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## Reports from Aidai Students



### Work Travel

- by Kasumi Takeda (Faculty of Agriculture, Biological Resources)

This summer, I went to Glacier National Park, Montana, U.S.A. I visited there to do part-time work during vacation.

Glacier National Park is part of the Rocky Mountain range where the Native Americans first lived. There was no shopping area or buildings, but we can see and feel natural landscape



because of the rare and endangered plants and animals in its ecosystem that are preserved and protected by the U.S. government. Actually I saw bears, moose, deer and squirrels near from the cottage that I stayed in. Also there were tall mountains, long rivers and big lakes. The people who visited there could enjoy hiking, canoeing and other outdoor sports.

I worked in the restaurant as a dishwasher. The other kitchen members came from Turkey, Russia, Taiwan, and all over the Americas. The atmosphere in the kitchen was much more relaxed than in Japan. Some of them



were singing and some of them were dancing! At first, I was really surprised but I liked this fun environment. I had 2 days off per week. At that time, I also took pleasure in exploring around the park with my coworkers.



When you go to America, why don't you visit any national park?

### SEA Program Report

- by Takumi Kihara (Faculty of Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Hello everyone. This is Takumi. I studied abroad last summer at Bangor University in Wales. I have been overwhelmed and moved by the beauty of the landscape. The sea, mountains and rivers are outstanding. I have enjoyed staying in this environment everyday while I have been there. The experience gave me a lot of practical life lessons. I'll explain two of these. First is to not be afraid of making mistakes. I made many mistakes on this program, but I think they are important for me to improve and develop my English skills. Another thing that is very important is



gaining new perspectives and broadening my horizons. I have realized how important English is for developing my future career and research as a university student. I used to think that Japanese people who could speak English were impressive, but now I think that English should be a basic requirement for all of us. Based on these things I would like to enrich my life from now.

Takumi (on the far right) at Llandudno



## Participants Invited - SEA Program

We are presently looking for students who would like to join SEA (Study English Abroad) program during spring holiday. The program provides students with a wide range of learning experiences in English speaking countries. Visit EEC (English Education Center) office in Aidai Muse Building for further information.



Country	Location	Period	Number of Days	Application Deadline
Ireland	Dublin City University (DCU)	Feb. 24 - Mar. 25	30 days	Jan. 25 (Thu)
Canada	University of British Columbia (UBC)	Jan. 28 - Feb. 25	29 days	Dec. 29 (Fri)
		Feb. 25 - Mar. 25		Jan. 26 (Fri)
U. S. A.	University of Hawai'i, Manoa (UH)	Feb. 4 - Feb. 25	22 days	Jan. 5 (Fri)
	University of Washington (UW)	Feb. 4 - Feb. 25	22 days	Jan. 5 (Fri)
		Feb. 25 - Mar. 18		Jan. 26 (Fri)
	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	Mar. 4 - Mar. 31	28 days	Jan. 3 (Wed)

## Hogmanay - The New Year

A Special Time in Scotland - by Chris Connelly

It's almost the end of 2017 and many people are already looking forward to 2018, but for most people in Scotland, the last week of the year is an exciting time filled with fun, parties, family events, and the biggest party in the UK.

Believe it or not, but Scotland is the No.1 destination in the UK for New Year's Eve - or Hogmanay, as it is called in Scotland. Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city, hosts the biggest and most famous New Year's Eve event in Britain. Thousands of people from all over the world come to celebrate in the streets and welcome the New Year in traditional Scottish style - with lots of alcohol and plenty of singing, dancing, and festivities. The center of Edinburgh city (and most other major cities in



Scotland) is closed off to traffic, so people can walk down the roads freely enjoying the exciting atmosphere and taking part in many of the events that happen across the city. Probably the most famous is the mili-

tary bagpipe performance that takes place in the grounds of Edinburgh Castle. You can watch hundreds of performers playing bagpipes (a traditional Scottish instrument) wearing traditional Scottish clothing (kilts) and showcasing wonderfully intricate dance routines. But don't worry if you can't get a ticket, the performances can be observed on massive screens outside the arena, and they are also beamed live across the world via television and the internet.



So, if you are in the mood for some crazy New Year fun, definitely put Scotland on your list of places to visit. Just don't forget to pack your warm clothes though because it is FREEZING in Scotland around New Year!!!



## Exchange Program Report

Study Abroad at Minzu University of China (中央民族大学)

- by Ryuhei Kawano (Faculty of Law & Letters, Humanities)

Two months have already passed since my study abroad experience in China started. When I decided to study abroad, many people were surprised and asked, "Why?" Therefore, let me write a little bit about the reasons I began learning Chinese and decided to come here to study. There are two main reasons.

Frankly, my attitude towards languages has changed. This was the first motive for my decision. I spent almost all my university life studying areas related to English. While talking to foreigners, there were many problems because of my lack of English skills. However, those problems were easily solved if I persistently tried to communicate with people. After noticing this, I came to realize that proficiency in one target language was not of key importance but mutual understanding by using that language was. This idea drove me to study another language besides English. I chose Chinese as my new target language because it has a multitude of speakers, so I can communicate with many more people by using it.



Additionally, it was just after I started learning Chinese that I decid-

ed to travel to China as an exchange student. It was because I wanted to see my mother country, Japan, from various angles. Through several international experiences, I strongly felt how shallow my understanding of my home country had been. An idea then occurred to me that it would be possible to learn not only a language but also about Japan from other points of view in a country strongly related to it, China. Since there were few opportunities to hear foreigners' real opinions about Japan in my daily life, I decided to study here in expectation of hearing their voices and cultivating a better understanding of my country.



In China, I would like to meet as many people as possible and exchange views with them. In that way, I hope I can broaden my views, so I can reconsider myself, Japan, and the world.

Although it was a brief explanation, this is how my life in China began. From now on, I am going to see and feel many things and would keep on sending some of my discoveries in Beijing. I hope some of my information will be helpful for your future. Thank you for reading this letter.

ENGLISH EDUCATION CENTER @EHIME UNIVERSITY



2nd floor, Aidai Muse, 3 Bunkyo-cho, Matsuyama, Ehime

TEL : 089-927-8340 E-mail : eec@stu.ehime-u.ac.jp

Webpage: <http://web.eec.ehime-u.ac.jp/>

