



Teikyo University

of Japan in Durham

Gazette Vol. XXXVIII

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Meet Our Students



St Mary's

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Haruka Yanai
Kotone Shinozaki
Daiki Yamaguchi
Kirari Tamura
Taiga Itsukaichi
Mahiro Wada
Ayumu Yamada
Hanon Oguri
Kou Norose

Van Mildert

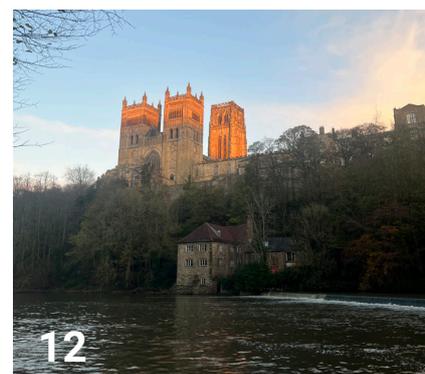
Hibika Kuruma
Eiru Oki
Tomohiro Yagi
Masaki Shirai
Yuria Yazaki
Yu Deguchi
Yui Kusaka
Risa Miura
Si Phu Lam
Yuri Chujo

Collingwood

Ryuichiro Yoshitake
Yoko Sugiyama
Jumpei Kanno
Kotoha Suzuki
Jo Yamaki
Hirochika Wada
Tomoka Sugiura
Marika Ito
Aito Takai
Miku Abe

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Principal Yukinori Okabe

To all students of the Autumn Semester 2025/26, congratulations on your completion. Having come from Japan to the UK, I trust you have experienced not only the language, but also the streetscapes, climate, and the differences in culture and customs.

This is what studying abroad is all about. It cannot be understood through videos or virtual experiences. I believe you have truly grasped the vital importance of being physically present, in the truest sense of the phrase “learning through experience”.

As each day passed, the daylight hours shortened, and from December into January, you experienced sunrise and sunset times unthinkable in Japan. Moreover, you were truly fortunate to have the chance to witness the “aurora”.

Solar corona activity has been particularly active this year, and I believe you were exceptionally lucky.

I am confident that your study abroad experience in the UK, encompassing even such cosmic celestial activity, will enrich your lives going forward. I believe you have come to understand that life in Japan is not a given – the service, prices, transport, safety, security, hygiene, and so on are not things to be taken for granted. You must strive to maintain these standards as you move forward. At the same time, I hope you have also grasped the tolerance, generosity, and the importance of tradition and history among the British people.

Whether the ‘British study experience’ you envisioned was found here in Durham is entirely up to you. Language, culture, tradition, and history are interconnected; they are deepened and shared through ‘people’. You have played a part in this.

I hope that your challenging (and enjoyable) experiences here in Durham will make your lives fruitful.



“Who has never tasted bitter knows not what is sweet”

Gottfried Leibniz

May Durham become your “home in Britain”.

The Cathedral will forever watch over this land. Please return whenever you wish. Teikyo Durham will always be here.

Prof. Yukinori Okabe, Dr.B.A

Bursar

Richard Bagshaw

This is my first message in my first Gazette, reflecting on my first course as Bursar and what an extraordinary six months it has been. The transition from 34 years in the military to my role at TUID has been both invigorating and rewarding. It has been made hugely easier by the professionalism, warmth and dedication of colleagues here at TUID and across the wider Durham University community. I am sincerely grateful for the support shown to me.

Our Autumn term students have been a pleasure to welcome and to support. They navigated the familiar challenges of the opening weeks Freshers' Week enthusiasm, the inevitable "Freshers' Flu", and a demanding academic timetable with resilience and good humour.



We were delighted to initially welcome the course at St Edmund's College in Cambridge, where the tone for the months ahead was set (and some quintessential English fun was had). From the outset, the students demonstrated energy, curiosity and ambition qualities that reflect the very best of TUID. Upon arrival in Durham, they quickly settled into Etsuko Hall, Shoichi Hall and St Mary's College. It was particularly rewarding to see how naturally friendships formed between our students and Durham University freshers residing alongside them. Our valued affiliations with St Mary's College, Van Mildert College and Collingwood College remain central to the TUID experience, with ten students affiliated to each for meals and Junior Common Room activities. These interactions undoubtedly aiding in improving the students abilities to fine tune their English language skills.

Academic engagement has remained at the heart of the term, with stimulating lectures delivered at the Lafcadio Hearn Cultural Centre and across Durham University. Educational visits to Edinburgh, York and further afield to Italy and France broadened perspectives and enriched learning beyond the classroom. Alongside this, students embraced sporting and social activities organised by TUID staff, making full use of Durham's excellent facilities. One of the highlights of the Autumn course was the Teikyo Festival which took place in October. The students and staff worked extremely hard to provide an exciting and engaging day of Japanese displays, activities and menus enjoyed by over 500 visitors. Attended by the Mayor of Durham, it was a resounding success which was attributed to the hard work and dedication that the students gave to the event. The farewell lunch in Durham provided a fitting conclusion. Watching each student receive their certificate from the Principal of TUID, signed by the Principal of their affiliated college and the Academic Registrar of Durham University was a proud reminder of what they have accomplished.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the dedication and resilience shown by the students during this autumn term and thank them for their attention, focus and for not testing my resolve too hard during this rewarding period. It has been a privilege to support them, and I wish them every success in the future.

Richard Bagshaw

MEET THE STAFF



Helen McAree
EFL Coordinator

Helen is St. Mary's college teacher. She is so cool, funny and kind. Her work was always careful and accurate, and it really helped me a lot. She always provides accurate information about events and consistently does a lot for us. Her English is very easy to understand, and she has a great sense of humour that entertains people.

Takumi Yamaguchi



Jill Johnson
EFL Tutor

She is a kind and clear-thinking person. Her Monday class was about interesting topics. When I first took her class, it was too hard to follow and I was really nervous. But she talked to me kindly, and I thought I should continue taking the classes to improve my skills.

Kotone Shinozaki



Michael Davies
EFL Tutor

Michael is a great teacher and a really cool person. He brings his British humour to class every day, which makes everyone laugh. He works hard and teaches seriously, but he also knows how to make lessons fun. He's very kind to students and always ready to help. We can talk to him about anything—school, life, or just silly things.

Yui Kusaka



Debra Pattison
EFL Tutor

Debra is a kind and powerful teacher. She explains things until you understand them and always makes lessons enjoyable. For example, in communication classes, she plays games with us or shows us her treasures. It's really fun and I love it. She's a wonderful teacher who everyone adores.

Tomoka Sugiura

Jacob Dace**EFL Tutor**

He is kind, funny but he teaches seriously but plays sports with us cheerfully. He takes photos for us too. He's always smiling, and when something makes him happy, he smiles even more. He teaches IELTS classes and explains things very clearly. If there's anything you don't understand, he'll teach you one-to-one.

