-use sports pitch, modern gym and cricket nets.

Additionally, there are many social spaces with a toastie cafe and a bar that is modelled after a traditional British pub. There is even a state of the art theatre where many performances are held throughout the year.



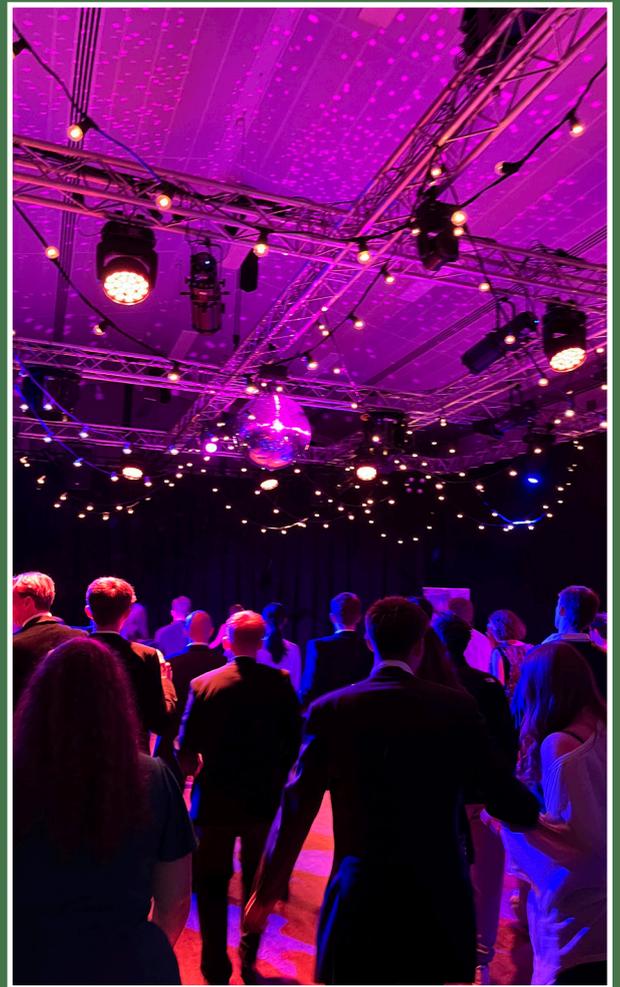
Collingwood College is the best and it's the largest college in Durham. We had many enjoyable events. For example, during freshers week, which is like ice-breaking time for the first year students, we had an opening ceremony on the first day. It was full of people and the ceremony had fireworks and some great performances.

On the second day, we had a college formal dinner. The food was so tasty and it was the best dinner ever. After dinner, we went salsa dancing. We kept dancing until midnight. On the last day, all of the Collingwood students gathered again and ended the special week. This was just the first week! We also had many more events while we were in the UK. You can make unforgettable memories with your lovely friends.

Hanon Oguri

My college is Collingwood. Collingwood is an active college with many events taking place. Dining rooms are always decorated in some way and are ornate. The kitchen staff were very friendly and always talked to us. Depending on the type, the food was very delicious. There was also a billiards table and a table tennis table, so I was able to have fun interacting with the Durham students.

Mii Kin



Collingwood College was really interesting and an exciting college. There are a lot of clever and sporty students. They are really knowledgeable and active and so kind. I could get along well with many students and they were really friendly to me. I'll miss them when I get back to Japan.

Toranosuke Ishioka



When I got selected for football in Collingwood I was really nervous. I was assigned to the M team and played games which lasted about 90 minutes every weekend. I achieved not only victory, but was also man of the match. I'm glad I met my teammates. I will never forget this experience.

Mitsuki Yoshida





St Mary's College is one of the oldest Durham University colleges and had a lot of interesting history. It was originally a women-only college, but since 2005 it has been open to both men and women.

St. Mary's has many beautiful buildings and is always hosting fantastic formal events. There are so many clubs, societies and sports to participate in.



St. Mary's has a lot of beautiful buildings and holds many enjoyable formal events. There are a lot of clubs and societies and you feel like you're in Harry Potter when you're at St. Mary's college.

Yutaro Nagumo

I found the students at St Mary's very sociable. I was able to see them in the Williamson building and when participating in events. I went to several events, but my favourite was the Winter Ball. I also really enjoyed a silent disco in the historic dining hall. That was very exciting.

Syoki Miyamori





I found it easy to make English speaking friends in St Mary's College. In fact, I made a lot of friends. They helped me to improve my English skills. And we spent a lot of the time chatting to each other. It not only improved my English skills but I also had lots of fun. I wish I could continue to stay there.

Katsumi Kondo



When I visited St Mary's, I felt very excited. The college is big with a lot of people staying there. We had a very lively and fun time, especially with all the events that are held regularly. St. Mary's students enjoy most of them in the dining hall.

Takumi Watanabe





Van Mildert is the closest college to LHCC. It has the biggest student dining hall in the whole country. Teikyo University shares a tennis court with Van Mildert. The college has a very friendly atmosphere and is famous for its lake and ducks, which often come to visit us outside of LHCC. Van Mildert often holds large social events and formal dinners, which our students attend too.

I belonged to Van Mildert. The college is a lively place. In the dining hall, there are many people at dinner! You have to be careful, if you arrive there too late, you can be in the queue for a long time. I recommend the Van Mildert bar, if you like to watch football on TV. You can enjoy watching sports with other Durham students.

Masato Koshimizu





My best memories at Van Mildert is thanks to Michael who was my college teacher. Thanks to him telling me about various events, I was able to create many happy memories. So I wanted to win the college battle for him, but we lost by 10 points. It made me slightly sad, but I'm really glad that Michael was my teacher at Van Mildert, and I'm so grateful for him.

Mikoto Mutoh

Van Mildert was a good college for me. When I first went to a fresher's event, I made many friends in the college. You might feel that freshers week is tough but you should go if you're unsure. It can help you make friends. Also, the college has many events, for example, a formal dinner, winter ball, society events, and smaller events. These events will become memorable experiences.

Yuki Iwasaki



Sports

During their time in Durham, students have the chance to participate in a variety of sports. These opportunities are available through the university, their colleges, or even in self-organised groups. Here's a selection of the sports they enjoyed this term.



I joined the AJS Football team and played seriously for the first time since high school. We went undefeated in the league matches and made it to the finals. In the final, we were down 1-3 but managed to come back to 3-3, and then turned the game around in extra time to win 4-3. I was so happy to win the championship! It had been such a long time since I was this passionate about football, and I really enjoyed it!

Rio Takaki



You can enjoy football! I belonged to Collingwood Football Club. Depending on the team, the game is held every weekend. I contributed to the team and helped lead them to victory. I had the best time not only playing football but also with mates who were on my team. I hope you can meet your best mates!

Mitsuki Yoshida

I played a lot of football. I think the time I spent playing football with everyone was very valuable, especially with the Durham students. We played football, but also other sports like basketball and badminton. I enjoyed it very much.

Shinnosuke Hosoya

I thought I was just going for a run with Jacob, but it was actually a community event. It was very pleasant to run through the city of Durham in the morning sunshine with so many other people. What impressed me the most was how fast Jacob was. I had a great day and will exercise in the morning again.

Kan Ito



Societies

At the beginning of the term, teachers took students to Maiden Castle for Durham University's Freshers' Fair. This lively event provided a great opportunity for students to practice their English while discovering all that Durham University has to offer.

