

*Faculty of Economics*  
*Kindai University*  
*2022 Study Abroad Program*  
*Student Reports*



## PREFACE

Our study aboard program to Calgary Canada is back! After a two-year pause because of the Covid pandemic, 19 students were able to travel to Calgary at the beginning of April for a 4-month homestay.

During their stay in Canada, the students were required to observe the behavior of their new classmates, their host families, and the people living in Calgary. Judging from the students' comments, they benefited tremendously from this trip. Not only were they given many opportunities to communicate in English, but they learned what it is like to live in a multicultural country. They made new friends with students from many different countries and became informed in the ways people in other cultures live their daily lives. They were able to look at Japan from the outside, allowing them to reflect on their own culture, history, and behavior as Japanese, but more importantly, take that first step in becoming world citizens. This publication is a compilation of the students' reflection papers. It is our hope that these essays will provide each reader with a close-up view of what the students experienced and learned during their time living in a foreign country.

This was our tenth year of the study abroad program with the University of Calgary. It remains a success through the assistance of many people who should not go unrecognized. This program would never have happened had it not been for the vision of Professor Yoshiharu Imanishi, the former Dean of the Faculty of Economics. A big thank you to Professor Osamu Inoue and Professor Kosuke Sugai for planning and organizing the curriculum; the staff in the Economics Student Support Center and the staff and faculty at the University of Calgary. Last, but certainly not least, we appreciate the warm care from the homestay families who opened their homes—and their hearts—to our students during this difficult time and looked after our students while in Calgary. On behalf of the English Department, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all parties involved in the realization of this fine achievement.

Peter Ferguson, Editor

**Names of the Participants (in the order appearing in the text)**

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Aeri Chung       | (11) Takahide Nijo   |
| (2) Akane Fujiwara   | (12) Mai Oshita      |
| (3) Ayaka Fukai      | (13) Mako Otani      |
| (4) Nanami Imadani   | (14) Fumito Suematsu |
| (5) Koshi Kawaguchi  | (15) Katsumi Takeda  |
| (6) Aki Kurooka      | (16) Kai Tonami      |
| (7) Yuki Misaka      | (17) Haruka Uemura   |
| (8) Ryotaro Miyamoto | (18) Kodai Yamamoto  |
| (9) Seiya Moriguchi  | (19) Kenjiro Yoshida |
| (10) Ruka Morii      |                      |



## **My Life in Canada**

### **Aeri Chung**

I had a great experience in Calgary, Canada. Actually, I stayed in Alberta, Canada to study abroad when I was a high school student. So it didn't make me excited as not much as other students. However, my host family and house-mate made it so much fun.

When I arrived at the airport, my host mother came and welcomed me hospitably. At that time I was so anxious about my host family, because I didn't get any information about them before I came. I just knew their name and family structure. However, my anxiety was all gone after I saw her face and talked a little bit. Because of her expression, I was sure that I could do well with them here. Also I met 2-3 hours after I got home with my house-mate who is from Mexico and is such a nice person. They are just so nice. I would like to explain how they are nice.

I lived with my host family and one house-mate. There are four people in their family: the mother, the father, and two boys who are junior high school and high school students. Their mother makes her son's lunch every weekday. She made lunch for us while she was at it. In addition, she made absolutely every meal for dinner and their father made meals on weekends. They set aside time to give us the opportunity to speak and listen to English. Furthermore, the food tasted wonderful and delicious. Also, since my host family was Filipino, many of the dishes were made with rice, and I never once missed Japan. This alone is enough to show that they are a great host family. However, there are more great episodes to come.

When I asked for a car to take me to a shopping mall that was a bit far away, they were willing to give me a ride and even picked up my friend and put her in the car. On another day, I participated in almost all of the school's activities, and each time I did, they gave some fruits and snacks from home for me to take with me. And, I have an episode that made me the most flustered I have ever been in my life. It was a trip to Drumheller one day. After completing all the planned activities for the day, I got on the bus and realized that my phone was missing. I searched for several minutes, even stopping the bus as it was leaving, but could not find it. I found out that it takes a four-hour drive from my homestay to receive it by a call from a woman who found my phone. When I told my host family about the situation, they agreed to drive me out early the next morning because they knew I would be anxious without my phone, and as a result, they spent eight hours round trip to take a holiday just for my phone. This incident was the most memorable for me and made me feel sorry and thankful to my host family, but at the same time, it really made me feel respect that they are great and made me realize that this is the kind of person I want to be.

Since we received so much wonderful support, we took a little bit of time to show our appreciation by sending gifts and letters on Mother's Day and Father's Day with my home

mates. In this way, we spent three and a half months as a real family. I already miss the days when I worried and pondered with her what gift she would like to receive.

With my house-mate, we went to school together every morning and spent an hour talking about each other's culture, family, and future. Then we were able to gradually close the distance. On the last day before saying goodbye, I hugged her, sent her gifts, expressed my gratitude, and promised to visit each other's countries to see each other again for sure. Also, our host family told us to definitely contact them on future visits to Alberta, Canada, because you are family now, they said. It has already been a month and a half since I returned to Japan, but we still keep in touch and report to each other what is going on. It will be a lifetime treasure for me that I was able to make such a wonderful connection. I am very happy to participate in this program!



