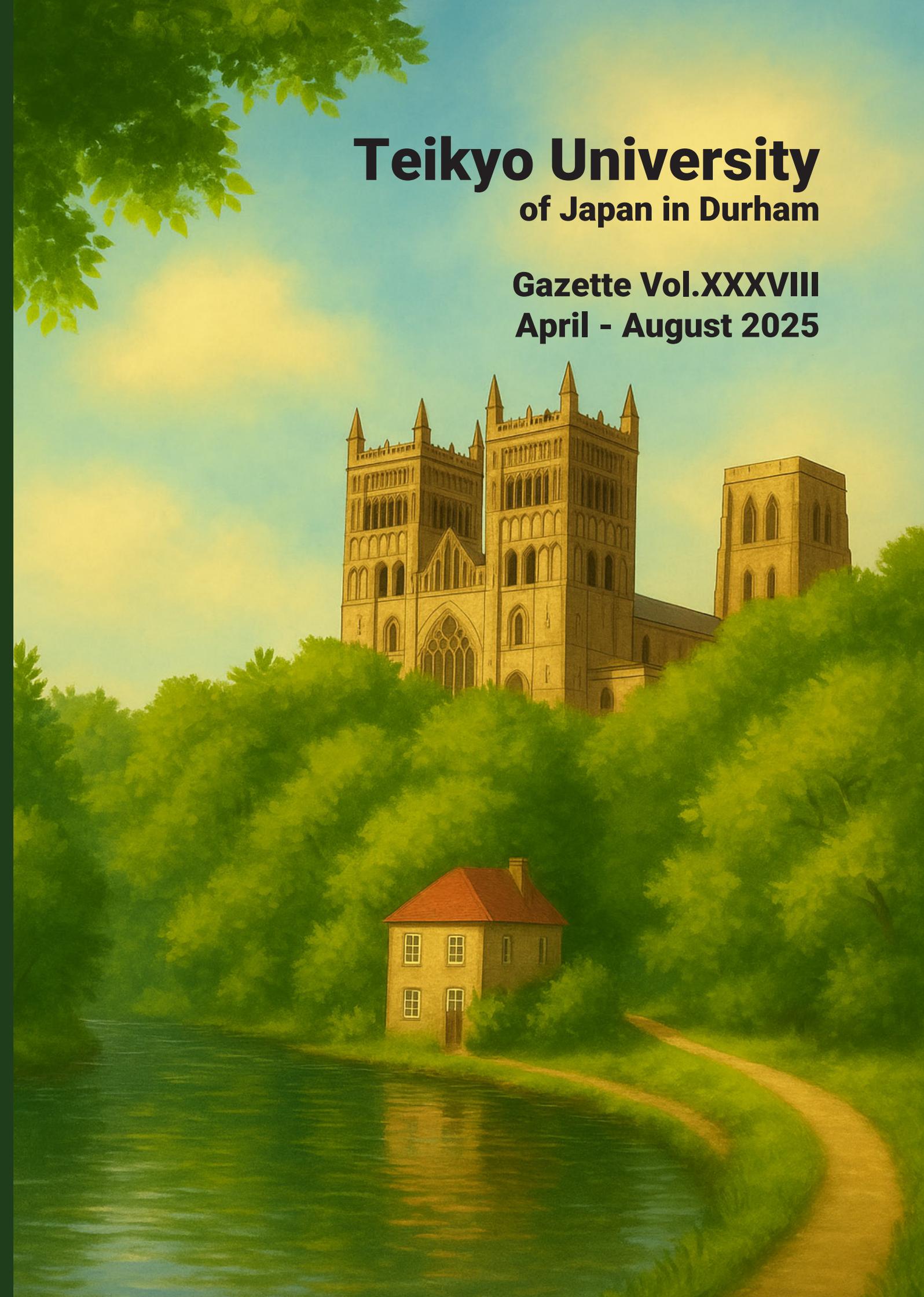


Teikyo University

of Japan in Durham

Gazette Vol.XXXVIII
April - August 2025



Meet Our Students



St Mary's

Miss Rina Kohmoto

Miss Mayuko Hashimoto

Mr Haru Suzuki

Mr Ren Kawamura

Miss Reona Miyoshi

Miss Yui Sato

Mr Yuto Yasuda

Mr Shusei Katsumata

Miss Yui Kamio

Mr Yuto Yokomoto

Collingwood

Miss Maho Arai

Miss Risa Takezawa

Mr Hayato Hirakane

Mr Keita Iida

Mr Sota Saito

Miss Saki Omiya

Mr Kensuke Iura

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Principal Yukinori Okabe

The four months spent by Teikyo University students in Durham, England, must surely have been a far more stimulating period than the twenty-odd years they had previously spent in Japan.

The pages of this gazette are filled with the days of these young people's lives, distilled into Durham, English and photographs – a distillation of the knowledge, experience and wisdom cultivated in Japan, combined with the surprise and courage gained in Britain.

For most students, this period was undoubtedly one of concentrating on improving their English while living abroad for the first time.

This gazette serves as a record of the footprints left in Durham and as proof of the achievements you have built. You will now be setting off at full speed towards university graduation and the life that follows.

May this gazette become the driving force and confidence that sustains you at that time. And may it become the very history of your lives, something you can be proud of.

Finally, I would like to conclude this foreword by borrowing the words shared with you by Sasaki-senpai, a graduate of the second cohort at Durham Campus.



Though 34 years have passed since my days in Durham, the lessons learned, the profound impressions, and the people I met there remain vividly etched in my heart, serving as a shining guiding light for my life.

I trust this experience will also positively influence you in various aspects of your future lives. Should you ever have the opportunity to visit Durham again, the Cathedral will remain unchanged, awaiting your return.

I sincerely hope for your safe journey home.

Katsuyuki Sasaki (Durham Campus, 2nd Cohort, Class of 1991)

Always keeping Sasaki senpai's words and the gazette close at hand will help you recall the good times and give you courage.

Until we meet again.

Prof. Yukinori Okabe, Dr.B.A

Bursar Andrew Davies

I am very pleased to share a few words with you all in this edition of the Gazette. It has been wonderful to see our Japanese students settling into life in Durham and embracing the challenge of learning English. Choosing to study in another country is never easy, but the effort and enthusiasm you have shown makes a real difference, both to your own learning and to the life of our community here.

I hope your time in Durham has brought you not only progress in your studies, but also many happy memories and friendships. Watching you grow in confidence, both in and out of the classroom, has been a real highlight. The determination you have shown will continue to benefit you in the years ahead.

Your presence adds so much to the spirit of Teikyo and Durham University. The way you have supported one another and taken part in student life has been inspiring, and I am sure that the friendships you have formed here will stay with you long after you return to Japan.



This will be my final Bursar's Message at Teikyo University in Durham, as I will shortly be taking up a new role as Bursar at Teikyo School in Wexham. I would like to warmly welcome Mr Richard Bagshaw, who will be joining as the new Bursar in Durham. I am confident he will bring great energy and commitment to supporting you all in the future.