During the Freshers' Fair, I could see a lot of societies, interesting things and people. I was interested in different kinds of music societies, so I looked for them. There were a lot of music societies that looked so exciting. I thought the fair was a good opportunity to learn about the culture and the university.

Toranosuke Ishioka



I went to Maiden Castle to find some societies to join. I was invited to the Anglo Japanese society. I was surprised about how many events they had and I often joined them. My favourite was the winter ball I really enjoyed it.

Kazuki Inoue



I participated in the esports club and I was surprised because there were a lot of gaming devices which are so great. It was fulfilling to play games. In addition, if you want to use a gaming laptop, you can borrow one. It was really useful for me. I borrowed one and enjoyed playing games and browsing the internet during my stay in Durham.

Toranosuke Ishioka

I like games so much so I joined Durham esports. There were a lot of Esports events that I participated in with my friends. Joining the club will give you access to a beautiful gaming space. It was a great experience for me that I couldn't have in Japan.

Takumi Watanabe



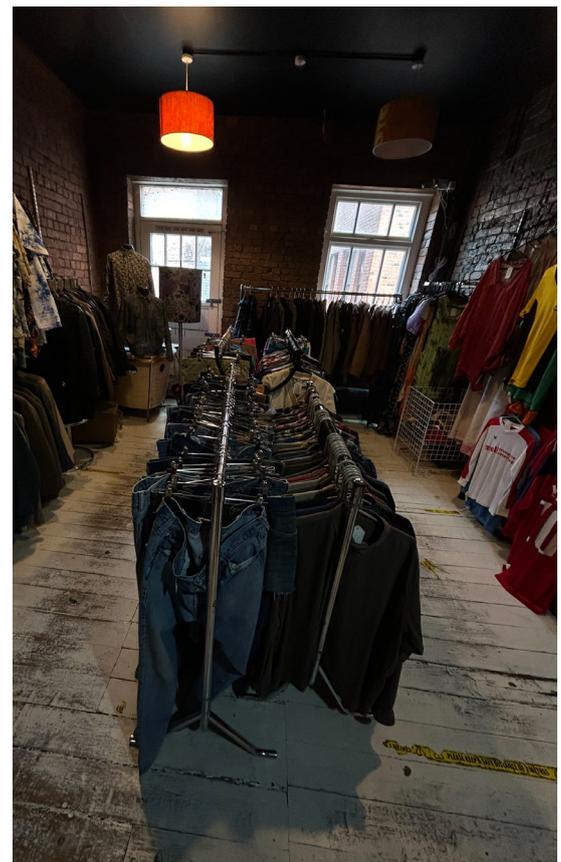
Newcastle

Newcastle is a vibrant city close to Durham, known for its diverse shops, restaurants, bars, and stunning architecture. As part of their induction, Michael, Jacob, and Junko took the students on a scenic train journey to Newcastle, where they spent the day shopping, exploring the city's landmarks, and experiencing the lively atmosphere. It was a great opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the area while enjoying a fun and memorable day out.



In Newcastle is my favourite clothes shop. It's name is Retro, there you can buy a lot of second hand and vintage clothes. It has everything you want if you like fashion. Katsumi spent £50 for a jumper. It is very high quality but not expensive. So I really want to go back to this shop.

Jun Komoriya



I visited Newcastle on my first day trip in the UK. I went to the football stadium called St. James' Park. It was so much bigger than I thought. I also visited a cafe, which is known as a famous place for Earl Grey. It was so delicious. I felt really glad that I came to England on this day. I want to return someday.

Toshikazu Kondo



In St. James' Park which is Newcastle United home stadium, I watched Newcastle play a game and in the stadium you get a very good view. In Newcastle, you can spend all day looking around. I enjoyed both sightseeing and shopping. You can go there easily because Newcastle is next to Durham.

Katsumi Kondo



In September, Michael, Jacob and Junko led a group of students on a trip to the historic city of York, where they explored the city's famous landmarks and enjoyed some shopping. The Harry Potter-themed shops in The Shambles were particularly popular!



York has a cityscape that looks like something out of a movie. There are also many wonderful shops, so it was fun just walking around. I recommend the famous sorbet shop, which has a cute interior and has very delicious food.

Natsuki Inomata

I enjoyed just walking around the city because of the river and the beautiful streets. There are lots of interesting shops, including York's famous Harry Potter shop and even a ghost shop. If you want to take your time, I recommend getting there early.

Kanon Sato

In York, I visited a street that is famous for inspiring Diagon Alley, a Harry Potter landmark. This is where I bought some souvenirs. I also explored the York city walls, where I got to experience the city's scenery and nature first-hand.

Emi Katagishi

York is a favourite place for me because there were a lot of markets and kind people. York also has locations that were used for filming Harry Potter which you can go and visit.

Takumi Watanabe



On a trip to Edinburgh, Michael and the students had the chance to explore the city's rich history and vibrant culture. They visited iconic landmarks, wandered through the cobbled streets, enjoyed traditional Scottish cuisine, and soaked in the lively atmosphere. Some students even took part in local festivities, fully immersing themselves in the experience.



Edinburgh has a lot of heritage. The view from Edinburgh Castle to the sea and distant coast was beautiful. The Christmas market was very busy but it had many food and handmade stores.

Akito Shiga

Edinburgh is located in Scotland, UK. It is a beautiful, stately city whose history is evident. There is no shortage of historic spots, my favourites were Edinburgh Castle which is perched on a cliff, and Holyrood Palace. If you go you will create wonderful memories.

Hiroki Nao

In November we went to Edinburgh. There were many historical buildings such as Edinburgh Castle. Also, I saw a people playing bagpipes. When I listened to sound of the bagpipes, I felt excited. Then, I went to a cafe, bought some souvenirs, and ate fudge. In the afternoon, I went to the Christmas Market and drank hot chocolate. I had so much fun and made great memories.

Mikoto Mutoh



Open House

Throughout the term, students have enjoyed connecting with members of Open House, engaging in fun games, practicing their English, and building new friendships in a welcoming environment.

I went to open house with people from the Christian Union in the reading room every Tuesday night. In addition to learning about British culture, I had more opportunities to speak English and made a lot of friends. I had a great time going out with my friends I made there and being invited to their house.

Toshikazu Kondo



This activity is hosted by the Christian Union. We would play mini games like building towers using pasta and marshmallows. It was also a chance to make English speaking friends. I made a friend here who I ate dinner and play football with. It was so fun and also improved my English skills.

Katsumi Kondo

I participated in open house every time except once. It was fun to communicate with Durham students in English and talk with them through various games. In particular, I felt good because I got close to them during the activities and had the opportunity to invite them home so we could eat together.

Hyobi Song

You will have the opportunity to interact with British people in fun games! You can play games that are rare in Japan and you will be able to communicate and make new friends through games! There were also different themed parties such as Christmas, which I recommend!

Kanon Sato



Students had the opportunity to unleash their creativity during a fun and relaxing pottery painting session. With brushes in hand, they carefully designed and decorated ceramic pieces, adding their own personal touches. It was a great way to unwind, bond with friends, and take home a personalised souvenir from their time in Durham.