Kotoha Suzuki**Terri Edwards-Okazaki****EFL Lecturer**

Terri is great teacher. She gave me so much energy and smiles. We talked a lot about football and Japan. She knew more about Japan than anyone else at LHCC. I'll never forget the days we got carried away talking about her past. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone more enthusiastic about discussing Britain than her.

Hirochika Wada**Miki Binks****Librarian**

I attended Miki's reading club. At first my pronunciation wasn't very good, but she praised me. Each time I attended, my pronunciation improved and I gained confidence. She's not only kind but also interesting. I was able to enjoy attending.

Taiga Itsukaichi**Junko Miura****International Student Coordinator**

Junko is a very kind and strong woman. I think Junko was the person who helped me the most during my study abroad. She especially took care of me when I was feeling sick. She always sent messages with kind words like "Take care of yourself," and recommended medicines sold in the UK that she thought would help.

Yuri Chujo**Catherine Thompson****Accountant**

Catherine is nice and helpful. I remember when we worked at the reception of Teikyo Festival, she told me how to offer warming greetings to the guests then direct them to what they want to experience. I admire her dedication to the job she is doing. Sometimes, if we had problems related to payment methods Catherine supported us. I appreciate this so much.

Si Phu Lam

Porters

I couldn't speak English very well at first so I tried to avoid talking much with Porter. But porters speak to me in gentle, simple English that I can understand, and they make me laugh with their humour. Lately, I look forward to going to the Shoichi Hall to collect items that I have ordered online, and I am very grateful to the Porters!

Yuri Chujo



Housekeepers

You cleaned and it made everything very comfortable. Thanks to your cleaning, I was able to relax! You also were very happy and I had a good chance to speak English with you, even if I made mistakes.

Aito Takai





CAMBRIDGE INDUCTION



After landing at Heathrow following their long journey from Japan, our students were greeted by staff and taken to a nearby hotel to rest and recover from the flight. The following morning, everyone set off for Cambridge, marking the true beginning of their UK experience.

Our time in Cambridge was centred at St Edmund's College, where students were introduced to life in the UK and the academic traditions of a historic university city. Over the next few days, they explored Cambridge through a guided walking tour, enjoyed the classic pastime of punting along the River Cam, and attended an engaging guest lecture delivered by Ann Muston.

A highlight of the visit was the formal dinner at St Edmund's, which offered students a taste of collegiate tradition. They also visited Okinaga Tower, adding a memorable cultural touch to their stay.

By the end of their Cambridge induction, students felt both settled and inspired as they prepared to continue their journey north to Durham, ready for the experiences ahead.

When I came to Cambridge, I felt like I was truly experiencing life in England for the first time. The city had a calm, welcoming atmosphere that immediately made me feel at ease. I loved walking through the historic streets, seeing the old colleges, and watching people punting on the river. Everyday life there felt peaceful and convenient—everything I needed was close by, and the city was the perfect size for comfortable living. Cambridge quickly became a place where I felt I could really settle in and enjoy my daily life.

Tomohiro Yagi



The first city I visited when I first came to England was Cambridge. I liked Cambridge more than Durham because the atmosphere of the room and the city and the convenience of transportation were very good. I vividly remember the memories of Cambridge because I went around the castle by boat and the first time I went shopping in England.

Jo Yamaki

It was my second time seeing Ann, and since last time I was inspired her passion and the way she teaches to us. She is one of the reasons that I wanted to come back to this Kingdom. Of course, this time, she was also fantastic. She taught us how important to ask questions and try anything which is new for us. I'm pretty sure she also has changed our life in Durham as well.

Hanon Oguri



My first visit to Britain was to Cambridge. It was characterised by splendid Gothic-style buildings and a beautiful river. There I was able to learn what sort of place Britain is. What I particularly liked was the beautiful streetscape. Everywhere I took a photo turned out beautifully.

Yoko Sugiyama



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.

In Durham there is a hill I really like. It has an amazing view and I can see Durham very well. At night it became even more beautiful with stunning stars overhead. Looking at it makes me happy and not tired or stressed.

Eiru Oki

When I visited Durham Cathedral, I felt very excited. The cathedral was huge and very beautiful. The tall ceiling and old stone walls made me feel like I was in a movie. I took many pictures and learned about its history. I felt proud to visit such a famous place, and I will always remember it.

Marika Ito



| Accomodation

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 had everything they needed for a comfortable stay.



I live in Etsuko Hall. At first, sharing a bathroom stressed me out, but now I live without worrying about anything. I see friends almost every day in the common room, and I can watch TV and cook. That's the great thing about Etsuko Hall.

Tomoka Sugiura

| NEWCASTLE

As part of their induction, Michael and Jacob 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.

I went to Newcastle on a day trip. I took the train from Durham to Newcastle, and the scenery along the way was so beautiful it moved me. For lunch, we went to a Japanese restaurant, and everyone was delighted to enjoy Japanese food after such a long time.

Tomoka Sugiura



COLLINGWOOD COLLEGE

As the largest college at Durham University, Collingwood offers an impressive range of facilities for students. Its excellent sports provision includes a multi-use outdoor pitch, a modern gym, and dedicated cricket nets. Beyond sport, the college features numerous social spaces, including a popular toastie café and a bar designed in the style of a traditional British pub. Collingwood also boasts a state-of-the-art theatre, which hosts a variety of performances and events throughout the year.



Collingwood College has very big events, and the sports society is really strong. Everyone loves to talk, and the college is always lively. The bar at Collingwood has big screens where you can watch football matches while having a drink, and you can also enjoy playing table tennis and billiards there!

Aito Takai

I was in Collingwood College and joined various events. The students are cheerful and funny. When big events are held, amusement park-style attractions are installed. College's bar also nice. It an opportunity to talk with college students. I was so glad to be in Collingwood college. I won't forget this memory.

Miku Abe



WINTER EVENTS

Collingwood College marked the end of term with a series of winter celebrations. From the festive Christmas lights switch-on to the Winter Ball, students enjoyed a warm and memorable conclusion to their time at the college.

Winter ball was an absolutely incredible formal party, the likes of which I'd never seen at a Japanese university. Every student brought own alcohol drinks themselves and we sang a song at the end of the Winter Ball. After party, we had drinks at the college bar. This became unforgettable memory for me.

Miku Abe

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

St Mary's College is among Durham University's most historic colleges, with a rich and evolving past. Founded originally as a women's college, it became fully co-educational in 2005. Known for its impressive architecture, the college provides an elegant setting for memorable formal occasions. Alongside its traditions, St Mary's boasts a lively student community, offering a wide range of societies, clubs, and sporting activities to suit all interests.

