



TAKING OFF

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The 51st Kishibe Festival: New Phase

It was a very festive and exciting time on campus during the Kishibe Festival which was held from October 19 to 21. The international students who arrived in Japan in September jumped right in and got involved in the school's annual event. It was a time of fun, food, and making new friends.

The International students gave it their all over the three days of the festival. Together with the OGU students they operated four food stands. Every day of the festival they were busy cooking and selling pancakes, gyoza, chijimi, popcorn, and s'mores, all of which were a big hit with OGU students and others who attended the festival.

And due to all their hard work, they were able to sell many tasty treats and have a successful event. With the money raised, they decided to donate 160,000 yen to the Red Cross. The money will be used for humanitarian activities that the Red Cross implements.

We would sincerely like to thank all of you who helped their booths to be so successful. It was truly a great experience and a great event.



Top: Students at the booth
Bottom: Donation Awarding Ceremony to Red Cross

Hello from All Corners of the World!

There are 33 OGU students currently studying in 10 countries and regions at 14 overseas universities. This is the largest number ever at OGU, but considering the total student number is 6,000, it is still only a small part of the entire student body. This issue introduces the varied lives of exchange students. We hope their reports will inspire and motivate other students who wish to study abroad in the future.

Kazuki Hirokawa, Linnaeus University (3rd year, Business Administration Major)

I am currently studying Management and Organization at Linnaeus University in Vaxjo, Sweden. I would like to introduce the lecture style at this university.

First of all, I studied Management in English at Osaka Gakuin University



Trip to Copenhagen with friends (Left)

(OGU), so I expected that it would not be so difficult to study it in Sweden. But I was totally wrong. Once classes started, I didn't understand what my lecturers and classmates were saying. I even didn't know what I didn't understand. Lecturers usually put key words on PowerPoint slides and verbally explain them. German and French students in my class always asked questions and expressed themselves clearly. I felt that everyone except me was actively participating in class. In addition to that, I needed to read more than 500 pages in a month and also had group work, presentations and discussion in class. I didn't have enough time to sleep! One day, I realized one thing. We were all told to work in a group of 5 or 6 students



BBQ at the lakeshore with friends
(Second from right)

and each group was assigned a chapter. "Each group reviews a different chapter, so they must explain important points to the rest of the class!" Bingo! I almost gave up on my study here, but I could survive in this difficult situation. What I want to tell you here is that I really like the study style in Sweden in which students help each other. This is truly a student-driven classroom!

I am still struggling, but I am trying my

best everyday hoping that I can achieve something when I finish this study abroad. I mentioned how difficult my life

here is, but I am truly enjoying “study hard, play hard” in Sweden!

Akane Harada, Wenzao Ursline College of Languages (3rd year, Distribution Science Major)

Not all students who decide to study abroad have a clear vision for their future. I was one of them. I left for Taiwan in September thinking that I will make this a chance to reflect on myself and my future.

I am currently studying Chinese, marketing, and other subjects in Taiwan and living in a dorm. I just got used to living here, so I finally started looking back on my life in the past couple of months. I still think this is what I wanted to do! I will start my research on local Taiwanese companies from now.

I learned a very important lesson through this study abroad: It is to have a positive attitude and not to give in no matter what happens. When I came here, I did not even know easy Chinese words. I always asked people around me, “What is it in Chinese?” I tried to use the words I learned later. Living in a dorm was not easy at the beginning. I thought of moving out from the dorm, but I thought if I run away from this problem, I will do that again and again in the rest of my life. So I decided to stay in the dorm. I am now glad I decided to



With a language partner (Right)

do so because I have already got used to living there. Now, I actually enjoy it.

Studying abroad gives you a lot of time to reflect on yourself. You also have a constant battle with yourself everyday, but when you overcome it, it will make you a confident person. Do you have time to reflect on yourself? I hope OGU students will do their best and move forward to the next step!

“Inspire Me!” has inspired OGU students!

Osaka Gakuin University’s campus was alive with the sound of music and full of inspiration on Nov. 29 thanks to an exciting and energetic performance from the Japanese universal instrumental band Drakskip.

The mini concert, by the band who have played their unique style of music all throughout Japan and Europe, was sponsored by OGU and the International Center. It was the second musical event held as part of a series called “Inspire Me!” One of the main goals of the “Inspire Me!” series is to bring different young performers to OGU to help inspire OGU students to be interested in the world and different things.

Watching the 4-member group perform to a standing room only crowd of



Drakskip performing in front of many students

students in OGU’s building 2 was amazing. Students were tapping their feet and shaking their head side to side as the group played some up tempo and slow wistful music. In between songs, the band members kept up a lively banter with each other bringing smiles and laughter to the face of students. Clearly all were impressed.

The “Inspire Me!” series is the brainchild of OGU’s own Professor Theo Steckler. Mr. Steckler said he wants to show students that young Japanese are doing great things in Japan and throughout the world. He hopes OGU students are positively motivated to not give up on their dreams and hopes. Mr. Steckler was a great MC and his efforts were clearly a huge success during this second event.

Drakskip has been performing for about seven years. The members met during their university days in Kyoto and have worked hard to achieve their dream. The band plays European instruments in a very entertaining way.



One of the members also trained himself to play an unusual looking Swedish instrument called a “Nyckelharpa,” or key harp. Many students were very interested in the instrument which they had never seen before.

OGU students interviewed after the mini-concert said they were very energized and impressed by the performance. During a reception for the band students were able to talk to the band members more. One student said he found the music very interesting. “It was awesome,” he said.

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