I chose to paint something that looked like a little monster. Painting is one of my weaker areas, but I was able to make it look really cute! I never imagined I would have this kind of experience in the UK, so it was incredibly fun to do something like this for the first time since elementary school. I'm excited to bring it back to Japan and display it in my room!

Rio Takaki

I had fun painting the Pottery. I chose a simple mug that I liked and then I painted it. It was a lot of fun and so very enjoyable. The pottery, which I painted, needed to be fired, so I collected it after about three weeks. It looked much better than before it was fired. Its a perfect souvenir for me.

Toranosuke Ishioka



Dash, Monty & Pam



Twice this semester, we were delighted to welcome some special guests. Dash, Monty, and Pam, friends of Teikyo, visited LHCC to meet our students. Allowing them a perfect way to unwind and relax between classes. Their visits not only brought smiles to everyone's faces but also provided a comforting break from the demands of academic life, reminding us all of the joy and warmth that animals can bring.

When I met Dash and Monty for the first time, they came together and were all over the place. Still, they always shook their tails and approached me, so I was able to take a lot of pictures and make a lot of cute memories.

Hyobi Song

Two dogs came to LHCC! Their names are Monty and Dash, who are 5 and 9 years old. It is said that they would be middle aged if they were human. But they seemed to be young and so cute! Even if you don't have any pets, you will be excited! There may come a chance to feed them so don't miss out!

Masato Koshimizu





Town Hall

Our students had the esteemed opportunity to meet the Mayor of Durham at Durham Town Hall—a truly great honour. During their visit, they learned about the rich history of Durham and gained insight into the roles of the Mayor and her ceremonial bodyguards.



We visited the Durham Town hall in October. We were invited by the Durham Mayor but I never noticed the building before because the entrance blends in with the rest of Durham's historic buildings. Inside was also historic and gorgeous. We met the Mayor and Mayor's body guards. The guide taught us about Durham's history but at times he was difficult to understand. It was a valuable experience.

Hibiki Tamura

We visited Town Hall which is one of the many historic places in Durham. We then attended a lecture about different Bishops and how Durham became a city. I realised that Van Mildert was a Bishop and my college was named after him. We also sat on an important chair, we had lots of fun.

Masato Koshimizu

At the Town Hall, the Mayor shared with us the history and traditions of Durham. She was dressed in a traditional costume for us and her guardians were carrying staffs and swords. After her speech was over, we took a photo with her and I was able to carry the sword. I was very happy to have this precious experience.

Hiroki Nao





The Durham's mayor was wearing robes and the body guards were holding various types of ceremonial weapons. We could also sit on the mayor's seat. I was happy and felt cool because I haven't seen these things in Japan. I was glad to hear a lot of things .

Shota Tsuda

We were invited to see the Mayor of Durham. The way the body guards entered and exited was cool. It was a great experience for me, I was allowed to carry a sword and a cane.

Akito Inoue



Crook Hall

During a National Trust Heritage Open Day, Michael and our students had the wonderful opportunity to volunteer at Crook Hall, sharing aspects of Japanese culture with the public. Through calligraphy and origami, they engaged with both children and adults, offering a hands-on experience of these traditional arts.

I played a role in helping several families learn about Japanese culture on an outing, it was an activity that made them feel good because everyone enjoyed it so much. Especially when we did calligraphy, I was so happy when the children wrote their names in Kanji.

Hyobi Song

Crook Hall was a wonderful place, full of nature. Many people, including small children, came to see Japanese culture and it was fun. It was a good experience for them to learn about the good things about Japan.

Natsuki Inomata

I went to Crook Hall to teach Japanese culture like origami and calligraphy. It's the first time that I talked to a member of the public since coming to the UK. I was in charge of calligraphy. I taught both children and the elderly. It was really fun and a good experience for me.

Akari Fukuchi



In November, Jacob took another group of students on a visit to the Botanic Gardens to share even more aspects of Japanese culture. Visitors were drawn in by beautiful calligraphy, intricate origami, and a crowd-favourite—chopstick games.



There were many plants in the Garden. Among them, are some that are rarely seen. During the day we taught Japanese culture to children. We showed them how to make origami and write calligraphy. I hope they noticed the importance of Japanese culture.

Masato Koshimizu

I went to Botanic Garden to teach Japanese culture such as calligraphy and origami. Seeing everyone smiling made me feel happy as well. Also, teaching Japanese culture while talking with so many people was not only a lot of fun but also a valuable experience for me.

Mikoto Mutoh



In the Botanic Gardens I did the Chopsticks Challenge with people. I improved my English skills by interacting with English children. It was a very good day.

Syoki Miyamori



At the end of November, Helen, Debra and a group of students volunteered at the National Trust at Gibside. After having a tour of the grounds they taught Gibside volunteers and staff how to make Christmas decorations for the wishing tree.

It was very cold on this day. But it was nice to do origami with the locals and listen to the history of Gibside. The view was also the best.

Shota Tsuda



I visited Gibside in November. The site was very large and there were many historical buildings. So I asked the locals about the history, and then I made origami to decorate the Christmas tree. It was a valuable experience and it was fun.

Toshikazu Kondo



I went to Gibside to help decorate the Christmas tree. The gardens at Gibside were very large and lush with nature. After walking around the garden, we had lunch and folded origami. I had a pleasant experience.

Akito Shiga

I went to Gibside. When I arrived there I went to a chapel and looked around with tour guide. Suddenly, this day became really cold, but I could see beautiful views. I took some pictures. After that, I was invited inside and drank Hot Chocolate which was very delicious. After I drank it I helped to decorate the Christmas tree. I has a nice time.

Kan Ito

In collaboration with the charity SeaScapes and Durham University, Professor Jed Stevenson and Jacob accompanied a group of students on a trip to Crimdon Dene to take part in a meaningful beach clean initiative. Working together, they helped remove litter, protect marine life, and contribute to the preservation of the beautiful coastline.

I helped with a beach clean which was great experience for me. I picked up garbage on the beach with students from Durham University and collected quite a lot. I've rarely been to the beach in England, and the weather was very nice, so it was fun. But I think people should reduce marine waste more.

Toshikazu Kondo



During my first beach clean-up, I was shocked to see so much litter on the shore. I realised how important it is to make an effort to take all the trash back with us after any activities like camping by the seaside.

Emi Katagishi



I and my classmates went to a Durham beach. I thought there was lots of rubbish but we picked it up which was enjoyable. It took us about one hour which was a rare opportunity to help.