On behalf of everyone at Teikyo and Durham University, thank you for your hard work and the energy you have brought to campus. We are proud of what you have achieved and wish you every success for the future.

Andrew Davies MBE

MEET THE STAFF



Helen McAree
EFL Coordinator

I met Helen for the first time in the airport. Every student was very tired after the long flight, but she welcomed us and greeted each person individually. We were also nervous about the new place, but she made us very excited. She is a really reliable person and helped us a lot, so I could study with peace of mind.

Maho Arai



Jill Johnson
EFL Tutor

I really enjoy Jill's class because she always starts by asking us, "What did you do last weekend?" I like talking about myself, so I'm happy when Jill listens to me and of course she includes everyone. Jill also always praises each of us, and I can't tell you how much she's motivated me. Thank you so much Jill!

Yui Sato



Michael Davies
EFL Tutor

Michael, is a very nice teacher who teaches us clearly. One day, we played tennis with Michael during club activities. He was really good at it and looked so happy and full of joy. When we pointed the camera at him, he smiled at us right away. He is always cheerful and easygoing, and he's got a great sense of humor. I will never forget him.

Mayuko Hashimoto



Debra Pattison
EFL Tutor

Debra is such a kind, funny, caring, and absolutely amazing teacher! She's always patient, thoughtful, and super supportive. I honestly would've loved to learn even more English from her. Her classes are fun, engaging, and never boring. And when something's hard to understand, she'll explain it clearly and carefully until it makes sense. You're truly one of a kind!

Kensuke Iura

Jacob Dace

EFL Tutor

He is really friendly. When we talk with him, It always feels like a relaxed and friendly conversation. He is an amazing English teacher. He has a lot of knowledge and tries to do his best to help us understanding. He taught us a lot of vocabulary and corrected our pronunciation. I appreciate a lot.

Yui Kamio

Terri Edwards-Okazaki

EFL Lecturer

Terri taught us about British culture. She has a very cheerful personality and kindly explained things to us even when we didn't understand. In addition, If we make a mistake she would help us and correct our sentence.

Yuto Yasuda

Miki Binks

Librarian

Miki is our librarian. Every week, we had Book Club. It made us feel closer to English in a fun and relaxed way. Her classes were lighthearted and warm, and being there honestly never felt like a chore. She made each class something to look forward to.

Risa Takezawa

Junko Miura

International Student Coordinator

Junko is very kind and easy to talk to. She can speak Japanese, so she helps us a lot. One time, I was sick. She worried about me and talked to me. She always smiles and makes us feel happy. She listens to us and understands our feelings.

Sota Saito

Catherine Thompson

Accountant

I really appreciate Catherine. I can imagine it was tough handling all those financial matters. When I met her in the LHCC, she greeted me in a friendly, casual way and it was really nice. Thank you for supporting the students' activities behind the scenes.

Keita Iida



Porters

The porters have been absolutely amazing! They gave us rides every single time for our day trips and work experiences even though the days and times were always different. That kind of support is just incredibly kind, thoughtful, and generous.

Kensuke Iura



Cleaners

Each room has its own cleaner in charge. Karen is in charge of my room. The room is cleaned every Monday and the bed sheets are changed every Wednesday. The cleaner will clean not only the rooms but also the common areas we use. Thanks to that, we are able to live a comfortable life in the dormitory.

Saki Omiya





OXFORD 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 Oxford to begin their induction program at Wadham College, Oxford University.

In Oxford, they delved into the rich history of the city, enjoying a guided bus tour and engaging lectures by Ann Muston and Dr Alice Baldock. The experience was further enriched by a delightful formal dinner in the 400-year-old hall, a perfect blend of tradition and learning.

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

When we arrived at the Heathrow Airport. First, we went to Oxford for three days. I was very excited then. Oxford has many pubs and many people and many historical buildings. We spend special time in Oxford. We went to pub. We could talk to local people there. And we rode a tour bus. We saw Oxford city. I thought, Oxford was amazing city. We could learn Oxford city. If you go to Oxford. You can spend special time in Oxford!

Sota Saito

In the Oxford induction, I had many fulfilling days. In the daytime, I took some interesting classes by the Oxford professors. My favourite was the modern dance class held by Dr Alice. It was quite valuable opportunities. In my free time, I went sightseeing in Oxford. I especially enjoyed the fossils of dinosaurs in the Pitt Rivers museum. The whole city was filled with historic buildings and beautiful nature. I felt as if I were in a film or fairy tale.

Maho Arai



I stayed in Oxford for four days. It was the first city I visited in the UK, and it left a wonderful impression on me. Oxford is an incredibly beautiful city, full of charm and history. With its prestigious university, the city feels vibrant and lively. The people were all very kind and welcoming, which made me feel comfortable and happy. I truly fell in love with this city. Oxford is also home to some Harry Potter filming locations, making it an exciting place for fans. Christ Church, one of the most famous colleges, has a stunning dining hall that inspired the Great Hall in Hogwarts. Seeing it in person was breathtaking. It's absolutely worth visiting!

Kensuke Iura

We went to Oxford at first then we wandered around the city. The city is very famous for sightseeing. There are many museums, colleges, libraries and shops. Many of these locations were filming locations for Harry Potter. Also, the best university in the UK is Oxford University. We stayed in Oxford's dormitory for a few days. We had enough free time, so we could go to many places in Oxford. I went to the pub in Oxford with four friends. However, to enter the pub feeling nervous and there is no menu so we just need to watch the shelf and ordered it. I was very nervous but it was a good experience for us. My best place in Oxford is the Bodleian Old Library. It is a filming location that scenes like the Hogwarts library, infirmary, and Christmas ball. When I went there, I felt like entering the world of Harry Potter. The streets of Oxford were very beautiful, and there are many other amazing spots. I felt like a dream for a few days.

Rina Kohmoto





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.

When I came to Durham, I saw a wild rabbit for the first time and I thought Durham was very rich nature. Also, not only the animals, there are lush green lawns and very beautiful cherry blossoms in Durham. When I came to Durham, I have had challenges because of unfamiliar English. But, the animals and nature healed me. When I returned Japan, I want to treasure these relaxing memories.

Saki Omiya

Durham is a lovely city where I stayed for about four months. My favourite place in Durham is Durham Cathedral which is a filming location for Harry Potter. I like walking to Durham Cathedral and chilling on the bench beside Durham Cathedral. I have many memories at Durham Cathedral. One special memory is when King Charles and Queen Camilla came to Durham Cathedral to attend an Easter service. Fortunately, I could see them when they just arrived at Durham Cathedral in a royal limousine. It was a fantastic experience I'll never forget.

Mayuko Hashimoto

Durham is a nice city. I would like to introduce the difference between Durham and Tokyo. Firstly, it's the nature. There are separate areas with a lot of homes or nature area in Tokyo, so we couldn't feel fresh air regularly. However in Durham, these aren't separate so we can relax. Secondly, people walk a lot in Durham. In Tokyo, I usually use transportation or bicycle. Walking is good to stay healthy. I like this habit. Thirdly, it's the nice weather. In Tokyo, it's really hot and humid especially this season May and June. On the other hand, the weather of Durham is comfortable.