To be honest, I think it's the best college because it is low cost, there are heaps of events and kind students. In addition, St. Mary's College has lovely buildings. Especially, one of the most feature is the dining hall. It is super modern, and has a great hall. You might feel as though you were studying at a world famous magic school. I hope you enjoy it.

Ayumu Yamada



I belonged to the college football society and I made most of my friends there. There was practice two times a week on Tuesday and Saturday. Honestly, I was anxious before joining the soccer club because my image to overseas football was so dangerous and intense. So I didn't want to join it. However as it turns out, it was good experience for me. I made best friends there and joined various social events as a result. I was glad I took on the challenge.

Daiki Yamaguchi



WINTER EVENTS

The end of term at St Mary's College was marked by two standout events: the Christmas Formal and the Winter Ball. Filled with music, celebration, and long-standing traditions, both occasions provided a memorable conclusion to the term for students.

While I was staying in the dorms at Durham University, I belonged to St Mary's College. When Welcome Week for international students began, I made sure to join from the very first day. Thanks to that, I was able to talk with students from a variety of countries, including the United States, Canada, and Hong Kong. Interacting with such a diverse group of people not only helped me adjust to life abroad, but also gave me the chance to gain new perspectives from the very beginning of my stay. However, I wasn't able to participate in the rest of the Welcome Week events. Just three days after the week started, I suddenly caught a severe cold. My throat became extremely sore, and I developed a persistent cough that lasted for more than three weeks. Because of this, joining the remaining events became impossible. I really wish I could have participated more. I'm sure they would have been a lot of fun.

Kirari Tamura



There were two events. These were Winter ball and Christmas formal dinner. Winter ball was great event because we participated wearing a suit and tie or bow tie. I took a photo with the machine. I played a lot of games. For example it looks like the casino without spending money and we listed the jazz. It was so great. We had to wear a black suit and black tie at Christmas formal dinner. I ate a great dinner and I sang Christmas song. It was so fun!!

Kou Norose



VAN MILDERT COLLEGE

Van Mildert College is the college located closest to LHCC and plays an important role in daily student life. It is home to the largest student dining hall in the UK, and Teikyo University shares a tennis court with the college, highlighting the close relationship between the two communities. Van Mildert is well known for its friendly atmosphere and picturesque lake, with its resident ducks often making appearances near LHCC. The college also hosts large social events and formal dinners throughout the year, which our students are pleased to attend.



I still remember that I wondered what my college was like when I was assigned to Van Mildert in Durham University. If you were here with me now to experience what I have been experiencing, you might visualise what I'm telling you right now. I felt warmly welcoming here. The school facilities are modern, the school staff, including catering, the Feps's members and receptionist are kind and supportive. There are many different types of communities offered for students to participate in, and formal dinners which are held for us to encourage interaction among students and to develop dining etiquette. To put it in a nutshell, Van Mildert is my second home when I live here in Durham University.

Si Phu Lam



WINTER EVENTS

Van Mildert College brought the term to a close with a range of winter celebrations. From the festive Christmas Formal Dinner to the Michaelmas Ball, students enjoyed a welcoming and memorable end to their time at the college.

This college is so good. Food, bar, friends and events. There are many people in Van Mildert College. I think you can make friends easily. There are also many students studying Japanese so you can experience teaching Japanese and being taught English. There is the bar in this college. You can also go to a bar with friends you made in college. It is so fun. Winter Ball is the best event. This college is so great.

Masaki Shirai

This college has a large lake with many ducks! The people at this college are mostly kind, and I think everyone is friendly. The dining hall is spacious and clean. It even has a bar inside, making it a rather good college. And many events are held too. It's great fun.

Yuria Yazaki

FRESHERS' WEEK

As the Durham academic term began, our students were already well settled and ready to take part in Freshers' Week activities. Highlights included the Sports and Societies Fair at Maiden Castle, where students explored the wide range of clubs on offer, alongside a series of welcome events held within their colleges. Together, these activities offered a great opportunity to meet new people, get involved, and ease into university life.



At the beginning of September, freshers week was held in Durham University. I joined a lot of events of Collingwood college. At first, I was so nervous and scary to talk with people from overseas. But they were kind so much. If I could not speak English well, they kindly tried to listen. Then, I went to a night club with them. It was very interesting and exciting. I took many photos with them. I prefer the British one more than the Japanese one. Speaking English is scary, but taking that first step will definitely make for a great memory. It was the my best memory in my studying abroad.

Miku Abe





There were loads of societies, and they all looked way more serious than the ones back in Japan. If you make eye contact, they start recruiting you, so when you walk past a club you're not interested in, it's best to just look up and pretend you're admiring the ceiling. I was wandering around checking everything out when a rather suspicious man stopped me, and before I knew it, I was being interviewed. They pointed a camera at me, clipped a mic onto my shirt, and boom — the interview had already started. I had absolutely no idea what they were saying. Why? Because it was all in English. Still, it turned out to be a pretty good experience in the end.

Eiru Oki





SPORTS & SOCIETIES

While studying in Durham, students are able to take part in a wide range of sports and societies. These opportunities are offered through the university, individual colleges, and student-led groups. From discovering new activities to staying active and meeting others with shared interests, there are many ways for students to get involved. Below is a selection of the sports and societies they enjoyed this term.



I belonged to the Collingwood Football Society. This society is bigger than other society. It has 16 teams. There are teams from A to P. However, this team is very interesting. They are not ranked in order of strength from A upwards. Each team has its own significance: the O team is semi-professional level, while the P team is recreational. I belonged to the L team. I thoroughly enjoyed league matches and practice. I was absolutely delighted to have played football in Britain. I would urge everyone to experience it.

Hirochika Wada



One of the most exciting sports I have participated in here is tennis. The school organised this outdoor activity in a small group every two or three weeks to make sure that we had the opportunity to join. Even though some of us do not know the rules, Jacob who was in charge told us briefly about those, so we had a great time pratising and playing it then. The tennis court is not far away from the LHCC, so it was like kill two birds with one stone, we enjoyed sporting time right after study.

Si Phu Lam



During my study abroad period, I joined the Kendo Society, and the experience turned out to be incredibly valuable. Since I had practiced Kendo in Japan, I wanted to continue training while in the UK as well. The members were very kind and easy-going, and they made me feel welcome from the very first day.

Hibika Kuruma

Maiden Castle gym is great gym in Durham University. It has high quality equipment. However, compared to Japanese gyms, the quality isn't particularly good. And people over here leave things untidy, which is very troublesome. Nevertheless, British people are very kind and friendly. When I speak to them, they always respond very kindly. And the gym has a really good atmosphere, making it easy to concentrate. If you commit to three months, you'll be in excellent shape by the time you return to Japan.