Yutaro Nagumo





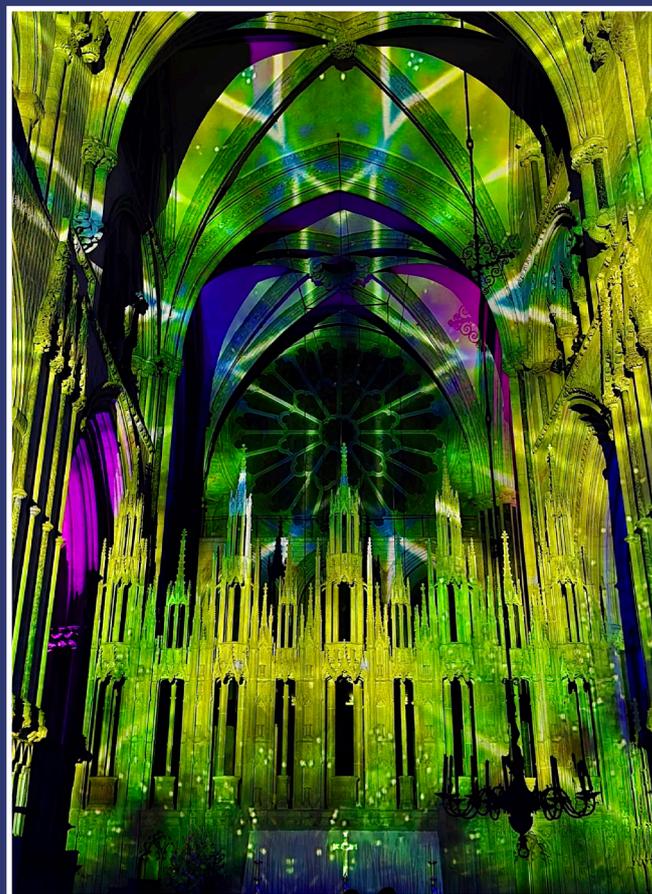
In October, Durham Cathedral hosted Science, a stunning light and sound installation by art group Luxmuralis. Helen, Junko, Jacob, Michael and students were captivated by the dazzling display, making it a perfect opportunity for photography enthusiasts to capture the magic.

There was a big lights show in Durham Cathedral which is the symbol of Durham. It was a really attractive collaboration of building, music and lights. It was quite moving. If you have time, you ought to go there in winter. You can experience the best of Durham. You also can enter the room which you can't go into usually. It is worth visiting.

Mitsuki Yoshida

I went to the light show at Durham Cathedral. Once inside the cathedral, everywhere was colourfully lit up and it was completely different compared to the usual Durham Cathedral. It was very magical with lots of colour and music. It was very beautiful and moving. If you were there you would take lots of photos! It was so good that I could have stayed for hours! You should definitely go!

Kanon Sato



Halloween

Halloween is a popular celebration in the UK, and many of our students joined Durham Esports for a traditional pumpkin carving session. With some fantastic designs, several pumpkins were proudly displayed outside Etsuko Hall, adding a festive touch to our accommodation.



The Halloween Party was held on October 30th. There were a lot of lovely cup cakes which were made by Bursar's wife. They were very delicious. We also enjoyed Pumpkin Carving and everyone got to keep their own unique pumpkin! After that, We took many pictures of Pumpkins that we made. I was very glad to get this experience that I can't get in Japan.

Takumi Harada





Teikyo Festival

On October 21st, we once again celebrated the annual Teikyo Festival, a highlight of our calendar. Planned, organised, and run by students and staff, the festival welcomed hundreds of guests, offering a vibrant showcase of Japanese culture.

This year's events included calligraphy classes, tea tasting, origami making, and a Japanese language session. Visitors also enjoyed performances from local Aikido and Kobudo clubs, musical showcases from our students, and delicious yakisoba from our food stall.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the day so enjoyable, while also helping to raise hundreds of pounds for excellent local charities!

On October 19th, the annual Teikyo Festival was held. It was mainly planned and operated by students. Many people were introduced to Japanese culture at the festival. At the Teikyo Festival, I served tea. People had matcha and simple sweets to let them try Japanese tea culture. We wore easy-to-wear kimono and many people came, all of the tickets for the tea ceremony sold out.

Emi Katagishi



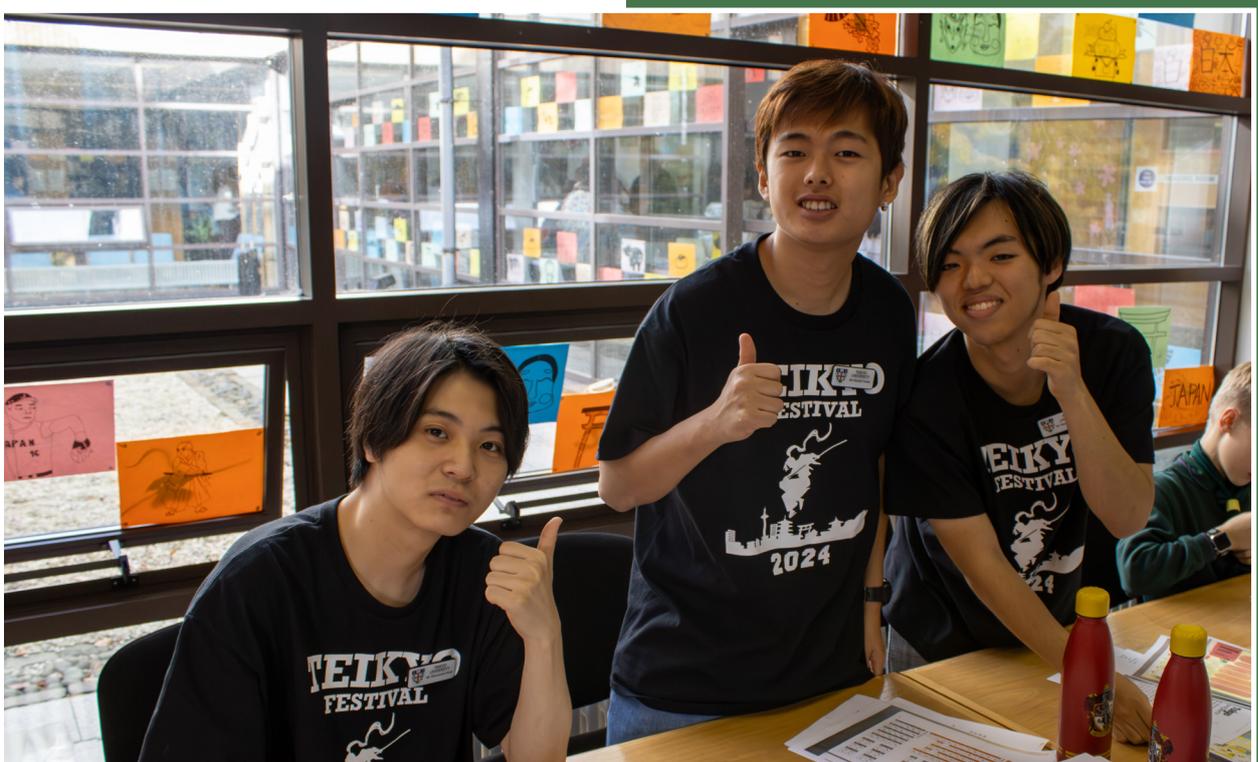


Teikyo Festival was a Japanese culture event. A variety of experiences were available, including yakisoba, calligraphy, origami and a kimono-wearing experience. The yakisoba was very delicious and was so popular that there was queue at the Teikyo Festival. Come and visit us!

Akito Shiga

The festival is a student-run event and all money raised is donated to charity. This year's donations were the largest ever. At the Teikyo Festival, there were many things you could do such as yakisoba, tea tasting, kobudo, aikido, Football challenge, yukata wearing, Origami, Japanese class, a hand made shop, chopstick games, and Calligraphy. Many local residents and students visited the Teikyo Festival and it was a good opportunity for us to communicate with them.

Takumi Harada





The Teikyo Festival is one of my favourite events held during my study abroad. I was in charge of bookmarks. I felt very nervous at first, but it was a good opportunity. When I was thanked by many people for designing their bookmarks, I felt a great sense of accomplishment.