Yui Kamio



| 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 have everything they need for a comfortable stay.

Etsuko Hall was a very comfortable and pleasant accommodation. I truly enjoyed my stay there. The facilities were clean and well-maintained, and the atmosphere felt warm and welcoming. The common room, in particular, was a wonderful space where many people gathered to watch TV and play on the playstation.

Hayato Hirakane



| 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.

When I visited Newcastle, I really enjoyed shopping there. The city had a mix of stylish clothing stores, cosy general shops, and big shopping malls with a classic British vibe. I went window shopping and had fun browsing clothes and accessories. I even found some unique and cute stores that made the trip special. I'd love to go shopping in Newcastle again!

Reona Miyoshi

We took a train from Durham to Newcastle. Newcastle is very close from Durham, There is a lot of stores in Newcastle, for example souvenir shop, cafe and restaurant. I felt that Newcastle is more busy than Durham. My favourites store is the DOJO Restaurant. It has a Japanese atmosphere. You can eat Japanese food. When I came to UK. I missed Japan. So I was very happy and surprised, there is a big shopping mall. In a shopping mall, there is a kind of store. I feel so excited.

Shusei Katsumata

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

St Mary's College, one of the oldest at Durham University, is steeped in fascinating history. Originally established as a women-only college, it has welcomed both men and women since 2005. With its stunning architecture, St Mary's is renowned for hosting exceptional formal events. The college also offers a vibrant array of clubs, societies, and sports, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

St. Mary's college is a traditional college. The cherry blossoms were beautiful in April. It was interesting sharing a bathroom at first, but I got used to it as I lived there. Now, I think it was a nice opportunity to learn about another country's culture. And we got to speak with students in our Durham College. It was a great experience and very inspiring. My life here has become a wonderful memory for me. Thank you for St. Mary's

Yui Sato



My memories of St. Mary's are of eating meals with my friends in the dining hall every day. It was a great time for us. Most of them were from the Japanese language department or had an interest in Japan, and they were all very kind to me. We often talked about what we'd been up to recently and what we liked about each other. Thanks to them, I was able to improve my English and really enjoy my study abroad experience.

Haru Suzuki

SUMMER EVENTS

St Mary's College closed the term with two special events: St Mary's Day and the Summer Ball. With celebrations, music, and a touch of tradition, students enjoyed a memorable end to their time at the college.

I joined two big college events. One is the Summer Ball and the other is St. Mary's Day. Summer ball was a formal event, so I dressed up. First, I got a drink which was champagne, and had some finger food. My favourite one was the canape with cheese and smoked salmon on top. After that I had a 3 course dinner. For the starter I ate arancini, and then main dish was a pork steak with mashed potato, and then dessert was a cheese cake. Every dish was really tasty. After that I enjoyed the attractions with my friends. There is two attractions one was the bumper cars and the other was like a drop tower. We also had chocolate fondue and took pictures in the photo booth. I left the Summer Ball about 12 am but some of friends stay there until 4 am and they saw sunrise and ate survivor breakfast.

Mary's Day was more casual than Summer Ball. We got a t-shirt and cup with a very cute design. I enjoyed live performances all day with friends. One of our Durham student friends performed guitar and sang. Unfortunately, I missed his performance. I had Pimm's, popcorn, crepe and two pizzas. In the evening, I really enjoyed the Perry and COLDPLAY songs. The performer was fake but the quality of their singing was amazing! It suddenly started raining during the end and I got soaking wet but it was really fun!

Rina Kohmoto



The Summer Ball and Mary's Day were full of new experiences for me, since we don't have events like these at universities in Japan. There were so many fun activities, like formal dinners, live music, and various attractions. I had such a great time, and I really hope I get the chance to experience something like this again.

Yuto Yokomoto



COLLINGWOOD COLLEGE

Collingwood is the largest college in Durham and has a lot to offer students. It 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.

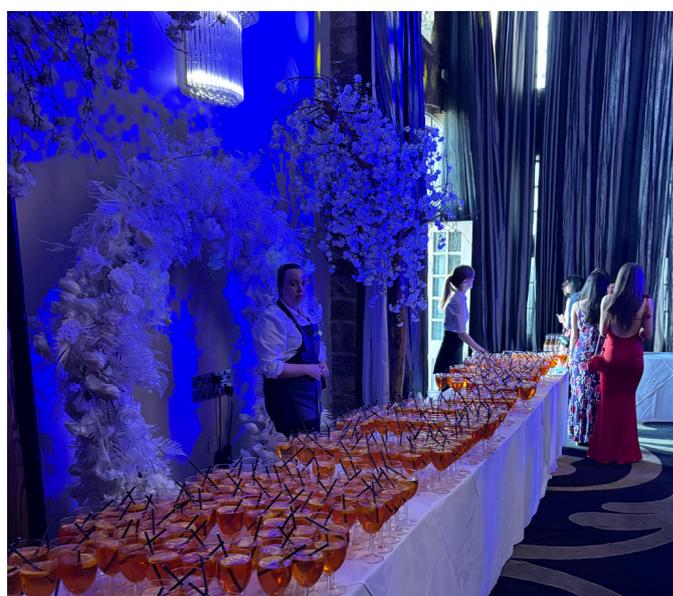


There are a lot of fun things to do in Collingwood. For example, there are a bar and a football field. My favourite space is the bar. Collingwood's bar is large and clean. And it has exclusive beer and cocktails. The beer has a refreshing taste and is easy to drink. It's especially delicious when you drink it on the terrace outside on a nice day. The bar also has places to play games such as table tennis and billiards. If you come here, enjoy some drinks and games. It's sure to be a fun experience you won't have at a Japanese university.

Saki Omiya

My favourite place in Collingwood college is the cafeteria. I'm very grateful for the catering team's hospitality and friendliness. There were almost only Teikyo students when the Durham university students were visiting their hometown, but the catering team provided us substantial meals. They gave us not only meals, but also energy and a little happiness every day.

Maho Arai



SUMMER EVENTS

As the term came to a close, students at Collingwood College enjoyed a variety of summer events. From the lively celebrations of Collingwood Day to the elegance of the Summer Ball, it was a memorable way to round off their time at the college.

Among all my memories of Collingwood, the Collingwood Day stands out as my favourite. It was a lively and joyful day filled with food, music, and dance. I especially enjoyed the final concert by 21st Century ABBA. Surrounded by falling confetti, flashing lights, and thunderous music, my friends and I sang and danced to ABBA's greatest hits. We were completely swept up in the moment.

Keita Iida

There are two special events for students: Collingwood Day and the Summer Ball. On Collingwood Day, our usual college turns into something exciting and different. The event is made by students, which really helped us feel more connected as a group. The Summer Ball was held at a hotel. It felt really fancy, and we enjoyed lovely dinner, drinks, and nice conversations. After dinner, we went on a ride, which made the night feel even more fun and unforgettable. It was a wonderful memory.