## **Activities**

### **Akane Fujiwara**

I'll introduce some activities from University of Calgary Activity Program. Kindai University students could participate all the activities because those activities are all included in our program. In those activities, we had an English only policy that we weren't able to speak Japanese. We could learn English while having fun. I liked all the activities, but I want to introduce the activities which I loved. I loved the trip to Banff and Heritage Park.

First, I'm going to talk about the Banff trips. We had two chances to go to Banff, which is the first national park in Canada. They had day-trip and over-night-trip as well. Banff is famous for beautiful mountains and lakes. We went to two lakes. One is Lake

Minnewanka and the other is Lake Louise. We got on a boat to cruise the Lake Minnewanka. The guide was Japanese, who entertained us a lot. I was so lucky to get on that boat. At Lake Louise, we just walked around, but the scenery there was awesome. They still had a little snow. They also had a gorgeous hotel there. I hope I can stay there in the future. We also went to the top of mountain using the gondola. We walked through the trail there. It was really cold but what I can say is that you can't see such beautiful mountains in Japan. This trip was the only trip which is over-night so that we drank a little bit at hotel. We, Kindai girls, gathered in a room, talking and drinking for a while. I think we got well thanks to this trip.



Next, I want to write about Heritage Park. Heritage Park is a place which has exhibition of antique stuffs such as cars, trains and even buildings. I liked those things, but what I loved the best was the amusement park. I got on two attractions, Wheels and Caterpillar. Both of them were so crazy that even though their quality was not good, we still had a lot of fun! I think the main reason I enjoyed it was that I couldn't predict what would happen in the attractions. We also enjoyed the food there. There was a bakery, which sold fantastic tarts. I think it is worth going back there only for that tarts. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to experience all the activities, such as train and the horse ride. Next time, I want to spend the whole day in Heritage Park and enjoy all the activities there!

I have only explained a tiny bit of my experiences in Canada. Of course, I went there for learning English, but what I learned is not only language but much more than that. This program changed me a lot in a good way. I grew up a lot through these experiences. I have made friends who are really kind, cute, funny and gave me a bunch of memories. All of the people I met through this program are my treasure! If you ask me how good was it, I'll answer that it was so good that I decided to stay here for a while!

## **Canadian Lifestyle**

### **Ayaka Fukai**

I will write an essay about the Canadian lifestyle. There are three things that I think are different between Japanese and Canadian lifestyles.

The first difference is the content of the meals and the time to eat. In Japan, we usually eat a well-balanced diet with vegetables, meat, and protein at every meal. However,

most Canadians eat light meals for breakfast and lunch. Also, many people eat brunch, which is a combination of breakfast and lunch. They eat sandwiches, grilled cheese and soup. Also, the time to eat is very early. I used to have dinner around 5pm. Some families have afternoon tea and dinner together.

The second point is how to spend your time after dinner. When I was in Japan, I took a bath after dinner, touched my phone, and went to bed about an hour or two later because dinner was usually around 7-8 pm. However, I had an early dinner at my host family's house, so after that I spent time with them playing board games, card games, and watching movies. Besides that, I spent a lot of time with my host family, going for walks and cooking. I felt that Canadians value spending time with their families very much.

The final point is how to spend the holidays. My host family said that Saturday is sleep day. It's a day where I sleep a lot until my body wakes up naturally. My host mother often told me that sleep is very important and that I should sleep for the same amount of time after studying. After waking up, I often spent time in nature, walking to the park, playing Frisbee, and having a picnic. In the park, I saw many families having picnics, playing frisbee and having BBQs on their days off. In Japan, we sometimes sleep a lot on holidays. However, I don't think I often go to the park to play Frisbee or spend time in nature with my family. I think that Canadians are very active and enjoy spending their holidays together outside. I also thought that it would be nice if there was more nature in Japan.

There are many differences between Japanese and Canadian lifestyles. In Japan, people tend to spend a lot of time alone. I think both lifestyles have their good points. However, I especially wanted to incorporate the time spent in nature in Canada into my lifestyle in Japan.



## **My Top 3 Travel Destinations**

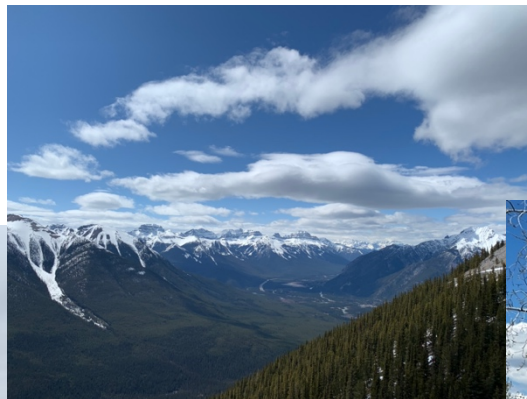
### **Nanami Imadani**

My study abroad was a wonderful experience beyond description. I had a lot of valuable experiences, such as studying at a university abroad, staying with a host family, and visiting many famous tourist spots. I am going to talk about some especially beautiful destinations, which I visited during my study abroad in Calgary.