Hirochika Wada



When I visited Etsuko I felt very excited. Because Etsuko gym is convenient and always empty. Moreover Etsuko gym is free that I think the most important good thing. And the water dispenser at Etsuko's gym tastes so great. I think that water is the most delicious in the UK.

Takumi Yamaguchi

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

This term offered students a varied programme of activities designed to encourage creativity, connection, and community engagement. On campus, students took part in hands-on and social sessions such as pottery painting, a Japanese dance lecture led by the Okinaga Junior Fellow, and weekly Open House meetings, where they played games, practised English, and built friendships. Students also contributed beyond the classroom through beach clean initiatives, local school visits, and supporting lectures at Durham University. In addition, they enjoyed a day visit to the historic city of York, exploring another part of the UK together. Visits from therapy dogs Dash, Monty, and Pam provided a welcome opportunity to relax and recharge.

| LAFCADIO HEARN EVENT

At the end of October, I joined Lafcadio Hearn event at Ushaw. This event was to teach Durham children about Japanese culture. I was in charge of Japanese language. It was a bit hard for me to deal with children in English. For adults, they give topics to talk about and tried the best to understand my poor English. However, for children, it was different. So I was very confused.

Miku Abe



| PAM, DASH & MONTY

I met a dog named Dash last week. I had never seen that kind of dog before, so I was very surprised. He was so cute and very friendly. He came to me and wagged his tail, so I felt happy right away. I really enjoyed meeting him.

Haruka Yanai

Two Bedlington Terriers named Dash and Monty, along with their owner Pam, visited our school. I had a chance to interact with the dogs, and it was very calming. They were gentle and friendly, and touching their soft fur made me feel relaxed. It was a warm and happy experience.

Mahiro Wada



| OKINAGA JUNIOR FELLOW LECTURE - ALICE BALDOCK

In LHCC, Alice gave a lecture about Butoh. She taught me about the history and greatness of it. Her dance was so incredible I couldn't find the words. And the exercise we did during the lecture is what left the strongest impression on me. When I was in Japan, I've only heard the word "Butoh". So, I had never tried it. It was a very good experience.

Miku Abe



| POTTERY PAINTING

It was a painting activity where we could choose one design from about four options and decorate it freely. The options were a chick, Frankenstein, a butterfly, and a mug, and I chose Frankenstein. I think being able to design it freely was a good point. Since I don't have many opportunities to do this kind of activity in Japan, I was really glad to experience it. Also, because it's not something you can easily buy, I think it makes a nice souvenir to take back to Japan.

Risa Miura

We all painted the duck, and besides the duck, we painted our favourite ceramics like Frankenstein and butterflies. I painted a swimsuit on the duck.

Kotoha Suzuki



| BEACH CLEAN

Plastic does not decompose naturally, so collecting them is extremely important. Listening to the sound of the waves and feeling the sea breeze, I picked up waste along the shore. There was a lot of trash around the seaweed, so I walked beside them. By the end of the clean-up, my bag was so full that I couldn't even lift it. It felt great to enjoy lunch afterward while looking at the beautiful scenery.

Kotone Shinozaki

Having come here from Japan, I was overjoyed to finally be able to properly stand by the sea and gaze at the view. There was less litter than I'd expected, and though I did walk about, picking things up as I found them, it felt more like a stroll along the shore than an actual litter-picking session – which I reckon was rather lucky.

Ryuichiro Yoshitake



SCHOOL VISITS

I went to Durham's primary school and teach how to wear Yukata and chopsticks. I was delighted that all the children worked so diligently. I tried my best to speak in English so the children could understand me. This is very good experience for me.

Tomoka Sugiura

When I taught calligraphy, they were a little unsure at first about how to use the brush, but they quickly got the hang of it. It was really nice to see how proud they were when they could write Japanese characters on their own. Even simple words made them smile, and that made me really happy too.

Aito Takai

DURHAM UNIVERSITY LECTURE ASSISTANCE



I went to Durham University to teach Japanese. I was paired with a girl from China. We talked about places we wanted to go. My partner said he wanted to go to Sapporo. I had a meaningful time. I was able to connect with my partner on Instagram!

Marika Ito

I will be teaching Japanese at a college located a little away from the school. I'll be paired up with a local student to teach Japanese. It's very simple, I just answer questions about myself during an interview. I can also have conversations in English, so it will be a very good experience.

Ayumu Yamada





| OPEN HOUSE

Open House is one of the most fantastic school activities I have experienced. I met many wonderful friends from DU and spent great time chatting and playing board games with them. Additionally, they shared some interesting facts about England that I hadn't heard from my teachers in school. Some of them invited us over for cozy dinner. I felt very welcomed and happy meeting them every Tuesday evening. If you come here the next semester, I think you should meet them at least once to figure out yourself what I have just told you!

Si Phu Lam

Open House is a place where you can interact with Christian Union. It's a great opportunity to practice speaking English and to make friends. You can play games and talk together. If you don't have many opportunities to interact with local students, then this is the place to go. Everyone is very kind. I think it will be a very fulfilling study abroad experience, as we can go to events together and be invited to home parties. I think it was a great experience.

Masaki Shirai

I went to the Open House events. We chatted, ate snacks, played cards, and I really enjoyed carving a pumpkin. On the first day we met, we went to the observation hill, and the scenery was impressive. With all the lights in the busy city, I can't usually gaze at the stars, so it was a memorable day for me. On the day close to Halloween, we made Halloween pumpkins. I had never carved a pumpkin before, so it was extremely fun! I still miss my pumpkin that I threw out.

Kotone Shinozaki

| MANZAI COMEDY - FRANNPONAI



Manzai, the well-known traditional style of comedy in Japan, was introduced as an extracurricular activity in this course. Apart from learning something interesting about Japanese culture, I personally think that was funny and relaxing as well. We made a group of 2 or 3 to create our own comedy based on techniques we had been taught. After that, we performed it in front of the class and we bursted into laughter. This activity was worth experiencing ever!

Si Phu Lam

YORK TRIP



York is a one of the most historical places in the UK. That has many kind of shops and brilliant townscapes. My favourite place in York is York Minster there was fantastic exterior. If you go to York, I recommend viewing buildings.

Yoko Sugiyama



TEIKYO FESTIVAL

On 21 October, the Teikyo Festival returned as a highlight of the academic calendar. Planned and delivered by students and staff, the event welcomed hundreds of visitors and offered a vibrant celebration of Japanese culture.

The programme featured a variety of activities and performances, including calligraphy, tea tasting, origami, and Japanese language class, alongside demonstrations from local Aikido and Kobudo clubs, and freshly prepared yakisoba. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed, the festival also raised hundreds of pounds for local charities.