Risa Takezawa



SPORTS & SOCIETIES

During their time in Durham, students have the chance to participate in a variety of sports and societies. These opportunities are available through the university, their colleges, or even in self-organised groups. Whether trying out new activities, staying active, or connecting with others who share their interests, students have plenty of ways to get involved. Here's a selection of the sports and societies they enjoyed this term.

I wasn't very interested in football at first, but after coming to the UK, I played football with different people and also went to watch some matches. It was really fun, and I gradually became more interested in the sport. I'd love to play football with everyone again and go watch another match someday.

Yuto Yokomoto

I went to an event by AJS, a society for students who really like Japan. It was really fun! In the UK, people often go to many bars in one night, called pub crawl. We went to five bars. Many people there spoke both Japanese and English very well. I got good advice about learning English and making friends with British people. Everyone was very kind, so I really recommend this group!

Haru Suzuki





Durham University is a very active and exciting place for sports. Because it is in the UK, football is a very popular and common sport. Many people play it and enjoy watching it. Other interesting sports like cricket and rowing, which are not so popular in Japan, are also big in Durham. Most sports have fun and exciting tournaments, so watching games is also enjoyable. If you come to Durham, I really recommend joining or watching many different and fun sports!

Kensuke Iura



My sports memory in Durham is playing football. I played it at a school event and at an AJS event. The AJS one was especially exciting because it was a tournament between societies. Since I was a beginner, I didn't play much, but just watching was fun. We won the group stage and advanced to the quarter-finals. I even left school early to join the match. Although we lost, it was a very intense and exciting game. Through football, I learned how fun sports can be.

Shusei Katsumata

DAY TRIPS

From cobbled streets to coastal escapes, this term's day trips offered students a chance to explore some of the UK's most fascinating destinations. Led by staff including Michael, Jacob, and Debra, the students immersed themselves in the rich history of Edinburgh and York, browsed quirky shops in The Shambles, and took in stunning views on the peaceful Holy Island. In Whitby, students got a taste of something truly unique at the famous Goth Festival—complete with dramatic fashion, seaside charm, and plenty of photo ops. Each trip was an opportunity for adventure, learning, and unforgettable memories.



EDINBURGH

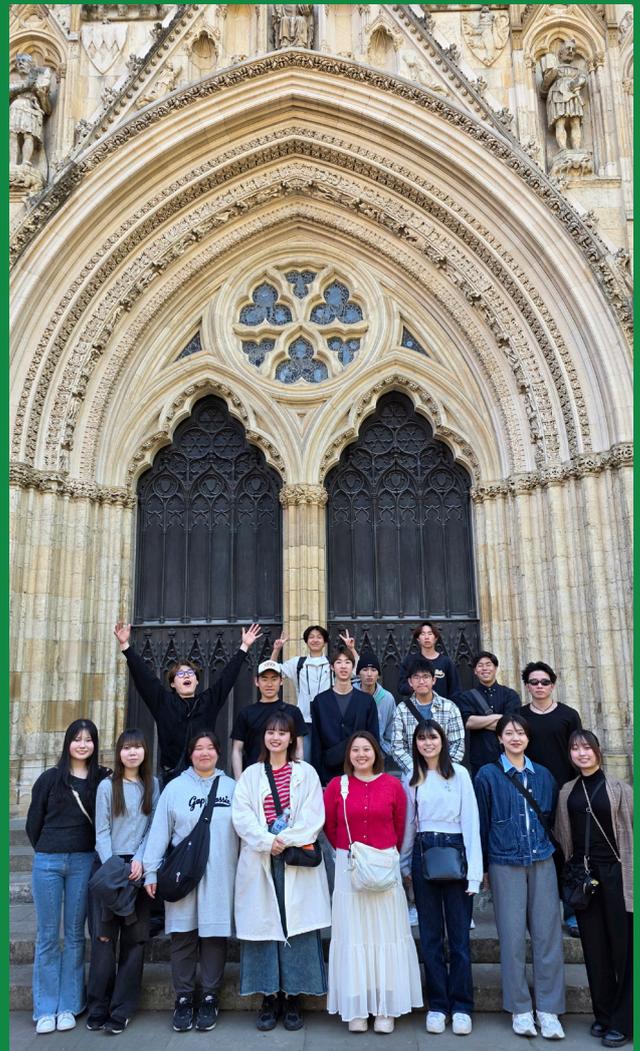
I went to Edinburgh three times. The city was wonderful. There were lots of cute shops and souvenirs, and colourful buildings. Edinburgh is famous for tartan so every shop has many tartan pattern design stuff. My favourite shop was Islander Flagship Store. There sells tartan patterns stuff like bags, coin cases, ribbon and key charms, and I bought a green bag. I went to Makars Mush Bar. It is very popular restaurant in Edinburgh. I ate a Haggis and a beef. Before I ate the haggis, I was afraid of it because haggis is made from sheep's viscera. My best memory in Edinburgh was Edinburgh Castle. Every 1:00pm, the cannon which was in the castle is fired. The cannon was incredibly intense. I feel like this might be the last time I ever experience something like this.

Rina Kohmoto

YORK

York was a nice city. I like the atmosphere of York. I ate Japanese food at Ippuku Tea House. It was so delicious. I rode the Ferris wheel. I could see the whole city. The weather was nice, so the view was beautiful. I walked along the top of the wall. It was such a nice experience.

Ren Kawamura





| HOLY ISLAND

Holy Island has its own interesting history. We spent a relaxing time there while watching the waves. Everyone enjoyed their own time eating ice cream, shopping, and having fun. It was a special day, away from our busy study schedule. For lunch, I ate fish and chips with Debra, Leigh Ann, and my friends. We talked about things we usually don't talk about, and it was a very fun and special time.

Risa Takezawa

Holy Island and Sea Houses were very exciting places. In particular, Holy Island was able to walk the coast. There are famous animals in each area. For instance, penguins and seals. On the back to college, I could see the gray seal from the car at Holy island.

Yuto Yasuda



| WHITBY

I went to Whitby on April 26. The way from Durham to Whitby was long, and I almost got carsick. However, when we arrived, we saw a beautiful view and the sea. There was a goth event on that day. Many people in the town wore black clothes, and I felt excited. Some of the people I went with wore black clothes and painted their faces. They had a lot of fun. I also took pictures with people in costumes. I really enjoyed the goth world, and it was a nice day trip!

Risa Takezawa

"We went to Whitby in April. Whitby is a city famous for Dracula. Many people were walking there in costume. I took pictures with people in costume and went to the monastery where Dracula was born on the side of the cliff. It was always like Halloween, and I felt a different culture from Japan."