Top 3 is the Drumheller Day Trip. It was the first trip that was organized by the University of Calgary. Drumheller is famous as the city of dinosaurs. We went to Hoodoos Trail and the museum. We hiked along Hoodoos Trail. It was windy and harder than I thought. I saw beautiful and magnificent scenery that cannot be seen in Japan.

Top 2 is the Banff Overnight Trip, which was also organized by the University of Calgary. This was when I got along with my friends from Kindai University. Because we gathered in the same room and talked a lot at night, we got to know each other well. We ate Alberta beef at the restaurant, The Grizzly House. It was expensive, but we could eat exotic meat such as alligator, buffalo, ostrich and so on. I would like to recommend this restaurant.

Top 1 is the camping in Red Deer for 3 days and 2 nights. 20 of us went camping. We made a campfire and ate s'mores, which is a sweet snack consisting of toasted marshmallows, chocolate, and crackers. In addition, we cooked together, played soccer and basketball, and walked around Sylvan Lake. Also, we went to a famous ice cream shop in Red Deer. I had amazing memories during this trip. I had a really good time. I went to school on weekdays and was busy with a lot of assignments almost every day. It was so hard and busy that I sometimes wanted to run away from my assignments. Thanks to my friends, however, I could complete all assignments while enjoying my life in Calgary. I enjoyed traveling and studying with them. I was so happy to make many friends from various countries and all of them are my treasures for my life. I will not forget the days I spent in Calgary forever. I want to go to Calgary to see my friends someday.





## **My Friends in Canada**

### **Koshi Kawaguchi**

I want to write about my friends in Canada. Canadians are so kind and friendly. I could make many friends and spend a lot of time with them. This time made me happy so I could have many wonderful stories. For example, one day I went to a park to see the stars at night with my friends. Then my friend brought her blankets to lay on the grass. At that time, we could see a shooting star. It is one of the most crazy memories for me. In addition, I went on a trip with my Canadian friends for 6 days. We went to Golden City and did many activities there. For example, we went rafting, rode on a zipline, riding a hose and so on. Everything was a new experience for me. Almost every day, I hung out with them. Even in the middle of night, they drove for me. That is why I liked driving while eating something and listening to music.

Also, I got great things from them. They like learning languages. They speak Japanese, Korean and English. I am really interested in language now. Under the influence of them, I am learning other languages. And I want to be able to talk to them in their native language. Also, I want to visit their country in the future. Some of my friends will come to Japan. So, next time, I want to convey the goodness of Japan and Japanese to them. I am still in touch with them. Sometimes I call my friends. This situation is great for me. I did not want to come back Japan. Actually, I have some home sickness now. I hope I will be able to meet and hang out with my Canadian friends. And I feel that my English skills have improved compared to before I went to Canada. If I could not to meet them, I would not enjoy my Calgary life. This term is most crazy time in my life. My thinking and values have changed. I will enjoy Japanese life more because my friends were always happy.



## **My Roommate and Host Family**

### **Aki Kurooka**

I would like to write about one of the most important parts of my stay in Calgary: my roommate and host family. My roommate was a Korean girl. While many students have roommates of the same nationality due to COVID, I was very fortunate to have her as a roommate. She was very kind and sociable and we often went out after school and on weekends. She and I spent time together when we did not have plans. After dinner, we would do homework together in the dining room or go for a walk around the neighborhood. On weekends, we went to a cafe together to study. Since we went to school together almost every morning, we had a lot of time to talk. We talked about our respective countries, our families, and our future. We promised each other that when we had enough money saved up, we would travel to the other's country and guide each other.

My host family was a Filipino mother, a father from Scandinavia, and a puppy. They had been a host family for a long time and were used to handling us. I was impressed that they asked Alexa to translate for us when we could not understand the meaning of English. They were very kind and treated us like real daughters. On Mother's Day, my roommates and I bought cupcakes for our mother. She was very pleased. In return, she took us to dinner with her parents. Her family was also very kind and taught us how to play at the casino we went to after dinner. They made my study abroad experience very enjoyable and comfortable.

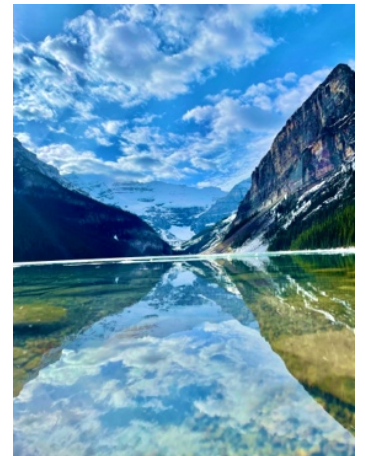


## Activities in Calgary

### Yuki Misaka

Here are some of the activities I experienced in Calgary, and I did a lot of them in 3.5 months. So it is honestly very hard to decide which one is the best. Calgary has lots of nature, lots of parks with soccer fields, and nearby is Banff, a world famous tourist attraction.

I went to Banff three times. The first time I went to Banff with a friend I made through a university program. The lake was frozen and the mountains were covered with snow. The temperature was about -10 degrees Celsius. I still remember that my ears were very painful without earmuffs. We went back up the mountain to see the waterfall. However, the path was icy like ice skates and it was difficult for those of us wearing sneakers to even walk. We slipped and fell at least 3 times. If you visit here you should definitely bring chains to attach to your shoes. After that we went to the hot springs. Unlike Japanese hot springs, there was only one large bath so the population density of the bath was very high. However, it had been a long time since I had soaked in a hot tub, so it was very relaxing.