During the Teikyo Festival I dressed people in yukatas. Many guests came on the day. It was enjoyable chatting with all sorts of people. I learnt how to put on a yukata and had a good experience chatting with people. I was delighted my friends came along. It was great fun having yakisoba and drinking matcha.

Yuria Yazaki



I was in charge of some visual content for the Teikyo Festival. I designed the T-shirt, the poster, and the cover of the programme. It was really fun and a great experience. I also worked on the welcome sign with my friends. The theme of the sign was the Japanese artwork “Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji.” I like the part where the “O” in “Teikyo” is designed as a red circle, representing the iconic Japanese sun. It was challenging to design so many things, but I’m glad that I could feel a sense of connection to the Teikyo Festival!

Kotone Shinozaki



The Teikyo Festival is a winter event held once a year. I served matcha tea. I played Japanese music and used real tea cups so people could feel Japan. My host family and friends came, and I had a lot of fun. The yakisoba stall was especially popular. I didn’t have time to eat any, so I really wanted to try it.

Risa Miura

The Teikyo Festival is a fun festival where students from Teikyo University in Japan can enjoy and learn about Japanese culture, food, and customs with people from other countries. Everyone worked together in unity and preparation, and it turned out to be the best festival ever. Many people also enjoyed themselves, and we were able to communicate with many different people, so it was great.

Yu Deguchi



There was Teikyo Festival on October 18th and It’s an event where people can experience Japanese culture and food. Then among the many roles, my role was fried noodles and I distributed it to customers. Our store came many people, so I have to move quickly and it was so busy. But it was a good experience for me to talk with customers in English and make the food.

Daiki Yamaguchi

Volunteering

Some Teikyo students have the opportunity to volunteer during their time in Durham, allowing them to gain practical experience while improving their English and engaging with the local community. This term, students held positions at the Oriental Museum, two local primary schools, Ushaw Historic House, The Story, and Crook Hall. Each placement offered a unique insight into British work culture and daily life. Here's what some of our students had to say about their experiences.

USHAW HOUSE

I went to Ushaw House for work experience. Ushaw House was formerly used as a training college for priests. But now it is a museum. There are a lot of chapels, hall, museum, temporary exhibition, cafe and library. By the way, I would like to share my experience. I usually work as a receptionist, sometimes I carry things. For example, I carried tables, flowers and Halloween objects. It was so great!! I had a great time!!

Kou Norose



CROOK HALL

It was a truly valuable experience and thoroughly enjoyable. Harvesting apples in particular was a first for me and I found it immensely fun. And the work in the greenhouse was very rewarding. There was tea time every day, and everyone spoke to me kindly. I wish you all the best for the future. Thank you ever so much.

Hibika Kuruma

| SHINCLIFFE SCHOOL

I went to primary school for work experience. It's called Shincliffe School. At first I was very nervous, because I couldn't speak and listen English well. However teachers and students were very kind, so I could relax. I taught maths in class, but it was so difficult for me to teach in English. I went to the school again. This experience was so great time for me. Thanks to this, I was able to get used to English.

Masaki Shirai



| ESH SCHOOL

I learned a lot of things from British school. The approach to education entirely different from Japanese education. I was surprised that even young children were learning how to pronounce words. And this school is a Catholic school. It is very interesting so I was learning "mass". Mass is the most important "Eucharistic celebration" performed in the Catholic Church. It was a very good experience. The children from abroad were amazingly proactive, and I felt Japan could learn from them. This will be a fond memory.

Hirochika Wada



| THE STORY

When I was assigned to do work experience in The Story Museum, I was a little bit nervous because my history-related English was poor. However, since I met the friendly staff here, like Stepth, John and Mike, I have gradually become more confident by practicing speaking English with them, learning a variety of knowledge related to preserving historical objects, storing archives as well as managing local people's birth, death and marriage information. It feels like I was on cloud nine. This is not only an opportunity for me to enhance my English proficiency, but also a once in a lifetime experience to make friends and understand more about English culture.

Si Phu Lam



FLORENCE FIELD TRIP



In November, Helen and Jacob led a group of students on a field trip to Florence, where they explored the city's rich history, art, and culture. The visit included a guided walking tour of Florence, a museum trip to the renowned Uffizi Gallery, and plenty of time to experience the city's streets, cafés, and atmosphere. The trip also featured a day visit to Venice, offering students the chance to discover its canals and historic centre, making the journey a memorable and rewarding experience.





I visited Florence and Venice in Italy. Venice was a place I had always wanted to visit at least once in my life. Florence was perfect in every way, and the food was especially amazing. I highly recommend trying panini — they were delicious! The food in Florence was so delicious! Black truffles were everywhere, and they were much cheaper than in Japan. At Piazzale Michelangelo, listening to music while watching the sunset and the city made me feel amazing.

Aito Takai

I went to Florence and in Italy for field trip. This trip was the most memorable in my life. In Florence, I ate a lot of delicious foods, saw historical buildings and bought a lot of things. Especially, when I ate a panini, I was so impressed it was unbelievably delicious. I made many great memories with my friends. I had a wonderful time with the best friends I met while studying abroad. I will never forget this memory for the rest of my life.

Miku Abe



PARIS FIELD TRIP

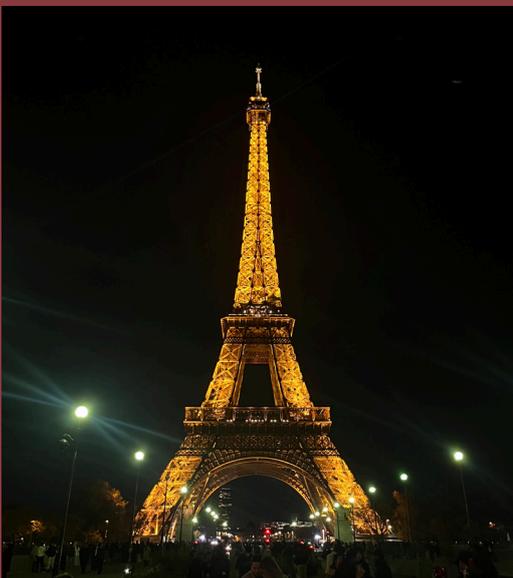
In November, at the same time as another student group travelled to Italy, Michael and Junko led a group of students on a field trip to Paris, offering an exciting introduction to the city's culture and iconic landmarks. Highlights of the visit included a day at Disneyland Paris and a tour of the impressive Palace of Versailles, alongside time to explore Paris itself. From world-famous sights to Parisian streets and cafés, the trip was filled with memorable experiences and discoveries.

This month, I went on a trip to France. I visited Paris, where I saw the famous Louvre Museum and the Palace of Versailles. It was amazing to see such beautiful art and historic buildings. I also went to Disneyland Paris, which was so much fun! Finally, I tried KFC in France, and it was different from the one in Japan. I really enjoyed my trip and hope to visit France again someday.

