

What's the best advice you can give future students to maximize their experience abroad?

"Be open and realize that you'll remember this trip for the rest of your life, so make every day count and be positive!"

"Put the phone down. Ignore social media. Ignore America. Emerge into your surrounds and engage with the people around you."

"Get to know the people in your group! Have a purpose/goal. What do you want from the program?"

"Being American, so many people wanted to interact with you and know about your culture. People loved to practice their English with us."

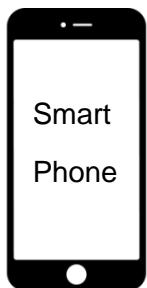
"Try foods you never have, learn the language, and try things and activities you are unsure about!"

"Go to areas that are not "touristy" areas and attempting to speak the language and understand and accept differences."

What items did you not bring that you wish you had?

- More casual clothes
- Small speaker – "Beats Pill"
- Small purse
- Hot spot
- Mix and match clothes

Which devices would you recommend others take in the future?



What items did you pack and NOT need while abroad?

- Too many business clothes
- Business suit
- Hair dryer

Most common ways to communicate with family and friends back home:

#1. Through WiFi-enabled smart phones apps

- Skype
- Whatsapp
- iMessage

#2. International calling/text plan with US cell phone carrier

WCOB Japan

"This program experience was an invaluable and irreplaceable 6 weeks of my life. The program was more than satisfying, I experienced, learned, and grew more than I ever imagined could have happened in that time. We are constantly going new places, meeting new people, trying new foods, learning new things about the culture. I was so busy, but that is exactly how I would want to make use of time abroad."

Approximately how much did you spend out of pocket during the program (in USD)?

	Max Value	Average Value
Food:	900.00	663.63
Going out/free time:	900.00	334.54
Other:	100.00	7.69
Personal travel/excursions:	200.00	45.45
Program related travel/excursions:	200.00	20.00
Souvenirs/gifts:	400.00	202.72

What credit cards were most accepted?



What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?

"Consider meals your biggest expenditure! Map out how much you want to spend daily on food. Don't buy every "cool" thing you see walking around town. Have more than one source of payment. I brought my checkbook, credit card, debit card, and had cash on hand."

"Set daily spending targets and adjust later for surpluses/deficits."

"Watch your expenses and have a weekly number of what you would like to spend and **STICK TO IT**. It is easy to spend a larger amount of money than anticipated the first week, but you must watch this and stay on track for the while trip."