The second time, we participated in a university activity for two days and one night. The lake was starting to melt compared to a while ago. I also went to see the waterfall for the second time. This time there were chains so it was very easy to walk. In conclusion, the chains were the strongest. After that, we took the gondola lift to the top of the mountain. The weather was fine at the time, so the view from the top was really beautiful. Here is a picture from the top.



The third time I went on a day trip with a university activity. This time we went to Lake Louise, the most famous lake in Banff. It was the most beautiful lake I have ever seen. We took a boat ride and explored the lake. We also went to the hot springs for the second time, and even though it was the third time, I still remember it being the most fun.

## School in Calgary

### Ryotaro Miyamoto

When I was in Calgary, I could try lots of exciting and new activities, such as sky diving, going on trip which has great scenery, meeting new friends from foreign countries, so on and so forth. In this essay, I'm going to write about university school life in Calgary.

I went there to learn English and we had three classes (grammar, reading and writing, plus listening and speaking). Each class was about 90 to 120 minutes, so I felt it was like when I was high school student. It was so hard for me I sometimes overslept in the morning, but because of these hard schedules, I could improve my English level. I couldn't understand what Canadians say just after going to Calgary. However, I could catch little by little. Before I came back to Japan, I could have understood maybe 60 or 70 %. This is incredible for me because I couldn't understand anything at first.

My school life isn't only studying. I usually played sports after school. Soccer is one of them. I have never played soccer except for PE class when I was in elementary and junior high school. I have played baseball for more than 10 years, so I thought soccer isn't fun. When I played soccer, I found I was wrong. It is really fun and also I could make a lot of friends from soccer. I have known playing sports makes us be friends and stay healthy. Since I played soccer for the first time in Calgary, it was a nice experience.

I have many experiences from Calgary. Some of them and some of my friends changed me, like way of thinking and sense of view, and of course, my English level. If you are thinking of whether or not you study abroad, I recommend trying it.



## **My Homestay in Calgary**

### **Seiya Moriguchi**

I experienced homestay for the first time. At first, I was so nervous to meet my host family. I was worried about being able to talk with them in English. However, they were so kind. I had a host mother, host father, their son, and their dog. Even if I make a mistake speaking English, they always told me about that kindly and easily. They helped me in terms of food, invitations, and making video messages.

When I arrived at their house, I gave Japanese snacks to them. I gave them a matcha flavored KitKat and sour gummies. They were very surprised to eat it and were very pleased. This souvenir became a catalyst for communication, and I was able to get to know them, and it was also an opportunity for them to get to know me.

First, they always made me delicious food. For example, udon, macaroni gratin, curry and I liked all of them. Also, they sometimes took me out to eat. I went to restaurant a few times with them. Especially, I like Popeyes' chicken the best. This is like KFC. I know that this is not good for my health, but I couldn't help eating it because it is so delicious. Almost every morning, they made me pancakes with strawberry jam. I was looking forward to that in the morning because they are delicious too.

Secondly, they often invited me to go hiking in the mountains. I went to the mountain to hike once with them. It was so tough for me. I was so tired. However, when we arrived at the beautiful fall, I was very healed. I couldn't go on a hike several times with them because I often had a plan to hang out with my Japanese friends and foreign friends. Of course, these are good experiences for me, but I regret that I couldn't do that with them a little more. My host family have many friends in Calgary. They often invited their friends to their house. When I spend time in their house, I could talk with their friends, so I made my many new friends. Also, I went to various places to see sightseeing with them. When I'm in the car, they talk to me very kindly. Thanks to them, I practiced to use English anytime, anywhere, again and again.

Accordingly, on my last day in Calgary, my parents in Japan sent me a video message asking my host family to watch it and I showed it to them. They were so happy that they sent me a video in return. It was a video for me and my parents and I was very moved by the content. I cried when I saw their gratitude, their stories about the memories we made together, and their warm words of encouragement to come see them anytime. Their kindness helped me many times while I was in Calgary. I can't thank them enough.

Finally, spending time with them for about three months is one of my treasures for me. If my host family were not them, I couldn't spend a such good time in Calgary. I really appreciate to all of them. I was glad to meet them in Calgary. I want to come back to Calgary again someday. At that time, I will definitely go to see them. They are my second family. I

hope they meet my parents directly someday. And then from even now I want to make a good relationship between them and my parents thorough SNS like an Instagram. They are my host family and my homestay experiences.



## **Activities**

### **Ruka Morii**

The days I spent in Calgary were the most enjoyable time I've ever had. Before I went to Canada, I thought studying abroad would be very hard and fun—and it was true. Of course, there were so many assignments and tasks that it was very hard. But more than that, the time I spent with my friends during the activities became an irreplaceable memory. I would like to introduce the two most memorable activities that I had.