Kirari Tamura

I went to Paris in France at field trip. Paris was very good place, because Paris has a lot of famous sightseeing spots so, I felt four nights and five days aren't enough. I visited the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the palace of Versailles and the Louvre Museum. These places are very beautiful and cool. I really wanted to see the Mona Lisa before I die so I felt so glad.

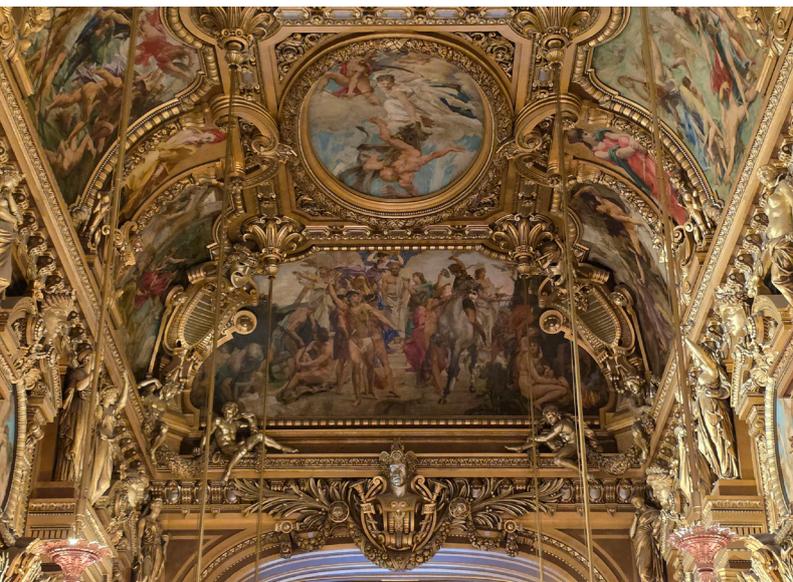
Takumi Yamaguchi





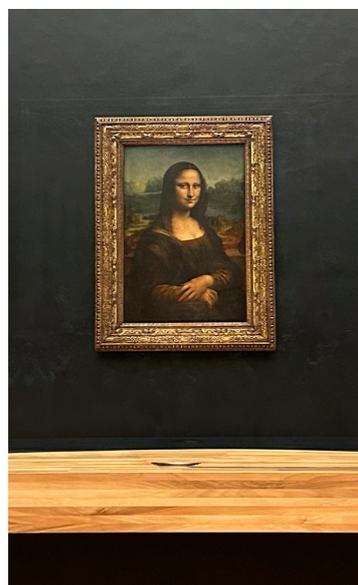
I visited Paris on a five day Field trip. We split into groups: some went to the Palace of Versailles, others to Disneyland Paris, and some visited both. The students were able to manage almost entirely on their own, so they planned and selected the places they wanted to visit themselves. It was a wonderful memory.

Tomoka Sugiura



I went to Paris. The city was full of buildings that looked like something out of a movie, and it was beautiful. The restrooms were cleaner than I expected, but the streets were dirty. The Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe really made me feel the essence of Paris. The food was delicious, and overall it was a wonderful experience .

Mahiro Wada



I visited Paris and spent time exploring the Louvre, where the vast collection of art was truly impressive. I also took a trip to the Palace of Versailles and was amazed by its grand architecture and beautiful gardens. Seeing the Eiffel Tower up close, especially at night, was one of the highlights of my trip. Overall, these iconic sites made my visit to Paris unforgettable.

Jumpei Kanno

LUXMURALIS & LUMIERE

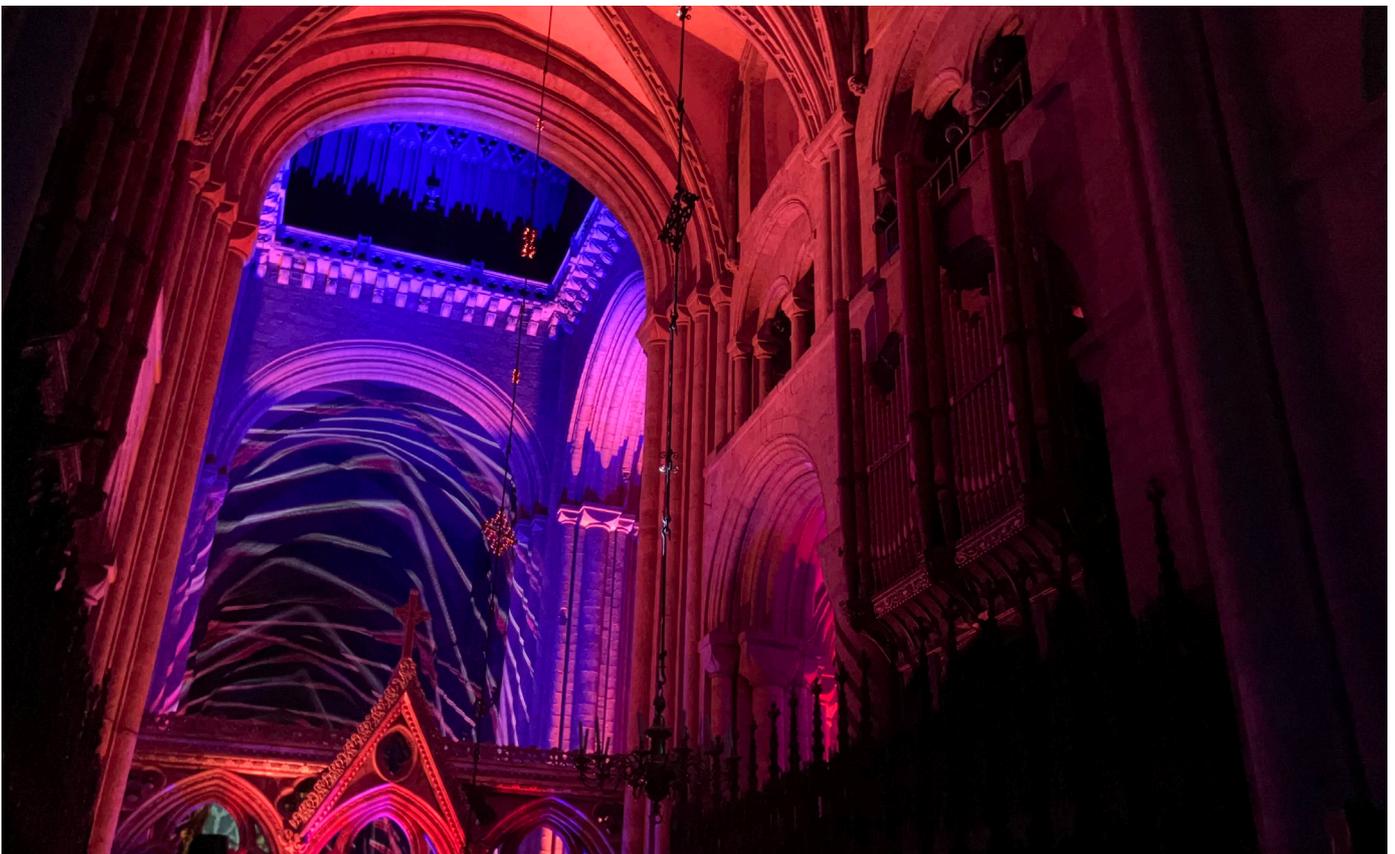
This term, students experienced two of Durham's most striking light events: Luxmuralis and Lumiere Durham. These spectacular installations transformed familiar city spaces into immersive displays of light, colour, and sound, offering a unique way to experience Durham after dark. From large-scale projections to intricate illuminated artworks, the events provided a memorable opportunity to engage with art and culture in an inspiring setting.