Akari Fukuchi





London

In November, a group of students spent an exciting week in London with Helen and Jacob. Despite the short time, they packed in a variety of activities, from exploring museums to experiencing the magic of *Wicked* at the Apollo Victoria Theatre.



There are many tourist attractions in London, such as Tower Bridge, Greenwich Observatory, Big Ben, Westminster, and Warner Brothers, but my favourite is the London Eye. This large Ferris wheel offers panoramic views of London. Prices are high, but worth it. On clear days you can enjoy wonderful views. I hope everyone will get to see it with their own eyes.

Mii Kin



When I went to London on the field trip, I watched a play called Wicked. It was the first play I've seen in English. The effects and songs were amazing! I had a very good experience.

Shota Tsuda



I was able to fulfil a lifelong dream of going to Greenwich and crossing the Longitude 0 degrees. That's when my spending spree began. I nearly ran out of money. I was also able to visit tourist spots that I had only seen on TV, such as the London Eye, and several World Heritage Sites, including Big Ben. It was a nice place. I want to come back someday.

Kan Ito



I've been to London twice since coming to the UK! On my first visit I attended a memorial service at Hyde Park for Liam Payne. If I hadn't come to the UK, I wouldn't have been able to be there, so I'm really glad I made the choice to come. On my second visit, I mainly focused on shopping. I was able to buy lots of things I wanted, like clothes and hats, so I was very satisfied!

Rio Takaki



Going to London was my dream. It was a much bigger and more wonderful city than I had imagined. I was able to visit places I had always wanted to see, such as Big Ben and Tower Bridge. I had such a great time that one week wasn't enough.

Akari Fukuchi



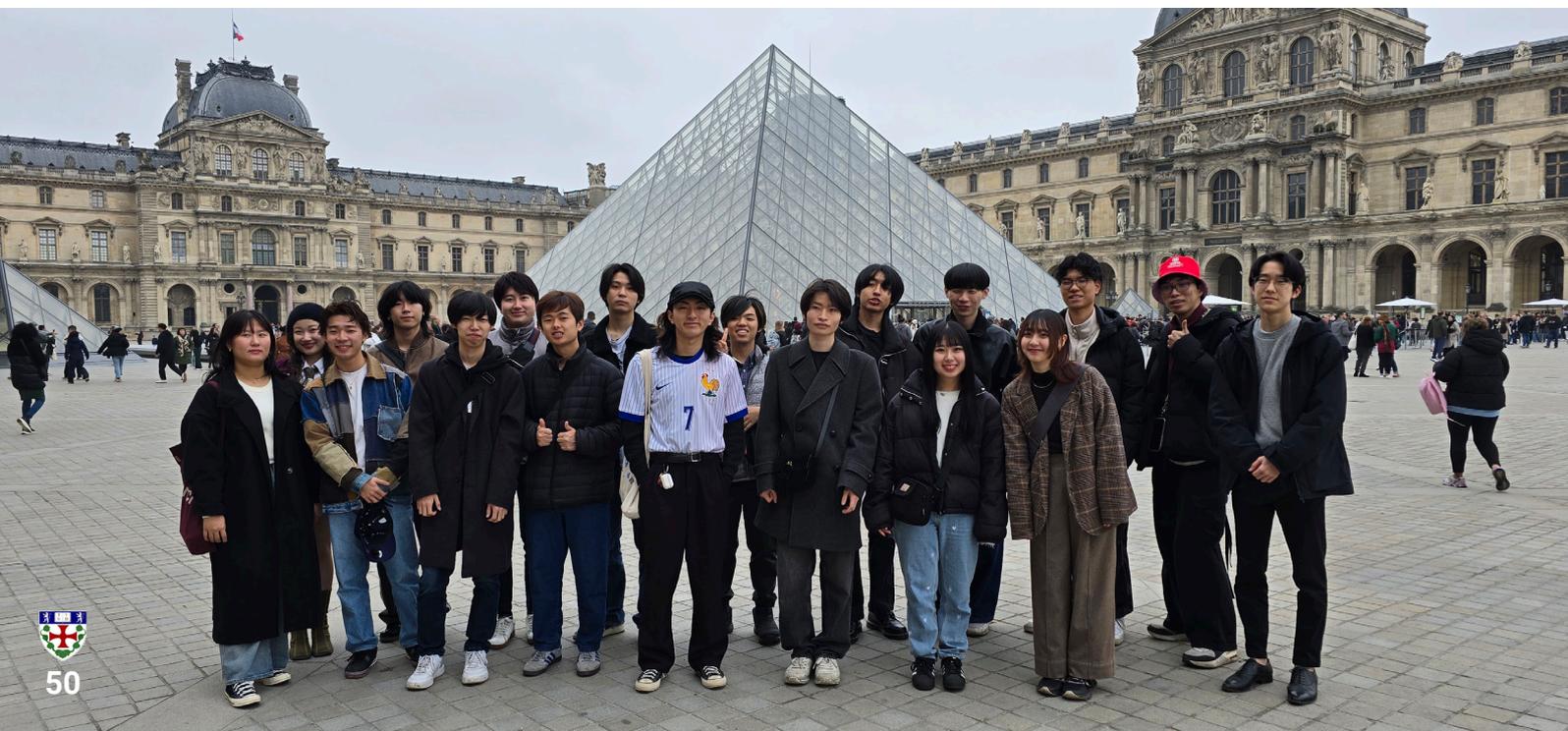
Paris

Michael, Junko and a group of students embarked on an unforgettable field trip to Paris, immersing themselves in the city's rich history, culture, and iconic landmarks. From exploring the grandeur of the Louvre and the charm of Montmartre to admiring the breathtaking views from the Eiffel Tower, every moment was filled with discovery.



It was a wonderful trip. The one week trip was long but I felt it was short because of the many stimulating experiences. The sightseeing sites were traditional, gorgeous and interesting. To be honest, every food I had was very delicious, much more than the UK. Escargot was a favourite of mine and you could get it at almost every restaurant. Also, there are many famous art museums, and I enjoyed experiencing the arts.

Hibiki Tamura



I visited Paris for the field trip. It was such a gorgeous city. I went to some of the museums such as Louvre and Orsay. I was excited to actually see the pictures I've seen in the textbooks. In addition I ate some French food like Croissant, Escargot. It was so delicious, unlike what I had ever eaten before. It became one of my favourite memories of my time studying abroad.

Toshikazu Kondo



I really enjoyed the delicious food and desserts while traveling freely with my friends in Paris. Also, the Arc de Triomphe Observatory had a 360-degree view of the city skyline and I could see all of Paris at a glance. It was so good that I want to go again.