The trips to Banff were my favorite activity. I went there twice: one overnight trip and one day trip. My first time in Banff was in the middle of May, but it was still cold and there was a little bit of snow so my friends and I wore winter clothes and gloves. We did grueling hikes, busy sightseeing downtown, and enjoyed the incredible views of the mountains and rivers there. The view was especially incredible. I was moved by the magnificent power and preciousness of nature, and I was able to see unforgettable sights there. However, lunch at a restaurant was the most iconic part of this trip. A restaurant called The Grizzly House downtown, recommended by a friend, is a famous cheese fondue restaurant. It was not a normal restaurant and we ate exotic food there. For example, venison, mahi-mahi, buffalo, frogs, alligators, ostriches, kangaroos and snakes. I still vividly remember the sensation that I ate frogs. I spent more than 8,000 yen for lunch at the restaurant there, but it was an unforgettable memory, so I definitely recommend going there.

Secondly, the activities I would like to introduce are not provided by the school. The sports I did after school are very important activities for me to remember my study abroad

life. My friends and I played many sports, such as volleyball, badminton, basketball, futsal and bouldering. The University of Calgary provided a gymnasium for the students so we could enjoy our favorite sports if the space was not taken up by someone else. To be honest, there are fewer foreign exchange students than I thought, and most of my classmates were Japanese, so I often played with my Japanese friends. When I played volleyball for the first time in the gymnasium, I was very surprised when foreign students that I didn't know came in without hesitation and said, "Can we participate too?" They seem to play volleyball there almost every day. After playing sports several times, we became friends with them. Playing and drinking with them became a very good memory. On the last day of my study abroad, one friend came to the airport to see me off and told me that he would come to Japan.

I experienced about 20 activities. For example, welcome parties, graduation parties, sightseeing tours, movie nights, dance parties, camping, sports, watching ice hockey games, watching football and so on. Thanks to these activities, my student life in Canada has become even more fulfilling.

Lastly, I want to tell you the importance of friends. I experienced these activities with my precious friends. Chatting in one room at a hotel, playing cards on the bus, cooking meals by ourselves, and such ordinary things became very happy and special memories. I am grateful to my friends who spent time with me in Calgary.



## Relationships with Host Family and Friends

### Takahide Nijo

I studied in Calgary for about three and half months from April 2 to July 18. It was my first experience staying in a foreign country for several months. I tried to talk to many people in English while I was in Calgary. Thanks to those attempts, I was able to make many friends. And I did a homestay there, so I had many conversations with my host family in English. By talking to them, I learned not only English, but also cultural differences from my host family and friends during that study abroad. I will describe my relationships with my host family and friends in Calgary.

My host family is a family of five, however, one of them lives in England. My host parents are from the Philippines. My two host brothers were born in Canada. They are very kind. In a word, they are an awesome host family. They helped me whenever I needed it. When I first talked with them, I felt their English was so fast for me to hear. Especially, the host brothers' English was super fast. I had to listen again and again to understand him. In addition, I had a roommate. He is a high school student from Italy. I avoid staying in my room long time because I wanted to use English a lot. I enjoyed talking about cultural differences, climate, our hobbies and so on in the living room. We also enjoyed watching movies in the evening. As I mentioned earlier, my host family is Filipino so most of the food was Filipino. It was the first time I had Filipino cuisine. I was worried about how the food would taste good, but that worry was unnecessary. I thought the cuisines that they cooked was very tasty. Additionally, I made a lot of friends who are from foreign countries like South Korea, Mexico, Peru, Chile and so on. I often hung out with them after school and on weekends. I enjoyed life in Calgary by watching ice hockey, rafting and so on with them. I still keep in touch with them by using social networking services.

As a result of this study abroad program, I discovered the joy of communicating with people from many different countries. At first, I didn't have the courage to speak English because I was afraid of failure. But now I have more confidence in speaking English than before I joined this program. My motivation to learn English increased through this experience. I will never forget this experience.





## **My Treasured Memories**

### **Mai Oshita**

I had a lot of wonderful experiences in Calgary. In regards to the homestay, it was the first time for me to spend such a long time with people who are not family. At first, I was nervous to do a homestay, but now I think these memories are my treasure!

I was able to experience many interesting cultural things that are different between Canada and Japan. About food, I enjoyed the meals that my host mother and father cooked every day. In Japan, I sometimes bring a lunch box that my mother makes to eat for lunch to school. In Calgary, I also brought lunch that my mother made for me every day. However, the contents were very different. In Calgary I always brought yogurt and sandwich. In addition, I usually brought an apple or orange. It was so different from Japan because Japanese lunch box normally have rice and 3-4 side dishes. At first, I was surprised but soon I got used to that. I enjoyed my lunch every day. In addition, the dinners that I ate in my homestay house were so delicious. I ate not only dishes that my host mother and father made but also pre-cooked dishes like instant noodles. One day, my host mother made me noodles and she brought me not chopsticks but a spoon. I was so surprised and ask her, "How to eat this with a spoon?" because I always use chopsticks to eat noodles. She answered that in Canada, noodle is like soup so she always crushes the noodles before pouring the hot water. Finally, I used to eat noodle with spoon. I felt cultural difference many times.

In my house, my host mother and father sometimes invited many people such as daughters, grandchildren, and friends. So, I could talk with a lot of people in my house. Especially I usually played with their grandchildren. There were four grandchildren. All of them were so cute! I spent a lot of time with them to watch movies, play the piano, play house, and so on. And also, I sometimes talked with my host family's friends who were not from Canada but other countries. They were very kind to me and they tried to talk with me about myself or my country. So, I had chance to talk with some people in my house. It was good experience for me.