The Lumiere Event in Durham on November 13th was a wonderful experience. The city was beautifully lit up, and familiar places looked completely different at night. I was impressed by how art and technology created a magical atmosphere, and walking around with friends made it even more special. It helped me feel the charm of Durham more deeply.

Daiki Yamaguchi

I went to Lumiere with my friends. As it's an annual event, there were many splendid decorations. There were also lots of people there, and it was great fun. When I went inside Durham Cathedral, I was moved by the many beautiful decorations. I'd like to go again if I get the chance.

Taiga Itsukaichi





I went to Luxmuralis in Durham Cathedral. It was really good sound and light. Light projections are projected on walls and arches. There are similar things in Japan, but the experience here is different. It's rare to have the opportunity to visit a cathedral in Japan, so please take this opportunity to visit. I think it will be an unforgettable experience. If you have time, please try it. I recommended it!

Masaki Shirai



First, the bass notes in the music were exhilarating. They resonated beautifully within the cathedral, leaving a lasting impression. Furthermore, the various visual elements were stunningly presented, and I imagine many found the spectacle quite fantastical. It was a truly wonderful evening.

Ryuichiro Yoshitake



WEEKEND TRIPS

During their time in the UK, many students made the most of their weekends by organising trips across the country and even further afield. Whether it was exploring the cultural hubs of Glasgow, Manchester, and Liverpool, or hopping on a plane to places like Dublin, Amsterdam, Barcelona, and London, these trips offered unforgettable memories, independence, and the chance to experience new cultures beyond the classroom.

| Switzerland

I spent four days in Switzerland. Visiting Interlaken and Grindelwald was incredibly soothing. I was able to spend four days surrounded by beautiful scenery and a very peaceful atmosphere. The mountain views were particularly splendid – it was such a worthwhile experience. The Swiss people were very kind and helped me out a lot of times. There were plenty of mishaps, like being bitten by a dog while taking photos, or nearly missing my flight because there were no trains in the morning. Even so, it turned out to be a very good trip.

Hirochika Wada



| Manchester

I travelled to Manchester to watch a Manchester City match. I saw Manchester City play Liverpool, and the intensity and pace were far more impressive than watching on television. I was delighted they won 3-0. Seeing the Premier League, which I'd long wanted to witness, became a memory I'll cherish for life.

Taiga Itsukaichi



| Norwich

I travelled to the town of Norwich in Norfolk over a weekend at the end of November. I was able to stroll around the town, visit the coast, and enjoy a leisurely pace. The weather was also splendid, so I managed to take many beautiful photographs.

Ryuichiro Yoshitake



| Lake District

The Lake District is a fantastical tourist destination rich in nature, accessible for a day trip from Durham. It is famous for being the birthplace of the poet Wordsworth and for housing the museum of Peter Rabbit, the world's most famous rabbit. Here I was able to take sightseeing trips aboard steam locomotives and ships.

Yoko Sugiyama



| LONDON

I travelled to London. I stayed in London for four days. Even though it was my first time, I was deeply impressed by how beautiful the City of London is. I did a lot of shopping in London. I walked around London all day and managed to do a lot of shopping, which was great fun. I would like to go to London again.

Yuria Yazaki

| Prague

The entire town is a World Heritage site, so it was a place I'd always wanted to visit. The whole town was truly beautiful, like stepping into a movie set. We toured for three days and encountered some trouble, but we managed to enjoy it thoroughly. I'd love to go back again when I'm older.

Tomoka Sugiura



I've not really gone shopping before in England, but I ended up spending about £300 without even thinking, and I was honestly surprised at myself. The views were wonderful. I saw Big Ben and other places I only knew from movies or pictures, and it was really moving.

Eiru Oki

HOST FAMILIES

As part of their time in Durham, some of our students were matched with welcoming host families—long-standing friends of Teikyo University. Over the semester, they spent time with Paul and Rebecca, Christine and Anthony, Leigh Ann, and Philippa and Geoffrey, enjoying shared meals, outings, and relaxed afternoons together. These experiences fostered genuine connections and offered students a valuable insight into everyday life in the UK. We are extremely grateful to our host families for their generosity and for sharing their time and homes with our students.



When I met host family Paul and Rebecca who are very kind. They were invited me to their house for eat dinner. I surprised to eat dinner. Because, that dinner is very delicious. I think that they are Michelin-starred chefs. And they showed me around Durham. I felt very happy to eat delicious food and visit local places. These were such good experiences also It became unforgettable memories. I'm glad I met their.

Takumi Yamaguchi

My host family was very kind. They took me to a lot of different places. For example, Edinburgh, Seaham and Tynemouth. I also went to my host family's house and ate waffles. They taught me a lot and we talked about a lot of things. I was very sad to say goodbye.

Marika Ito



Leigh Ann was really kind and super friendly. I went to Newcastle with her, and she tried really hard to understand my English. We talked a lot about Japan and the UK, as well as our hobbies. She was also really interested in Japan! We had such a wonderful time together.

Haruka Yanai

EXCHANGE PARTNERS

In addition to spending time with host families, some of our students were also paired with a cultural exchange partner. Throughout the semester, they met regularly to share conversations, learn about each other's cultures, and practise their language skills in a relaxed setting. These meetings helped students build new friendships while gaining confidence in English and experiencing another side of life in Durham. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our language partners for taking part and helping make the programme so enjoyable.



The exchange partner was a really good experience. My exchange partner could speak Japanese. We went to lunch together with each other's friends. We talked a lot about each other's culture. We built a really good relationship. We had a really great time.

