

Voices from Participants 2024

Visit to The University of Newcastle

Visiting period: November 4-12, 2024

(This text was translated using Google Translate.)

What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university
<p>I learned about gas capture, a technology that is attracting attention as a way to realize a carbon-free society. Although it is still in the research stage, it is a system that reuses carbon dioxide emitted from factories, and will contribute to the realization of a recycling-oriented society with no carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p>I was surprised at how well-equipped the university was. There was a free coffee service, and students were free to use the screens and speakers in the classrooms, creating an environment where students could concentrate on their studies, which made me realize how different it is from Japanese universities. The size of the research labs was also very large, and I was impressed by the fact that they were equipped with cutting-edge equipment.</p> <p>In terms of language, it was difficult to understand the English of native speakers due to their accents and speed. On the other hand, the English of international students who speak English as a second language was relatively easy to understand. I experienced how conversations could be carried out without problems even if grammar was incorrect.</p>
What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country
<p>I had a hard time with British English. For example, elevator is written as "lift", which is different from Japan. Also, prices are much higher than in Japan, so I felt it was difficult to go shopping casually.</p> <p>In terms of culture, I was impressed by the importance of self-assertion. It is expected that you will clearly communicate your requests, such as by shouting loudly to ask someone to open the rear door when getting off the bus. The local people were very kind, and I felt their warmth as they proactively called out to help when I was in trouble.</p>

What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university

I participated in a poster presentation at an international conference that was being held there at that time. It was difficult to explain my research in English, but the other person listened to me intently, so I realized that even if my English is poor, it's okay as long as I have the will to communicate. Also, at university, I attended a lecture on materials that capture CO₂. It was very interesting because it was a rare opportunity to hear about cutting-edge technology. All conversations in the country were in English, so my listening and speaking skills naturally improved.

What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country

Being a very multicultural country, it doesn't have a unique food culture, and I was impressed by the variety of restaurants from various countries. There is also a culture that values work-life balance, and it is common for stores to close at 5 or 6 p.m., and there are hardly any people out at night. In terms of national character, in contrast to the reserved Japanese, I felt that the Chinese were highly capable of speaking up proactively without fear of making mistakes. I followed their example and began to try to speak up proactively.