In conclusion, I'm very happy to meet my host family and the people who I met with my host family. I will come back to Calgary to meet my host family again someday.



## **My Friend Mako Otani**

This studying abroad was wonderful for me and I have a lot of memories. Particularly, hanging out with my friends was the biggest part of my Canadian life. I will write about my friends that I made during my study abroad.

My first foreign friend was a Korean girl. I met her on my first day in Calgary, but I didn't know that I would have a roommate and she is from Korea. We were also classmates, thus we spent a lot of time together in class and at home. We felt difficulties with customs because our host family was Filipino. However, we can sympathize with our feelings and thanks for that, our relationship became stronger. Moreover, I loved the time to eat lunch and dinner with her. We talked about class and our friends and taught our language to each other. We also hung out many times. I still keep in touch with her now and we promised that will hang out in Japan and Korea.

At university, I took three classes: grammar, writing and reading, and listening and speaking. There were twenty students on average in each class. Most of them were Japanese but I had a lot of opportunities to talk so I was able to talk with students from all over the world. Especially I was happy to make a best friend in Calgary. This is the best thing that's ever happened to me there. Before I came here, I didn't expect that. I just wanted to make native friends. There is chemistry between her and me, and we have the same tongue and the same tastes. Moreover, through these classes, I made close friends. They are not just friends, they also have the same will, therefore, we learned English by inspiring each other to improve.



After I finished my class, I often played volleyball. I played with local students and then went to restaurants and drank. When I met them first, I couldn't understand their English and couldn't enjoy it at first, but they are so kind and taught me slang, so I really enjoyed being with them. Here, finally, I felt I did what ordinary college students do. Therefore, I wish I could stay in Calgary longer.

I'm really glad I came to Calgary and I will keep in touch with all of my friends. These experiences are my treasure and I will never forget them. If I have a chance to go to Calgary again, I will definitely go.



## **Study Abroad in Calgary**

### **Fumito Suematsu**

My study abroad was awesome and a great experience. There were a lot of incidents that happened to me. I will introduce and tell you cautions you should do when you study abroad in Calgary. There are two main things you should do.

First of all, you should research about stuff you have to bring to foreign country before you go. I missed about this because I didn't research a lot, so I didn't know I couldn't use my Android phone in Canada because of the frequency band. I really recommend you should bring clothes for two seasons because the every cost of clothes is double than in Japan. In addition, you want to buy some clothes like Roots, Patagonia, Tommy Hilfiger, so you should bring some clothes.

Also, I recommend that you should go to JCC (Japanese Conversation Club) as soon as you possibly can because I have really improved my English skills since I went there. Before I went there, I heard JCC was boring from my friends, so I hesitated to go there. However, I regretted not going there sooner. I really did enjoy spending time with the members of JCC. My study abroad started after I went there because I met up with Japanese friends before I did. Absolutely, your speaking and listening skills will be improved if you go to JCC.

In conclusion, I did a lot of things in Calgary, and everything was super good for me because I made many friends and hanged out with them a lot. I learned a lot from my friends, and as I said above, you should make friends as soon as possible. That makes your study abroad fun and more meaningful. There are really a lot of things happened to me except I

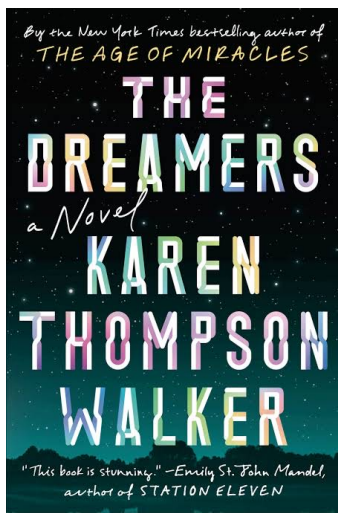
already introduced, so you should experience a lot in Calgary. I hope your study abroad will be funny!! Finally, I show you some pictures I took with my friends in Calgary.



## **My Life in Calgary** **Katsumi Takeda**

This three-month trip was very significant for me. I had a lot of experiences, made many friends, and learned new things. But I want to choose one thing that I learned. In Calgary, I realized that it is important not to give up before doing something. I realized this through my homework. I had a grammar class, a reading-writing class, and a speaking-listening class every day. And I got homework from each class. At first, I only got one kind of homework from each class. Some of them were simple but some of them were complicated. One month later, the teacher from my reading-writing class gave us a novel to read. It has more than 300 pages. I was shocked because I thought I couldn't read it. I had

never finished reading a novel before, and of course the book was written in English, so I couldn't believe that I would read it. But I had to read the novel because there was a group work called Literature Circle every week. Every student had a roll in each week, and we had to answer some questions about the novel. First week, we had to read 60 pages in one week. But we had a unit quiz and an overnight trip that week. I am not good at reading books quickly, so I needed much time to read, but we didn't have much time because of the quiz and trip. So, I brought my novel to the trip and read it on the bus, and I finished reading the day before the Literature Circle. I felt so accomplished. It was just 60 pages, but I enjoyed reading. It was my first time that I enjoyed reading. From that week, I finished reading even if I had a quiz or a presentation. And at the end of the semester, I finished reading the novel. I was surprised that I finished reading it. It was my first time to finish a novel. From this experience, I realized that there is nothing that I can't do and it's important not to give up before doing something. At first, I didn't think I could do it but, in the end, I achieved it. And what I got is confidence and a feeling of pride in myself. Thanks to this homework, I realized an important thing.



analysis:

In the space below, outline the various stories or plots within the reading for the week. We will use the stories within the larger story. Then identify the characters within that part of the story. Finally, examine how the author uses different techniques to move between the two story lines within the week's reading.