Hyobi Song

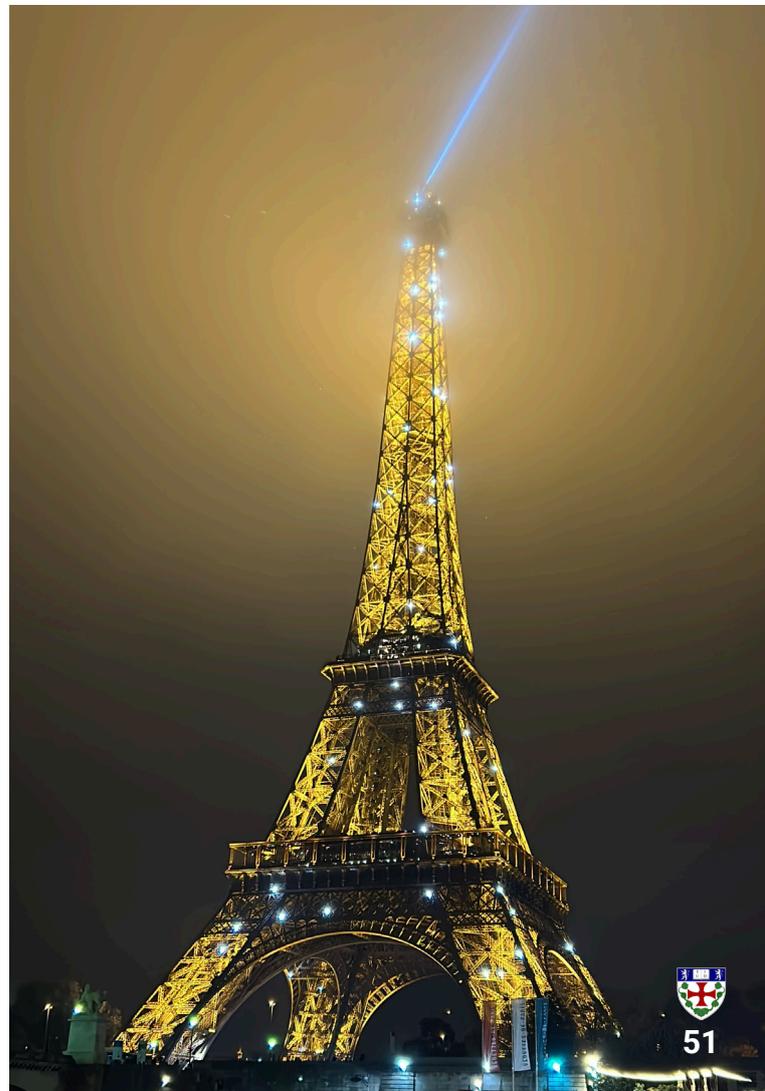


Paris was a great city for me. You can enjoy the food, culture, and history of France. You should definitely go to see the Eiffel Tower's champagne sparkle at least once. And also if you're going to France from the UK, I think you'll enjoy French food and you'll probably miss French cuisine when you go back to the UK.

Yuki Iwasaki

I went on a field trip to Paris. There are many different tourist spots. The Champagne Flash of the Eiffel Tower was the most memorable for me. It was so beautiful when I saw it, and I was truly moved. Also, all the food was delicious, and visiting various restaurants was one of my favourite things to do. In my first visit to Paris, I made memories I will never forget.

Mikoto Mutoh



Cherry Blossom

This term, in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, we welcomed renowned author Naoko Abe, who delivered a fascinating talk on Cherry Ingram and his enduring legacy.

Naoko is Japanese and an author and she has a British husband who was very funny and interesting. They did a presentation about the history of cherry blossom which has a much longer history than I thought. Before the story started, I was able to eat sushi with them and also have biscuits and coffee. While I was eating sushi, I talked with Naoko about her childhood and her two children which was so interesting. While she was doing her presentation I noticed that she really loved cherry blossom and had a passion for what she was saying. Many local people came to the event and it looked like they had so much fun. It was a really great opportunity to find out about cherry blossoms.

Hanon Oguri



Before the event we ate Sushi with Naoko. It was so delicious. We listened to her speaking whilst drinking tea. After the event, we spoke to her. I was surprised about how cherry blossom is already famous in the UK. I felt that I learned more about cherry blossom.

Yutaro Nagumo

I attended the lecture without knowing any prior information about it. Even though it was about cherry blossoms, which are so important to the Japanese people, I learned a lot of things I didn't know, which made it very interesting. The lecture was in English and I learned a lot. Afterwards the refreshments were delicious.

Kan Ito

Also in October, we were delighted to welcome Manu and Shira, a husband-and-wife comedy duo. Their workshop provided a fun and accessible way for Teikyo and Durham students to explore Manzai comedy together. Participants even took to the stage, showcasing impromptu stand-up performances using both English and Japanese.

In the Manzai comedy , we paired up with other students who were interested in Japan to create a manzai and then performed it in front of everyone. While making the skit together, it was a great opportunity to become friends with your partner. I was able to make a friend with a girl from the UK. It's a wonderful event where you can make friends through Japanese manzai.

Natsuki Inomata

I thought I was going to receive a lecture, so I was pretty passive, but it turned out to be quite interactive which was surprising. With a mysterious template of my name, hometown, and one joke, I worked extremely hard with my partner. Thanks to that, I made a friend and I think we were the best group. It was a good memory in a way.

Kan Ito



Purple Radio

Once again, our students continued to host our very own radio show, “Teikyo Time,” in collaboration with Durham University’s award-winning station, Purple Radio. With the support of Jacob, Michael and Helen, groups of students took to the airwaves every Thursday evening from 7-8 p.m. The shows were a great success, attracting listeners from far and wide!

Since it was the Christmas season, I introduced Christmas songs on my Purple Radio show. It was my first time doing a radio show, and I was very nervous, but there was also a great sense of accomplishment afterward.

Yuki Iwasaki

I was a little nervous when I had to host purple radio. But it was a lot of fun to make scripts and to decide on which music to play. I was very happy as I couldn't have this kind of experience in Japan.

Shota Tsuda



Creating the script for purple radio was really challenging. Since we were the very first group to go, I was extremely nervous, but it turned out to be such an enjoyable experience. I don't usually have many opportunities to listen to the radio, let alone to speak on one, so being able to have that experience in the UK was absolutely amazing!

Rio Takaki

Each week, a group of two or three Teikyo students presented their favourite music and topics. This valuable experience was great fun.

Hiroki Nao

This term, Michael, Debra and Jacob accompanied groups of students on school visits to St Michael's Catholic & Shincliffe C Of E primary school, where they delivered sessions on various aspects of Japanese culture. It was a rewarding and enriching experience for everyone involved.

I went to a primary school to teach Japanese to the students. I taught them how to speak Japanese by asking the children what they wanted to learn. Their Japanese was really good. I had a good time as a teacher.

Kazuki Inoue

On our trip to a primary school, I taught Japanese to 10-year-old kids. At first, I was unsure how to teach them, but I showed them greetings and how they can introduce themselves, and I really enjoyed speaking with the students.

Yuki Iwasaki

When I went to the primary school, I taught calligraphy to everyone. I was really happy to see everyone enjoying calligraphy. Also, I think it was a great experience to teach Japanese culture in English. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach calligraphy, which I'm good at, in the UK.

Mikoto Mutoh



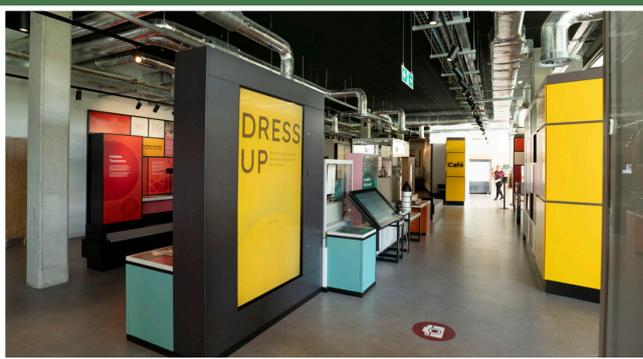
Work Experience

Some Teikyo students have the opportunity to participate in work experience placements during their time in Durham. This term, students held positions at the Oriental Museum, two primary schools, Ushaw House, The Story and Crook Hall. Here's what some of our students had to say about their placements.

