



# TAKING OFF

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## Hello from All Corners of the World!

This issue first features Mr. Daichi Misaki who just graduated from The University of Queensland with a master's degree in Business Administration in December of last year. His college life started with a set back. This article tells how he coped with the situation and finally graduated from overseas university. He tells us you can make anything happen if you keep believing "Practice makes perfect." and "You can do it."



**Daichi Misaki**

## International Studies Major, Graduated in 2012

I received a master's degree in business administration from The University of Queensland in Australia on December 16, 2013. I was able to complete the graduate school program with the help and support of many people. I would like to share some of my experiences in my four years at Osaka Gakuin University as well as my study abroad time in Australia with you.

Do you have a goal in your life? I believe if you have a goal, even if it is a small one, how you live everyday will change. When I was in high school, my family hosted a boy from New Zealand for a few weeks. But I was not able to communicate with him in English at all back then. It was an extremely frustrating experience, but it also turned out to be an awakening for me. I realized if I could speak English, a universal language, my world would be widened. The most important thing was that I found a future dream through this experience.

Later, I entered OGU having a goal to study abroad in the U.S., but then I faced the harsh reality. My first TOEIC score was only 285. Before entering OGU, all I did was play soccer, so English classes at university were completely over my head. I was depressed with the score, but my dream to study abroad helped me move forward. Because I really wished to study in the U.S., I studied English without sparing time for sleep. OGU has many facilities and systems to support students, and the International Center is one of them. I used most of the resources that were available for students at OGU and was able to make my dream come true in the second year at OGU.

I left Japan to go to the U.S. to study for two semesters without giving much thought to my future. However, after I met international students who studied really hard and other Japanese students who studied at the graduate school in the U.S., I started to think about

studying overseas and receiving a degree there.

After coming back from the U.S., I started studying for IELTS in order to enter a graduate school in Australia. At that time, my English had already improved at a certain level, so I was able to achieve the required score within a year. Of course I expected it would be really hard to study at an Australian graduate school, but it was much harder than I imagined. I also changed my major from International Studies to Business, so it made my academic life even harder. There were so many difficulties. I didn't have enough background knowledge, didn't know how to do assignments in English, didn't do well on the test because my English level was not high, couldn't finish a pile of assignments, and couldn't cope with discussions with other students. I sometimes felt I made a mistake and that I chose the wrong path, but because people around me supported me in many ways, I was able to slug it out.

Nothing worthwhile is easy to accomplish and everything looks difficult at the beginning, but if you get used to it, it will be all right. I changed my goal from playing soccer to studying. My university life started with TOEIC 285. No matter how hard I studied, I could not get better than C at the graduate school in the beginning and almost gave it up, but when I continued to work hard, I was able to graduate. Even when you are truly committed to something, you sometimes fail. But if you continue trying without giving it up, your efforts will be rewarded. I am now moving towards my next goal.

Your four years at OGU will probably pass by quickly, like an arrow, but you can grow up if you have a goal and make the effort to achieve it. If there is anything I can do to help you accomplish your goal, please contact me through the International Center!



Business School Postgraduate Association at the graduate school (Left)



With classmates after the graduation ceremony (Left)



The next student is Ms. Qiuying Zheng who studied at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU) for 4 months from September 2013. She is originally from Shandong Province, China. She made a great effort to realize her dream of studying abroad in English speaking countries. The HKPU is a high-ranked university and offers almost all classes in English. She learned English and Cantonese there. After graduating from OGU, she will be working in Japan. She is also the one who proved that if you diligently devote yourselves in whatever you do, your dream will come.

## Qiuying Zheng (4th year, Business Administration Major)



Exchange students from OGU (Ms. Zheng (right), Ms. Akane Harada (left))

It has been five years since I came to Japan from China. I have experienced many fun and interesting things, but also some difficult things in the past five years. However, when looking back over those years, I have no regret that I decided to come to Japan.

I came to Japan when I was a second year student in high school, so after studying Japanese for a year and half, I entered Osaka Gakuin University. During the first year at OGU, taking classes taught in Japanese was a lot harder than I expected and it was not easy to communicate with Japanese students either. In order to get used to my university life, I practiced conversation in Japanese with my friends and took extra Japanese classes in addition to the department courses.

Keeping in mind "When in Rome, do as the Romans do," I tried to learn Japanese culture and customs and to attend all classes and do my best. I always worked twice as hard as the Japanese students because I didn't want to fall behind them. No matter how hard classes were, I never

gave up and tried my best until the end. Because of this, I was able to get the 128 credits required to graduate from OGU by the end of the first semester in the fourth year, and received three scholarships in four years.