Stories within the plot	Characters	Techniques used to tell the story
Outline of Story one - Kara was suffering from unknown disease ✓ - Kara died ✓ - The disease spread at the college ✓ - Amanda got sick → Eve ✓ - Rebecca got sick → Eve ✓	Kara Hale ✓ The girls ✓ The boys ✓ Caleb ✓ Amanda ✓ Rebecca ✓	Chronological order ✓
Outline of Story Two - Sara was starting her tumor ✓ - The tumor came home ✓ - He acts strangely ✓ - get angry ✓ - wash off his eyes ✓ - wash off his clothes outside ✓ - start cough at the moment ✓ Outline of Story Three - started wearing masks ✓ - started wearing masks ✓ - The students were excited ✓ - Argon put her hand down in the lake ✓ - She didn't make up ✓	Sara ✓ Father ✓ Libby ✓  Her friend Matthew ✓ Argonia ✓	Flashback ✓ Foreshadowing ✓   Chronological order ✓

Discussion Director - Week 1 (pp. 1-60)

With your Literature Circle partners, discuss the following questions:

Food is a symbol of culture/heritage she threw it out because she was ashamed of her culture.

1. What is the significance of the boys from Mer's dorm making fun of the food her mother makes? What is Kara's role in the teasing? What does this reveal about Mer's relationship with her family versus her classmates?  
- Making fun of her because she was different from others. It was time for her to show down the boys who told the boys about a secret. P.P.  
- She doesn't get along with her classmates but she has a good relationship with her family.
2. How is the sentence "the four breaks like a fire" contributing to the tone and theme of the first five chapters (17)?  
- The sentence changed the tone and theme because it thought it meant that the fear decreased like a fire went out. It changed from much fear to less fear because 2 girls got killed.
3. What is the novel, so far, saying about motherhood?  
- I thought all mothers are always care about their children. Especially, their children care in a bad situation and far from their parents.
4. Why do you think the narrator reveals character's nicknames (Becca, Becks, B, and Kabe, Dr. Cohen), but only refers to them by their full first name?  
- To make readers feel more connected to characters.  
- Also to make them feel like the book is written in third-person, the author is not involved in the plot. It's more formal.
5. What are some similarities between Catherine and Rebecca's journey to motherhood and why are they important?  
- Both are single so they can't have their own child. Catherine got a child care one. I think it's important because it's very hard to grow children up without a mom.
6. What does Mer's response to the Trolley Problem say about her as a character? What does it say about motherhood?  
- It shows that Mer answers kindly but she can tell that she's really confused about the question.  
- On the other hand Matthew, he is really curious every thought of people. He wants to know Mer's answers.

Reflection - Week 3 (pp. 120-185) Katelyn

Date: June 1

In the space below, please write a summary in 150 words or less of the material you have read.

A father of 4 girls got sick. Stanley Troy came to work and their father got sick. Anne was working at work but he had to go there and go away from the train just by getting in the train. Stanley at the train while his father got a partner of historical music and moved on top. All they enjoyed doing together again. During the infection, the dad had to wear a mask at all times. A man who has a wife and a son was dying so because his son had that he had a personal shot in his chest and died. After that he and his mother who had with people who they are of or died in a hour since his son passing. In the space below, please write a personal response to the material you have read.

It was more scary because needles symptoms were diagnosed little by little. And I think people get stressed every much because of the quarantine. There are not allowed to leave the town. I was nervous about Sara and Libby. They are Stanley's thing. And I really worry about Sara and Libby. They live themselves new with parents. So I wonder if they can be fond of being here of hospital.

In the space below, please write a prediction about what you think will happen next.

I think most symptoms will be discovered but they will figure out the common point and find the solution. The people will lose their family and their friends because of the infection. I think people like Kabe should be angry that and they should help people who need help and give them money.

## Activities Outside of School

### Kai Tonami

I had the best time of my life in Calgary. This time, I will introduce my activities outside of school. I met a lot of people and made friends. The people in the photo on the right are Arman from India, Kobe from China, Kao from Hongkong, and Mayankjot from India. I stayed at Arman's house and talk a lot. We talked about discrimination against Muslims in India and the oppression of the Chinese government in Hong Kong. By listening to the problems of each country, I realized how small the world I see is.



The photo on the left was taken at a matcha specialty store. The person who spreads out his arms is Mac. He is a very funny guy. He taught me how to escape from the police and told me about his life. It was very interesting because he has a variety of experiences. He was born in South Korea and spent his elementary school years there. Then went to the United States, where he was discriminated against, went through junior high school, and now lives in Canada. He gave me a lot of advice. The person on the far left of the photo is Rebecca. She came from England. She is so cute and funny. She is interested in Japan and told me about her impressions of Japan from overseas.