The Story

I got a chance to do work experience during my time in Durham. I worked at a local museum called "The Story" as a Volunteer. There are exhibitions about Durham and you can even find out about your own family tree. The workers are very kind and care about me. There were not too many visitors so I could spend time and talk about holidays and the culture differences between Japan and Britain. I really enjoyed this experience.

Hibiki Tamura



St. Michael's Catholic & Shincliffe C Of E Primary School

I had a great experience at Esh Primary School. Sometimes the atmosphere was a little energetic but the kids were really cute so I will miss them. For me they were the most heart-warming thing in my time in the UK.

Kaichi Motono

I went to a primary school called Shincliffe school for work experience. Each week, I took a different grade class from 3 to 11 years old and sometimes I played games with them and taught a little math in class. The experience was really appreciated because I listened and talked in English.

Hanon Oguri

Crook Hall



I had a lot of fun during my work experience. I helped with making lanterns, gardening, and decorating the Christmas tree. While working, I enjoyed cups of tea prepared by the staff. Through this work experience, I was able to learn about the local culture and customs, which was very enjoyable.

Hayao Mikami

I volunteered at Crook Hall for a work experience. I was able to learn about British culture there, and it was a very valuable experience for me.

Takumi Harada

Ushaw House

I went to Ushaw house which has a chapel, museum, library and cafe. I usually worked around reception. I spoke with a lot of staff and visitors. It did not only improve my English skills but also I learned a lot about British culture. For example when I helped in the library, I found out how to borrow books in the UK. The staff were all very kind and friendly and I really liked the atmosphere. The food I had there was very delicious. I usually ate quiche and it became my favourite food.

Katsumi Kondo



Towards the end of term, students had the opportunity to assist with lectures at Durham University. This experience provided valuable insight into learning at a UK university and allowed them to forge new friendships with Durham students.



We taught Japanese for Durham students. I was in charge of a not high level class so, sometimes I needed to explain in some English. Through this Japanese class the students felt same feelings that I feel when I speak English to native speakers. It was a great experience and I was surprised by how many British people are interested in Japan.

Hibiki Tamura



When I went, there were students who were interested in Japan and asked me a lot of questions. There I was able to make friends, eat together, and have a good time. My friend said he would come to Japan someday, so I'm going to treat him at that time. I was glad I went.

Mitsuki Yoshida



I talked with Durham university students in Japanese. Their Japanese was very good. The Durham lectures allowed me to get to know some of the Durham students better.

Kazuki Inoue

In addition to assisting with lectures, some of our students were paired with a “cultural exchange partner”. This program offers a fantastic opportunity to make new friends and develop valuable skills. A big thank you to all of our language partners for participating in the program!



I was shown around Durham by my exchange partner and we went to a cafe. I learned a lot about England from him and I thought it was a very good opportunity to practice speaking English.

Shota Tsuda

I met Rebecca in the middle of September. Her age was close to mine. We spoke a lot about British life, Japanese culture, cosmetics and so on. She is going to visit Japan so, I made a promise to meet with her. I had a great time with her in the UK.

Hibiki Tamura



I met frequently with my exchange partner. It was a great opportunity to learn about the UK as well as improve my English. My time at the Durham campus will soon come to an end, but I promised to see them again. I believe this bond will last forever.

Takumi Harada

My exchange partner's name is Samuel. He has a great sense of humour. I often met and talked with Samuel and also had dinner with him. I had a great time learning about English and Chinese culture. I hope I can see him again one day.

Akito Shiga



During their time here, some of our students were paired with wonderful 'host families,' who are friends of Teikyo University. Throughout the semester, they met up for various fun activities, creating meaningful connections.

Philippa & Geoffrey

It was an encounter I never expected to have during my time in Durham. They stayed by my side until the end, even though at times I struggled with my English. I was sad I couldn't give anything back to them for all the experiences. I'm really grateful. We'll definitely meet again!

Kan Ito



My exchange family, Philippa and Geoffrey took me to many places, such as feeding animals at a zoo, watching a women's football match, and visiting castles. Things which I've never done before. I'm glad I was able to experience such nice things.

Emi Katagishi

Paul & Rebecca

During my stay in the UK I had a host family. Their names are Rebecca and Paul. They also had two dogs called Winston and Dan. Their dogs were so cute. We usually went for trips near Newcastle and visited many shopping places for example, Barbour Factory, Dalton Park and King Edward's Bay. Barbour is a famous clothes shop in UK. This shop wasn't a normal shop, because, you can buy items cheaper than a normal shop. I recommend going here. King Edward's Bay was also really fun, many dogs were running on the beach and their dog Dan was doing the same. I enjoyed it very much and am so thankful Rebecca and Paul gave me these experiences. I was so sad to say goodbye. I want to meet them again someday.

Jun Komoriya



I received a lot of support from Paul and Rebecca. They are very kind people and took me to various places in the UK. I was also treated to delicious meals. My best memory is walking along the beach with them and their dogs. I made so many happy memories with them, thank you!

Akari Fukuchi

With the arrival of December, it was time to embrace the festive spirit! Staff and students came together to decorate LHCC, including a brand-new Christmas tree in the lobby. To celebrate, we ended the term with our very own Christmas party on the final Friday.

We had a great time at our Christmas party. The teachers organised this event for us. We joined in with games like pass the parcel. I have never seen so many people smiling. Also, one of the teachers dressed up as Santa Claus. However almost everyone could guess who was it was. Everyone also got presents from him.

Masato Koshimizu

We had a Teikyo Christmas party on our last week in Durham. Our lovely teachers were in costumes and we played a lot of different kind of games. I especially enjoyed playing pass the parcel. After that Santa Claus appeared (probably Michael) and gave us gifts. At the end, we took a group photo together and it was a good memory.

Takumi Harada



All the students and teachers got together for a Christmas party! We played British-style Christmas games and had a lot of fun! The teachers were so cute in their handsome Christmas costumes! After playing Christmas games, we all ate sweets together and then Jill played the trombone with her husband and it was so great! I have good memories of singing Christmas songs together when they were playing! It was a very precious time to have a taste of a British-style Christmas party!

Kanon Sato



Christmas parties in Durham are great fun. My College had a spectacular Christmas party. There was a sumptuous dinner in a glamorous venue which will stay in my memory forever.

At the Teikyo party I experienced true British Christmas culture. We did a lot of things, such as playing British party games. Teachers also dressed up as Father Christmas and an elf and gave us presents. At the end, everyone sang Christmas songs together. Most of the songs were new to me and I couldn't sing them very well, but it was a fun memory.

Hiroki Nao



Farewell Dinner

To celebrate the completion of the course and to bid farewell, a special dinner was held at Zizzi in Durham, with all LHCC staff and students in attendance. The evening was filled with reflections on the experiences of the past few months, wonderful food and excellent service.

After the meal, the Principal and Bursar presented certificates to all students for completing their courses, along with additional awards to recognise some of our most outstanding students. It was a memorable way to conclude what has been an exceptional program, and we extend our best wishes to our students for their future endeavours.