Mahiro Wada

My language partner is very kind and friendly. We send messages to each other on Instagram to check our schedules, and then we meet in Durham to walk around the city, take photos, and have lunch together. Thanks to this, I am no longer afraid to speak English. At first, I worried a lot about whether my grammar was correct or if I was using the right words, but my partner spoke kindly and clearly and listened carefully to my English. Because of this, I gradually became more confident when speaking. Through this experience, I learned how fun it is to speak English, and it made me want to study even more.

Kirari Tamura



FAREWELL DINNER



To mark the end of the course and celebrate the term together, staff and students gathered at Zizzi in Durham for a special farewell meal. The evening was filled with good food, warm reflections, and plenty of smiles. Following the meal, certificates were presented by the Principal and Bursar, along with special awards recognising a number of outstanding students. It was a fitting way to bring a memorable term to a close and send our students off with best wishes for the future.

At this lunch, everyone beamed with smiles as they enjoyed conversation and their meal. The meal looked nice and tasted delicious. Finally, the awards ceremony took place, and the announcement of the College Battle results proved to be the most exciting and enjoyable part.

Yoko Sugiyama

We had our last dinner. It was very happy. I really glad to my teachers. I'm happy. Because all my teachers are very nice people. I proud of my teachers. I was very funny to eat with my friends and teacher. I'm glad I get certificate.

Yu Deguchi



After a closely contested competition, St Mary's College emerged as the winners of this term's College Championship, securing victory by a narrow margin. This cohort has been truly exceptional, making it a challenge for the teaching staff to select just a few students for special recognition. In acknowledgement of the dedication, progress, and positive spirit shown throughout the course, a number of students were presented with Teikyo Awards during the farewell dinner. Congratulations to all who received them.



Farewell lunch was very good time. I really enjoyed the time we spent talking together while eating delicious food. I think that was the best lunch time in my life. I can't believe that our time here as a study abroad is nearly over. Farewell lunch was a great way to bring our study abroad experience to a close. The teacher's words really touched my heart and moved me.

Takumi Yamaguchi

CHRISTMAS PARTY



With the arrival of December, it was time to embrace the festive spirit across LHCC. Staff and students came together to decorate the centre, adding seasonal touches throughout the building and placing a brand-new Christmas tree in the lobby. The decorations helped create a warm and cheerful atmosphere as the term drew to a close. To celebrate the season, we finished the term with our very own Christmas party on the final Friday, giving everyone a chance to relax, enjoy the festivities, and spend time together before the holidays.



At the end of the term, we had a Christmas party in LHCC. We played a lot of games and enjoyed Karaoke. Our teachers wore Christmas costumes and made us fun. They are so kind and friendly that I love them. Michael's Santa gave us Christmas presents. At that time, I felt like It's a reward for working harder.

Miku Abe



It was a very fun party. We danced, ate sweets, and sang songs. The teachers were also in costumes, which made it even more exciting. It was especially nice that dancing together made it feel special. And I was happy because Santa gave us presents.

Mahiro Wada

The LHCC Christmas party had amazing vibes. There were loads of snacks and drinks, fun games, and great music. We danced, chilled out, and had a good laugh while chatting with everyone. The teacher's playlist was basically DJ-level.

Aito Takai

Christmas in the UK was very lively and grand. At the school party, we ate sweets, drank juice, and karaoke. I was able to communicate with many teachers and talk with students, so I spent a very valuable time.

Ayumu Yamada

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

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

| Edinburgh

I attended CES Edinburgh for three weeks. One of the school's unique features is that it has two weeks off during the five-week language course period. All the teachers were kind, offering personal English advice and identifying each student's strengths and weaknesses, which I found very helpful. The office staff also listened kindly to our concerns. In the common room, we could chat with other students every day while enjoying free drinks (green tea, black tea, hot chocolate, etc.). My class included people from France, Saudi Arabia, and Argentina. Ages varied, with some having just graduated high school, others on working holiday visas, and some working while studying to become English teachers.

Yuri Chujo



| Liverpool

I went to the LILA language school in Liverpool. At This school I learned to basic skills and how to communications with other people. I think this school has many different international people for instance Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Poland, Mongolia, and France etc. If you go to the LILA language school, you will have an obtaining lovely experience. I wish you luck .

Ayumu Yamada



| Worthing

There were not many students, but the lessons felt almost like private lessons. Because of that, I was able to interact closely with the teacher. The teacher was very friendly, and the explanations were clear and easy to understand. Thanks to the close distance with the teacher, learning English was very effective and enjoyable.

Aito Takai

| Eastbourne

I learned English at St.Giles in Eastbourne. I had a really brilliant time there. There was a lot of things on there. For example, I made many friends from different countries. (Brazilian, Swiss, Saudi Arabian, etc...) , I joined the school actively and there was great cafeteria because that chef from Italy so I ate delicious Italian food!! I recommend it!!!

Kou Norose



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Scholarship Programme is a six-month course combining academic study at Durham University and Teikyo Durham with practical experience through voluntary placements. This term, we were delighted to welcome back a familiar face—Hanon Oguri, who previously attended the Spring course in 2024. Hanon has excelled in both her studies and placements, showing great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the programme. We wish her every success in the next stage of her journey.

I had the opportunity to return to the United Kingdom once again. During my stay, I spent most of my time in Durham, which I found to be a particularly beautiful and welcoming city. When I first arrived in the UK, it was my first time travelling by airplane after many years.

I was excited about everything that lay ahead of me. In my first class, Helen suggested that I join the academic course. I accepted her advice and enrolled in the course. At the beginning, I felt overwhelmed and doubted whether I truly belonged in such an academically demanding environment. However, instead of giving up, I challenged myself to improve. In the end, I successfully completed the course and graduated as the top student.

After returning to Japan, I felt unfulfilled and strongly motivated to continue pushing myself further. I joined a Christian community where native English speakers were involved in missionary work in Japan.

Once all preparations for my scholarship were complete, I returned to the UK as a scholarship student. During this academic course, I was inspired by my classmates, particularly one student named Si-Phu, who possessed an exceptional vocabulary and a calm, kind personality. Throughout the course, I greatly enjoyed discussions and conversations with my classmates, including Jill, Terry, Si-Phu, and Kotone. In addition to my studies, I volunteered at Durham Cathedral and the Oriental Museum. These experiences helped me discover that I am particularly skilled at interacting with people, especially children, which was a meaningful personal realization. I was also able to attend classes at Durham University.

Particularly the translation course, which were extremely valuable and intellectually stimulating. Outside of academics, I cherished my time at St Mary's College, where I built strong friendships. My friends' humour, energy, and support made my college life unforgettable. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities I was given and for the people I met. I sincerely hope to return to Durham in the future in a new capacity. Until then, I will carry these memories and lessons with me. Whether you are the CAS student or not, I strongly recommend to come and study and learn English with "The best teachers in the world" here in Durham.

I will miss you all.

Hanon Oguri







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