Hayato Hirakane





STUDENT ACTIVITIES

This term, students enjoyed creative and social activities including pottery painting, a Japanese dance lecture from the Okinaga Junior Fellow, and Open House—where they played games, practiced English, and made new friends. Visits from therapy dogs Dash, Monty, and Pam also offered a welcome chance to relax and recharge between classes.

| OPEN HOUSE

Open House was a fun event where Japanese students and Durham students could meet and talk easily! We played card games, British games, and talked while eating snacks. I also met some students from the same dorm, and we went out to eat together, which made me happy. After Open House, we went to some bars and played frisbee together, so we could become even closer. I was very happy!

Reona Miyoshi



| PAM, DASH & MONTY

Therapy Dog! It healed our hearts. His name is Dash. He is so cute! He made us happy and gave happiness. Therapy dogs assist in the recovery of physical and mental function. For that therapy dogs have lots of training. I respect him. Some people were missing their own dog and Dash's cuteness stole our hearts. Very nice day! Thank you Dash

Sota Saito



| OKINAGA JUNIOR FELLOW LECTURE - DR ALICE BALDOCK

Alice is professional of Ankoku Buto. This is really artistic and interesting movement. It's like to be slowly, smoothly and relax. I felt that is like so Japanese, but I experienced what I've never felt even though I'm Japanese. It was harder to move like her than my guess, so we tried a lot. We could enjoy the class.

Yui Kamio



| POTTERY PAINTING

We made original mugs and other things. Everyone's personality really shone through it was so interesting! It was my first time drawing on something since elementary school, so I had a lot of fun! We got to keep the mug, so I was truly happy to have such a special experience.

Yui Sato

COMMUNITY EVENTS

This term, students shared Japanese culture through school visits and community events, including calligraphy and origami workshops. They also took part in environmental volunteering at Gibside and Crimdon Dene, and enjoyed a cultural visit to Raby Castle as part of their British Culture lectures.

| RABY CASTLE

We went to Raby Castle which is located near Durham. Raby Castle is a place of Wrich history, and deer live there and they live a peaceful, rural life. If you go there, you will find British culture, especially British royal family culture. After the tour of the castle, you can eat or drink something, like cakes, sandwiches and tea and chill at lovely cafe on the castle grounds. It was good time to relax.

Mayuko Hashimoto



SCHOOL VISITS

At first I was really worried about teaching Japanese to children, since I had never done it before. But when I actually gave it a try, they understood me much better than I expected, which made me really happy. The British kids were all so unique, and I could feel the cultural differences. All in all, it was a great and fun experience.

Haru Suzuki

I taught children Japanese calligraphy. They were quite energetic and very curious about Japanese culture so I enjoyed teaching them how to write Japanese letters for example Kanji, Hiragana and Katakana. I also taught them how to write their name in Japanese. They look so happy with that, so it warmed my heart.

Keita Iida



| BEACH CLEAN

In June, we took part in a beach clean-up event. We picked up trash from the ground to help keep the beach clean. Many people of different ages also joined the activity. We noticed that empty cans were the most common type of litter. It was a meaningful experience that made us think more about the environment. This event taught us the importance of keeping the ocean clean.

Hayato Hirakane



| GIBSIDE

I went to Gibside to teach origami. Gibside is a place rich in nature and where flowers bloom beautifully. I did some origami at a cafe in Gibside. We all had fun folding various origami shapes. I also gave the origami I made to people and small children in the cafe, who were very happy. The airplane, heart, and flower shapes were especially popular. It was a great experience to be able to talk to people of an age group that I normally wouldn't be able to talk to.

Saki Omiya

| CROOK HALL

I went to Crook Hall, a traditional country house and did a workshop of Japanese culture. It was a good opportunity to remember Japan. I enjoyed calligraphy and making teacher's kanji name in the beautiful garden. After that, I explored the garden and historical buildings. I think that it was a good place to learn about British country house. I didn't have enough time to know there that time, so I'd like to visit there again.

Maho Arai





ROYAL VISIT

In April, students had the unique opportunity to witness a historic occasion as King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited Durham for the Royal Maundy Service. Heading up to Palace Green, they joined the crowds outside the cathedral to catch a glimpse of Their Majesties and take part in this special moment in the city's history.

King Charles and Queen Camilla came to Durham and we went to see them, I have not even seen the Japanese emperor before, so I felt special and nervous waiting for the King to arrive. When I saw them get out of the car, they looked calm and very classy. I thought the clothes the King came in looked historical and amazing.

Risa Takezawa

When the King and Queen came to Durham, it was like a "dream come true", because the reason that I chose the UK for study abroad is that I'm interested in the Royal family. And, so it was my dream to see they Royal family with my own eyes. When I saw them, King Charles waved hello to us. They must be kind and noble. When I saw how many people went to seem them, I thought how popular they are.

Mayuko Hashimoto





DURHAM CITY RUN

In July, students took part in the Durham City Run, joining runners from across the region for a fun and challenging race through the historic streets of Durham. It was a great way to stay active and enjoy the local atmosphere.

I joined 5K city run. Michael, Jacob, Debra, my friends and I practiced a lot for City Run. I was a little nervous before start, but the people in the town cheered me on and I was able to keep going. After I finished, I got a medal and snacks. The medal was a nice souvenir. I felt a big sense of accomplishment. After we finished it, we enjoyed pizza party! During the party we talked about our life in Durham. It was a great time and I thought I don't want to go back to Japan.