In order to further broaden my perspective and improve my English skills, I decided to set a goal to be an exchange student from OGU. Getting 450 points on TOEIC was the minimum requirement to study in English-speaking countries, but my first TOEIC score was only 270. I had no confidence to accomplish my goal, but, thankfully, a staff at the International Center helped me with English every week and checked my papers, so I could gradually acquire English skills and build my confidence. Just before the exchange program application deadline, I got 470 on TOEIC and a chance to study at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU) for a semester in the fourth year at OGU.

Needless to say, studying at HKPU was extremely difficult, but I enjoyed my life very much while I was there. The toughest thing was that all classes including Cantonese language classes were offered in English. At the beginning, I could not speak with other students because I felt my English was not good enough. However, I thought I came to Hong Kong to improve my English, so I tried to have the courage to begin a conversation with students around me and actively participate in a variety of events. I valued every chance to talk with other students in English. In Hong Kong, I not only learned English and Cantonese, but I also made

friends with many local and international students and had many intercultural experiences. I believe my perspective became even wider through this study abroad experience.

I had many good memories, but I would like to share the most impressive memory in Hong Kong with you. I was very surprised to see all local students at HKPU fluently speak English, and many of them always study at the library or a study room in the dorm. I wish Japanese students who receive "the pressure-free education (Yutori Kyoiku)" to become active in the world, but in order to do that, I recommend that they leave Japan even for a short time and experience living overseas.

I will start working in Japan from March of 2014. I really look forward to it now. Before that, I will learn Japanese business manners and the products my company makes and sells. I tried everything I could during my university life. I will never change my attitude and would like to continue growing more as a person in the future. I hope all of you who are reading this will make a step forward and have a fulfilling university life.



Her birthday party with friends (right)

## Internship at OGU: Liu Shing Chian (Higashi Osaka University Kashihara High School)

A high school intern came to the International Center again last December. Mr. Liu Shing Chian came to Japan from Taiwan just three months ago. He said he knew only *Hiragana* and *Katakana* when he came to Osaka, but he is now able to communicate in Japanese amazingly well. He is good at not only Chinese, his mother tongue, and Japanese, but also English. He has already gotten 850 on TOEIC. This is also amazing, isn't it? The International Center had a mid-completion ceremony for international students on December 20, so Mr. Lui helped us with that.

I had the great opportunity to do an internship at the library and International Center of Osaka Gakuin University from December 17 to 20, 2013.

In the first two days, I worked in the university library, helping the staff with checking out and processing returned books and putting those books back on the shelves.

Let me tell you what amazing thing I saw in the basement of the library. It was a moving bookshelf! If a person would like to find a book, she/he can move a bookshelf automatically by just pressing a button. Wow! It is difficult to explain this system, but I thought it was the best way to make space in the library.





Mr. Lui with Mr. Ikawa at Kashiwara High School and staff at the Interna-

Next, I worked at the International Center for my last two days. I heard international students speaking not only English, but also "real" German and French there, which was a rare experience for me. It was just like I imagined an international place would be. Many international students from different countries were studying there, and, if I remember correctly, there were students from at least eight different countries. I thought it was wonderful.

Staff at both the library and the International Center were very kind to me. Whenever I needed help, they lent me a helping hand. I truly appreciate their warm support.

Through this internship experience, I have decided to learn as many foreign

languages as possible. I have been very interested in language learning. I think if I learn a language, I also learn the culture and history of the country where the language is spoken. It is a way to "kill two birds with one stone."

After becoming fluent in Japanese, I would like to study Russian and German. My native language is Chinese, but I still have a lot to learn, so I would like to continue studying Chinese as well. Learning foreign languages is not easy, but I always enjoy it and would like to continue doing it in the future.

The four days at OGU became unforgettable memories for me. I feel very lucky to have received this internship opportunity, and I will always remember these enjoyable days at OGU.



### Flavor in Finland~Antti Kunnas

Finland may seem a country so far from Japan to you, but in fact, it is the closest European destination from Japan. Yes, really. The population in Finland is not large, but there are numerous forests, lakes and national parks. So, Finnish people love nature and enjoy various outdoor activities. In summer, we do hiking and camping, and in winter, skiing, ice hockey, and so on. In addition to outdoor activities you can do in Finland, I would like to recommend that you visit the Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi, located in the northern part of Finland, in winter. You will not only meet Santa Claus, but you can also enjoy riding a snowmobile and a sleigh pulled by reindeers. Please go and enjoy the cold winter in Finland! (Former part-time staff)



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