The last time we ate a meal with Teikyo students and all the teachers was really fun. There were some great dishes the good chef cooked. I didn't intend to drink wine for fear that I couldn't speak to my friend who was going to meet me after the farewell dinner, but I drank too much wine. All of the teachers told me super nice things.

Mitsuki Yoshida

The starter was very unique. The meat was hanging on the stick. It was the first time I ate this kind of food and it became my favourite. For the main course I ordered pizza however it was too big for me, so I shared a slice of pizza with my friends. In the farewell dinner, awards were given to people who had a good test score and contributed to the lessons. In the award ceremony some people were crying because of the farewell.

Katsumi Kondo

The course meal I ate at the farewell dinner was delicious, and it was the last meal we ate together, so it was more memorable. We talked about memories we had together for half a year and shared a lot of pictures. It was a moment where emotions intersect.

Hyobi Song



After a tightly contested competition, Collingwood College emerged victorious in this term's College Championship, securing the win with a narrow ten-point lead.



This cohort has been outstanding, making it a challenging task for the teachers to select recipients for the Teikyo Awards. In the end, the following students were recognized for their exceptional efforts:

Hanon Oguri, Takumi Harada, Katsumi Kondo, Yutaro Nagumo and Waka Kashihara.



While some of our students returned to Japan in December, others embarked on a five-week stay at language schools across the UK. From Eastbourne to Edinburgh, they immersed themselves in new cities, attending classes and living with host families. Here's what they had to say about their experiences during this time!

Surprisingly there were very few people there at my Language school. When I got home, my host family was there waiting for me with a hot meal, I had a very relaxing time during the evenings. On my days off I had fun just by walking around, and I thoroughly enjoyed the nature and scenery of Edinburgh.

Kan Ito



I went to language school in Liverpool. I was the only Japanese student in this school. So I could focus on improving my English. At the end I felt that my English skills were much better. The teachers were kind and helpful, and the students were very friendly. I wanted to stay there longer, but I still had an amazing time.

Shota Tsuda

I studied English in a Leeds language school. There were many office buildings and shopping centres. Leeds is urban and busy. During Christmas there were three Christmas markets near the city centre which were beautiful and very large. The language school where I went to was small but there were many students. Most students were Arabic which made it hard to understand them but I enjoyed the challenge. I enjoyed my speaking classes, playing games and doing pair work with my teachers.

Hibiki Tamura



I went to Eastbourne. The language school is just a 3-minute walk from the sea, and the location is great. The teachers are all very kind and friendly. There are also optional activities after school almost every day, which provided me many opportunities to interact with other students, making for a fulfilling school life. The school has a cafeteria where you can relax. There were many students from Saudi Arabia in my class which I found interesting. The lessons would focus on speaking, so you can learn in a practical way. It's a wonderful language school in a great location, with kind teachers, and friendly students.

Natsuki Inomata



My language school was in Wimbledon. I was the only Teikyo student who went there. During the first week I really missed my Teikyo friends and LHCC teachers, but after Christmas I changed my mind because my host family and the other students were very kind people. They spoke to me and often invited me to do things. After school we would sometimes play tennis near the Wimbledon centre court, the most famous tennis place in the UK. On Wednesdays we would go to the local Pub after school. I had a really good time and will definitely return someday.

Jun Komoriya



The scholarship programme is a six-month course where as well as taking academic classes at Durham University and Teikyo Durham the students gain hands-on experience through various voluntary placements. This term, we were delighted to welcome back a familiar face—Waka Kashihara, who previously attended the Spring course in 2023.

Waka has excelled in both her studies and placements, demonstrating dedication, adaptability, and enthusiasm. Her contributions have been truly commendable, and she has made the most of every opportunity the programme offers. We look forward to seeing where her journey takes her next!

On my scholarship course, I have been taking not only advanced English classes on our campus but also lectures and seminars at Durham University. Having previously studied in Durham last year, I was able to improve my English skills, but the biggest difference between this course and my previous one is that the English is far more academic and provides a deeper understanding of the language.

Every Monday and Tuesday morning, I had classes at LHCC, focusing on the four key English skills. I worked on tasks such as reading articles and journals to improve my reading, analysing international issues from social, economic, environmental, and cultural perspectives. I then discussed these topics critically or presented my arguments through presentations, which helped develop my speaking skills. Based on these discussions, I would write essays to enhance my writing skills. For listening, I practiced not only through IELTS-style exercises but also through conversations in class, which naturally felt like listening practice.

My major is Global Japanese Studies, a discipline that explores how Japan and Japanese culture are perceived by other countries in terms of history, politics, literature, and social issues. Because of this, I decided to register for modules in the Japanese Studies department at Durham

University. When I compare my understanding now to when I first started the modules, I feel I have made significant progress. Every time I attended lectures and seminars, I found myself comparing my abilities to native English speakers and fluent international students, which sometimes made me feel inferior. However, these experiences also motivated me to take my English skills more seriously.

Preparing for each module was challenging due to the large number of academic papers and scholarly books used as references, but I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn from excellent teachers and meet so many students through my classes. (Some of them even attended our Teikyo Festival as guests!)

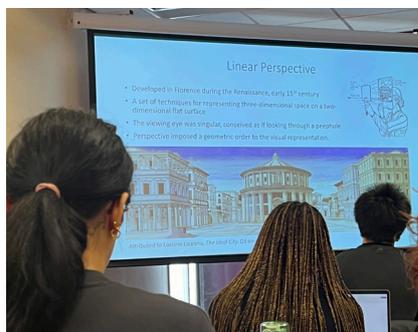


From Wednesdays to Fridays in the morning, I volunteered at the Oriental Museum and Durham Cathedral. Unlike when I talked to my friends or attended lectures, interacting with people from a wide age range sometimes confused me due to their strong accents, but I gradually got used to them through conversation.

As well as assisting with the children's club I also helped museum staff with exhibit management and entered information into Excel—tasks usually reserved for curators. I also had the chance to explain ancient Egyptian culture to schoolchildren on a social studies tour, which was a unique and valuable experience.

At Durham Cathedral, all of the volunteers were very friendly, and I felt honoured to be part of the volunteer team at one of the UK's World Heritage Sites. Every Friday morning, I enjoyed chatting with the other volunteers over a cup of coffee, discussing topics such as religious views, food culture, literature, and architecture.

This experience was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about British religious beliefs, attitudes toward faith, and the history of different parts of Durham.



I've visited many places on short trips so far, and I still can't say for certain which is the best for sightseeing. Personally, I really enjoy British films and novels from the 18th and 19th centuries, especially the world of Jane Austen. As one of England's greatest female authors, her works have always fascinated me, so for me, the most spectacular literary destination was Chatsworth House—a place believed to have inspired Pemberley in *Pride and Prejudice*.

I had wanted to visit last year but didn't have enough time, so finally going was an unforgettable experience. In early November, as the snow began to fall, I explored the Christmas market in front of the gates and the beautifully decorated interior. Walking through the vast English gardens at night, seeing stunning projection mapping displays set to enchanting music, was truly magical—something I could never have experienced in Japan.

Beyond these wonderful memories, I have also made many friends at Durham University. Sometimes, we attended events together, shared dinners, or spent hours chatting over tea in cafés. I was even invited to their homes, where we exchanged cultural experiences, and I taught them Japanese. Each of these moments is an irreplaceable memory for me.

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