Rina Kohmoto

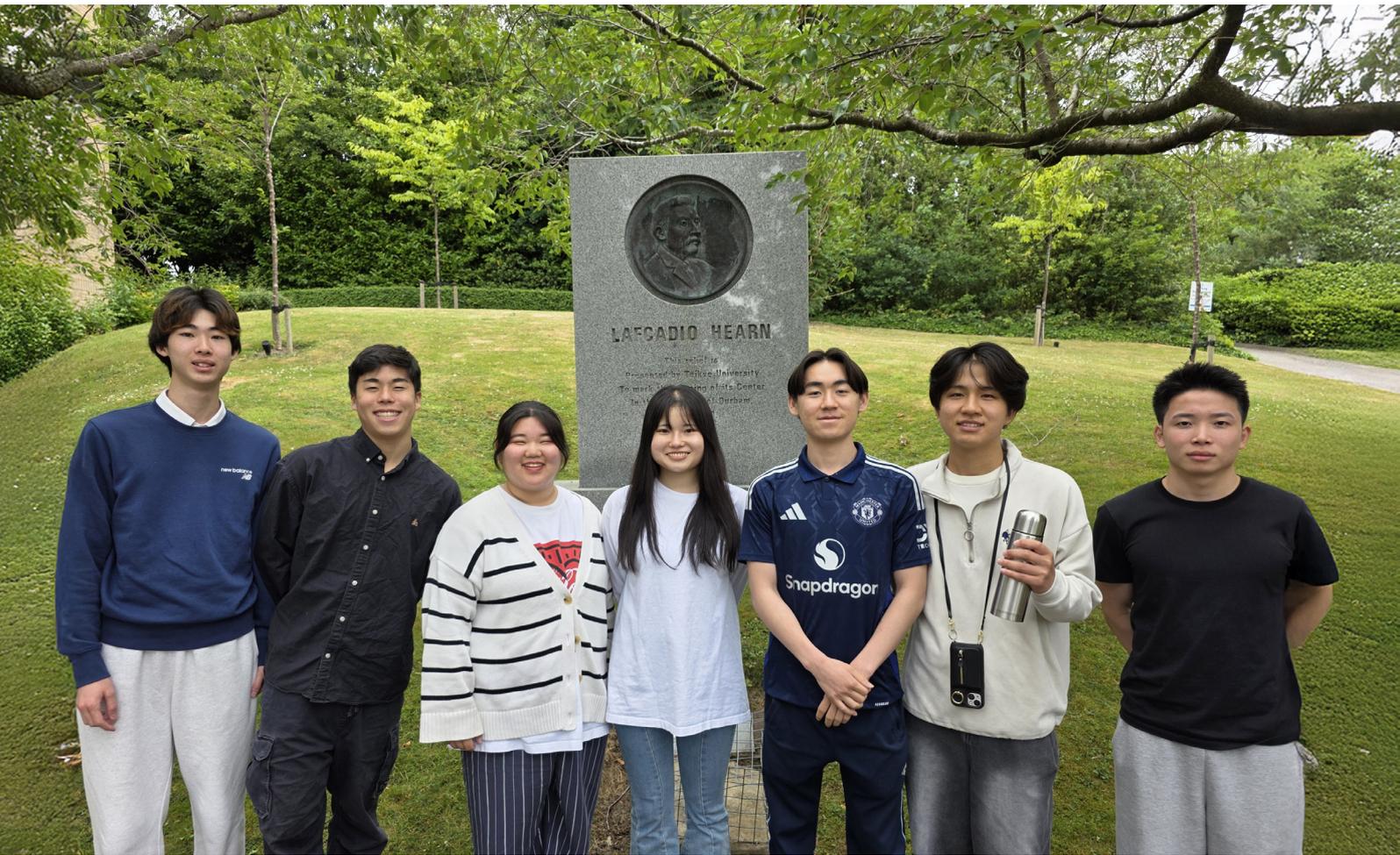
I didn't like running, but I immediately decided to participate in the City Run because I'd have loved to make a memorable experience with my classmates. The practices were very hard, but they reminded me of the club activities in my high school. I ran with my friends and Debra in the actual marathon race, and that became an exciting memory. There were a lot of people who ran or watched, and the course covered the entire Durham city, so it was very good experience for the last before I left Durham. After that we had a pizza party with all our classmates.

Maho Arai



WORK EXPERIENCE

Some Teikyo students have the opportunity to participate in work experience placements 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.



SHINCLIFFE SCHOOL

I did my work experience at a small primary school in Durham. At first, I was very nervous, but the kind teachers and friendly students made me feel comfortable. After a few visits, I became excited to go every week. Many students were curious and interested in me, which made me really happy. The children were all super cute, cheerful, and funny. It was a fun, warm, and special experience. I really recommend this amazing place for work experience. I hope I can go back someday!

Kensuke Iura

| THE STORY

My work experience in The Story is the most memorable part of my time studying abroad in the UK. I learnt a lot about the history and development of the North East from the exhibitions there. I was really interested in them and enjoyed talking about them with other staff and Volunteers. They are so kind, really friendly and eager to talk with me in English. I enjoyed hearing so much about everyday life in the UK.

Keita Iida

| LITTLE DRAGONS

I did my work experience at a childrens club called Little Dragon. It is inside the Oriental Museum. There, I helped the children look for things in the museum based on different themes. I also helped with crafts and enjoyed talking with the children. It was a lot of fun! I also learned many new words and learned about culture by talking with the teachers. It was a very good experience.

Reona Miyoshi

| USHAW HOUSE

Every volunteers were so kind to me. It made me feel relaxed. Ushaw House has the large garden. I often went to the garden. My task was mainly to tidy up the bookshelf. I could read the books in the book shop so I was in there too. The Work Experience was such a nice experience.

Ren Kawamura

| CROOK HALL

I worked at Crook Hall, which is a beautiful garden. I cleaned the area and planted flowers. After that, I experienced traditional tea time. I really enjoyed it because I could relax and chat with everyone. The people who work there were all very kind, so I had a great time.

Haru Suzuki



PARIS FIELD TRIP



In May, Helen, Jacob, Michael, and a group of students embarked on an unforgettable field trip to Paris, immersing themselves in the city's rich culture, history, and unforgettable sights. Highlights included a magical day at Disneyland Paris, a tour of the magnificent Palace of Versailles, and plenty of free time to explore the city's cafés, streets, and skyline at their own pace. Whether wandering along the Seine, tasting local pastries, or simply soaking up the Parisian atmosphere, it was a trip full of memorable moments and new experiences.





My favourite place in Paris was the Palais Garnier. It was a very beautiful and gorgeous building, so I was quite impressed when I went inside. In particular, the grand foyer and the theatre was amazing. It was very difficult to take photos as there were so many people. I'd like to see a ballet show in the theatre someday. I also really enjoyed going to watch the Eiffel Tower champagne sparkle with my classmates. We watched the lights and then went back to the hotel together. I really enjoyed spending time with my classmates.

Maho Arai

I found the architecture in Paris stunning and many of the painting were especially beautiful. It felt like stepping into a different era. My favourite memory was taking pictures near the Eiffel tower with my friend. We enjoyed french baguettes and laughed a lot. I noticed that people in Paris take their time to eat meals and enjoy long conversations, similar to England. In Japan meals are quicker, but I think French and Japanese fashion are similar.

Hayato Hirakane

I thought Disneyland and the Eiffel Tower were really good because the waiting times were short, and I was able to go on many attractions. The champagne sparkle of the tower was amazing. This was my favourite part of the trip because while we waited for the sparkle I talked with my friends about everything that had happened so far.

Reona Miyoshi



Of course the Eiffel tower was my favourite place. The view from the top was amazing. I also really enjoyed walking around Paris discovering beautiful buildings and small cafes. Eating in cafes was nice too. People in Paris tend to eat meals more slowly and spend a longer time at restaurants which is nice for talking.

Shusei Katsumata





I loved the Eiffel Tower because it is the symbol of France, it was a lot more peaceful than I expected. I found that the waiting staff in Paris prioritise conversation compared to the UK. So they were very friendly. I also really enjoyed Disneyland because I was with my friends and there were beautiful fireworks.

Ren Kawamura



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.

| GLASGOW

I went to Glasgow with my friend. We went there by train and after we arrived at Glasgow, we went to a restaurant, and ate Korean cuisine. It was very delicious! After that we went to Glasgow Cathedral and we happened upon a choir rehearsal. It was incredibly wonderful. There were lots inside of the cathedral was also nice with the stained glass and other decorations leaving a big impression. The best thing in this trip was the wonderful and comfortable hotel. So we relaxed at the hotel until just before check-out time. This trip was a great opportunity for me to have deep conversations with my friend.