The photo on the right was taken during the Calgary Stampede. During the stampede, Calgary is full of festivities and many people dress up and go out on the town. Canadians are very friendly and accepting of diversity, so they can tolerate clothes that seem strange at first glance. I didn't get any strange looks when I walked downtown in my afro hair or twin tails. Instead, they spoke to me cheerfully. For me, this program is the most valuable time in my life. I could get a lot of experience. Not only English skills, but also experiencing each country's culture and values. I will never forget this memory.



## **Eating Habits**

### **Haruka Uemura**

I spent about 3 months in Canada, and I am going to write about the food I had in my homestay and in Canada. My host family are from Mongolia and my roommate is from Korea. I have never had Mongolian food, but I thought it was not so different from Japanese food. We often ate rice, salad, and fish or meat for dinner. In the morning, I always ate toast and butter, and I ate sandwiches, fruits, yogurt, and snacks for lunch. In Japan, it seems that university students do not often bring their own lunch boxes from home. I think the reason why Canadian students bring their own lunch is because eating outside is more expensive than in Japan. I really appreciated that my host mother cooked lunch for me every day.

My host mother also sometimes made traditional Mongolian cookies and pies. When she cooked them, she used a traditional pot to fry them. They were so delicious, and I loved them so much. In addition, my host mother likes cooking, and she wanted to know new recipes. So, my roommate and I made Korean and Japanese food. She made kimbap and Korean soup. I made *nikujaga* and *okonomiyaki*. My host family liked both dishes and they were very tasty.

It was very interesting to try various kinds of food from different countries. Sometimes I ate steak or hamburgers at the restaurant. Compared to Japan, the prices are higher because you should pay a tip. Before I came to Canada, I had an image of Canadian food being very large, but in fact it was about the same amount. Also, I was really surprised that there were many Japanese and Korean food restaurants in Canada. When I went to Korean restaurant with Korean friends, they taught me how to eat Korean food. Through this study abroad, I could try food from many different countries, and I had a great time in Canada.



## **My Activities**

### **Kodai Yamamoto**

I had a lot of experiences in Calgary. I want to write about my activities. At first, I couldn't understand people who speak English. Also, most of my classmates were Japanese and they always spoke Japanese. I thought I can't improve my English skills, so I made two communities. First, I went to church. There are so many Christians there and they were so kind. When I went there, they always accepted me and then I got along with them little by little. After church, we ate lunch and played some sports together. In addition, on the weekend, they drove me to places and I went to Banff, casino, and the stampede. They taught me so many words. And also, I learned so many things about Christianity. For example, before eating, we have to pray, and if they get a marriage to someone, they prefer the same religion.

Second, I joined a local soccer team and I enjoyed playing soccer. It was lucky that I brought my soccer shoes from Japan to play soccer. But when I arrived in Canada in April, I was surprised because the temperature was minus 11 degrees Celsius, so nobody played soccer! In May, I met person who plays soccer and he invited me to his soccer team. So I played a lot of games every week from May. However, it was so hard to communicate with my teammates during games, but I could do it by using gestures. And then, in my soccer team, there were people from various countries and I talked with them about each national soccer team. It was so fun because FIFA World Cup 2022 is going to be held in Qatar.

That's why I made two communities and I enjoyed Canada's life. Finally, I tried to do so many things in Calgary and these experiences are my treasure forever. I want to meet everybody again someday.





## **Life in Canada with Foreign People**

### **Kenjiro Yoshida**

It has been claimed that making foreign friends and talking with them in English is an effective way to improve English skills. Through this program, I have found this to be true. I made many friends from many countries, such as South Korea, China, and some countries in South America. I had a great time with everybody. By spending time with them, I not only improved my English skills, but I learned about different cultures and different ways of thinking.

In my class, there were lots of people from South America, including Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Colombia. Since they are friendly, as soon as we exchanged Instagram, we started to hang out together after school. We often played soccer, went to restaurants, and worked out at the gym together; consequently, I improved my listening and speaking skills because I had to talk in English with them all the time. While I made friends who are nonnative English speakers, I could not make Canadian friends because the program was to learn how to use English and there were no native speakers besides the teachers. Some Japanese students had visited JCC (Japanese Conversation and Culture Club) to make Canadian friends and I do think visiting JCC is a good way to make new friends; even so, I have never been there because I did not prefer to speak Japanese a lot and was passionate about hanging out with friends from all over the world.

I did not make Canadian friends; however, I could learn a lot of interesting cultures and some Spanish and Korean words and grammar by hanging out with Latin and South Korean friends. I know my way of making friends is not great, but I do think learning bad words bring our hearts closer together. I learned many bad Spanish words and of course, I taught them Japanese words; as a result, I made lots of friends and laughed a lot every day. Spending lots of time with them improved my ability to use English vocabulary and grammar in conversation.

It seems to me that learning about different cultures is one of the greatest benefits of this program. The friends I made in Canada became my best friends and I often talk on the phone even after getting back to Japan. We promised to see each other again someday. It is obvious that this program gives us a lot more than just improved English. I am very happy to have participated in this program!