Rina Kohmoto

| DUBLIN

I visited to Dublin in Ireland. Dublin is a fun city of drinking and music and a place to mingle with friendly people. Ireland is very famous for stew. Especially I recommend Guinness stew. It is very fun to compare the different flavors at different restaurants and everyone should try it with a Guinness beer! Then, there are also tourist attractions. For example Trinity College. It has beautiful library. I think everyone who visits the library will be impressed. Dublin is only an hour away from the UK, so if you come to the UK, please be sure to visit.

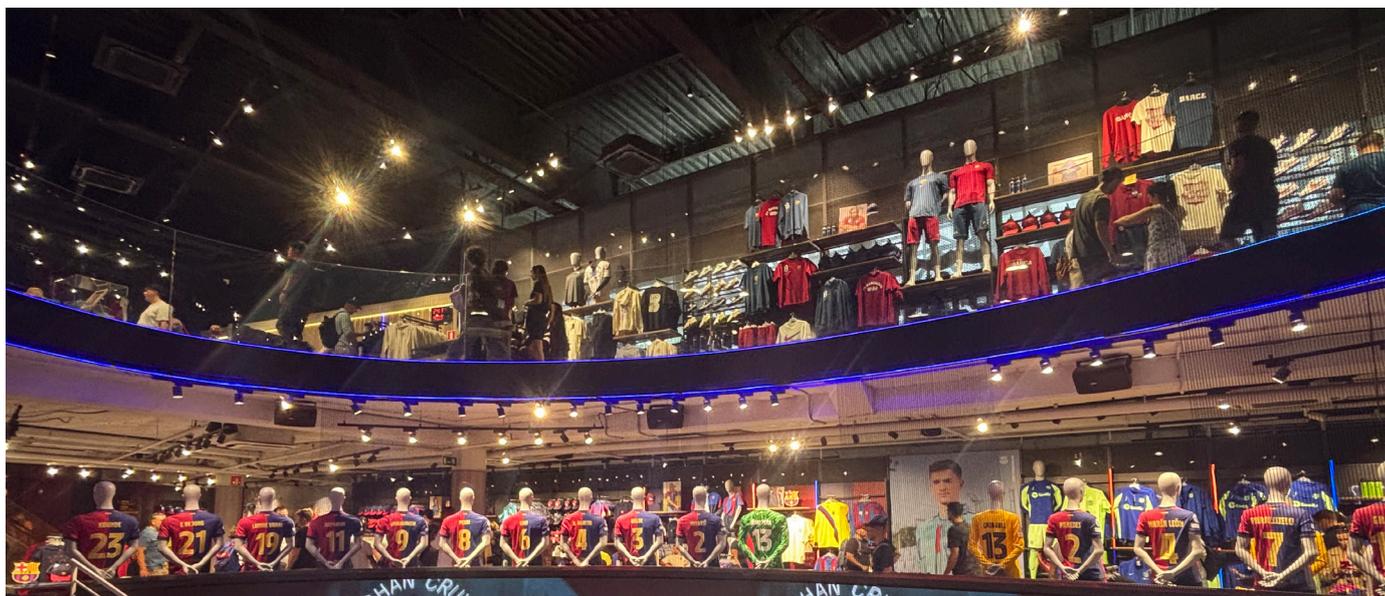
Saki Omiya

| BARCELONA

It was the first time that I went to Barcelona. I explored the city. The city was so calm. The Sagrada Familia was the strongest impression. I ate a lot of delicious foods like croissant, pasta and paella. The food in Spain is so good. I didn't expect that I would be able to go to Spain.

Ren Kawamura





| AMSTERDAM

I went to Amsterdam for a weekend trip. The city was calm and very relaxing. There are many canals flowing through the city, which makes it really beautiful. The fries there are also famous and super delicious. Amsterdam isn't a big city, and you can see most of it in about three days, so I highly recommend visiting.

Haru Suzuki



| LONDON

I went on a three day trip to London with my friends. We visited many famous places like King's Cross Station, where we saw the Harry Potter platform. The streets of London had a very unique atmosphere, and everything felt new and exciting to us. One of the best parts was just walking around the city and talking with my friends. This trip gave me so many happy memories, and I hope I can visit London again someday.

Risa Takezawa

| LIVERPOOL & MANCHESTER

My best weekend during this study abroad was a three-day trip to Liverpool and Manchester. First, we went to Liverpool, and I visited Anfield, which I had always wanted to see. After that we enjoyed the nice atmosphere. The next day, we went to Manchester and watched a football match at Old Trafford. The stadium was really big and exciting, and I was very happy to be there. After the match, we did some shopping and walked around the city. Traveling was a little tiring, but I made great memories with my friends.

Shusei Katsumata



I went to London. Since it was my first time in London, I was very excited. I went sightseeing in various places and did some shopping. What left the biggest impression on me during the sightseeing was Abbey Road. Taking photos there with my friends became a very special memory. If I have the chance, I would love to go again.

Yuto Yokomoto

HOST FAMILIES

As part of their experience in Durham, some of our students were paired with wonderful 'host families'—long-time friends of Teikyo University. Over the course of the semester, they met up for fun activities like shared meals, outings, and relaxed afternoons together. These moments helped create meaningful connections and offered students a warm glimpse into life in the UK.



| Neil & Michaela

With Exchange Family, I was able to experience the unique British culture. In addition, because the Exchange Family was vegan, I was able to have a valuable experience. I was also able to experience afternoon tea. In conclusion, it was a fun and valuable experience.

Yuto Yasuda

| Philippa and Geoffrey

My host family is Philippa and Geoffrey. Their house is in Durham and there are 3 cute dogs. I went to there at the first meeting, and they cooked for me delicious Japanese meals. They took me to some places where I can't go by myself. My favourite memory is when we went to Bishop. They taught me its history and British cultures, I became really like it. They hear my English carefully and sometimes correct and give me new words, so it was very helpful experience.

Maho Arai





| Paul & Rebecca

Their name is Rebecca and Paul. They have two dogs. We could walk around the park with their dogs. So I walked with dogs first time. It was so fun. And We visited their house. We ate British picnic food. For dessert, the host family served us a cake that they had made themselves. And We could go to local bar. I thought it was a world like a movie. I am grateful to them for giving us such the valuable experience.

Yui Sato



| Leigh-Ann

My Exchange Family was Leigh-Ann. She has taken me to many places and I have learned a lot about Durham and the city around Durham. For example newcastle has fun spots like arcades and golf games, as well as an aquarium. She is friendly and kind and we always looked forward to meeting her. Spending time with her has not only improved my English skills but also helped me understand British culture more deeply. I have so many good memories thanks to her, and I am truly grateful for her generosity and care.

Saki Omiya

FAREWELL LUNCH



To mark the end of the course and say farewell, staff and students gathered at Zizzi in Durham for a special celebration. The afternoon was filled with good food, thoughtful reflections, and lots of smiles. Following the meal, certificates were presented by the Principal and Bursar, along with special awards for a few outstanding students. It was a fitting way to end a memorable term and send our students off with best wishes for the future.

The first and last farewell party! We ate delicious food and did awarding of diplomas. Everyone looked happy. We talked each to other about Durham and good experiences a lot. I think I can see my growth compared to when I attended the formal dinner in Oxford. I think we could feel a lot of achievement when we got our certificates. St Mary's won in the college points tournament.

Yui Sato

We took a lesson in the morning, and then we dressed up and went to Zizzi by the minibus. There were all students and teachers in the lunch, and we talked a lot each other. There were the Bursar and his wife on my table, so I enjoyed a helpful conversation with them. It was a three course meal with wine and soft drinks, which was very delicious. At the end of the meal, we got certificates and took group photos. The awards made me motivated to continue to study English. That was a really nice time.

Maho Arai



After a tightly contested competition, St Mary's College emerged victorious in this term's College Championship, securing the win by a narrow margin. This cohort has been truly outstanding, making it a challenge for the teaching staff to choose just a few students to honour. In recognition of the dedication, progress, and positive spirit shown throughout the course, a selection of students were presented with Teikyo Awards during the farewell dinner. Congratulations to all who received them!



We had a Farewell lunch after exam! I was at the table with the Bursar, his wife and New Bursar. I was a little nervous because I didn't usually have many opportunities to talk, but the food was delicious and they talked to us a lot so I had a great time. Actually when I met Bursar at Oxford, I couldn't understand his English at all but I'm so glad I was able to understand it better this time. After lunch I returned Etsuko Hall and we played card games!

Saki Omiya

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 Cambridge, Liverpool, and Worthing, 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!

| Cambridge

Cambridge is very historic and modern place. Japanese was a few in my classroom. I've never had an experience like this. It took me a long time to get used to this life. Now I think this life was valuable. There were a lot of national people. I could know many cultures and traditions. I met a lot of people who had a connection to Japan in school. There was a men who had taught English in Japan and could speak Japanese and someone got married to Japanese. There were opportunities to talk to my teacher and share my opinions every two weeks. The teachers always cared about me. But I could meet other countries students and I could know kindness of people. I got valuable experience. The time I spent living in Cambridge is one of my best memories.

Yui Sato



| Liverpool

My language school was in Liverpool. Liverpool is the city where the Beatles were born and the people are very friendly!! Liverpool has 2 cathedrals. They are very stunning and Liverpool cathedral is the biggest in England. Happily, there were a lot of free places so I can visit many places!! My first week was very hard because it was very different between my English level and class level but teacher and another students helped me so I could spend good time. The people I became best friends with were Slovakian and Spanish, and they let me speak at my own pace even though I wasn't good at English. We visited many different cities and made many fun memories.

Saki Omiya



I spent a wonderful time in Worthing. It is a quiet and relaxing town near the sea. I enjoyed the view and the sun. It is near Brighton so I went to there many times to do shopping. I went to Portsmouth as well. There was an outlet there and I bought some souvenirs. Class was focused on debate. At first, I found it difficult to understand what other students were saying, because of their accents. But after few day I got used to their pronunciation and I enjoyed talking with friends. I made a lot of friend with many different nationalities. The best memory with friends was beach volleyball. I'm not good at volleyball but every one was very kind and supportive.

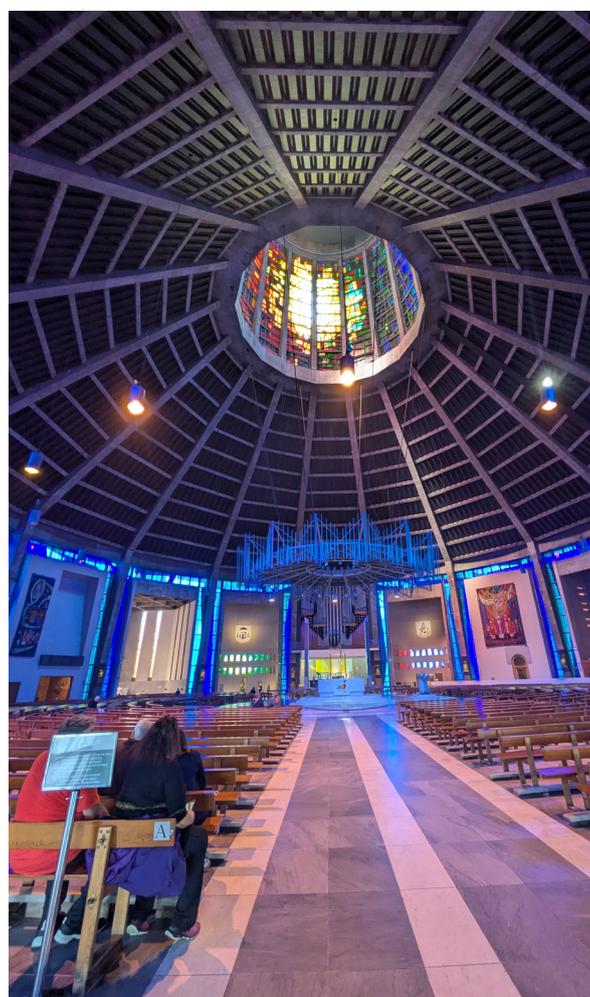
Rina Kohmoto



| Worthing

When I arrived in Worthing for the first time, I felt very comfortable because the town was near the sea and people were really helpful. My host family and school teachers were also very kind. There were many friendly students in the school and I made some friends from several countries. I mainly learnt speaking in the lessons. I spent a great time by the sea.

Maho Arai





My language partner is very kind and thoughtful. She is Chinese and she speaks English very well, she told me the best way to learn English. One of my favourite memories with my language partner was when she drove me to Holy island by her car. She took me to lovely cafe where I could have a British afternoon tea. I feel like my English has improved because I was able to have a one-on-one conversation.

Mayuko Hashimoto

My language partner was a student named Fraine. They were very kind and easy to talk to. I was a little nervous at first, but we quickly became comfortable with each other. We talked a lot about our cultures and hobbies, and we also explored many places together in Durham and Newcastle. Speaking in English was difficult for me, but it was a great learning experience. Thanks to them, I was able to enjoy both language practice and cultural exchange. This experience has become a very special memory for me.

Shusei Katsumata



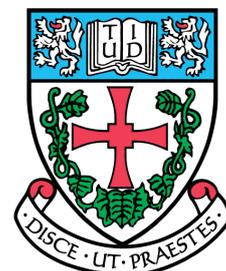
EXCHANGE PARTNERS

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 went many places with my language partner. We went to Newcastle and ate meals together. I could use a lot of English. At first, my partner didn't understand me sometimes. But my partner was very kind and said, “It's okay to speak slowly.” Because of this, I enjoyed speaking English very much. It was the best experience. Spending time with her has not only improved my English skills but also helped me understand British culture more deeply. I have so many good memories thanks to her, and I am truly grateful for her generosity and care.

Sota Saito







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St. Mary's

