

Voices of Students Dispatched to Griffith University in 2025

Visiting period: September 8–16, 2025

(These are translations of parts of the student survey.)

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

– At GU, I attended classes and gave presentations. Unlike classes at YNU, the courses were conducted in small groups and were highly interactive, with frequent discussions and opportunities to share opinions. In the final presentation, I compared ESG initiatives in the hospitality industries of Japan and Australia. Engaging in a question-and-answer session with local students and faculty and receiving their feedback made this a highly valuable experience.

– I attended several lectures at GU, where the teaching style emphasized independent thinking and exchanging ideas with others rather than being given answers by professors. I also compared Japanese and Australian companies, examining their differences and the reasons behind them. Through this experience, my interest in ESG grew, and I learned about the future direction of companies and the roles they are expected to play. In terms of language learning, I realized the importance of making an effort to communicate clearly and engaging proactively in conversations, even with limited English skills.

– Through an individual presentation, I acquired methods for evaluating corporate ESG strategies from a management perspective, as well as skills in structuring presentations logically. In terms of language development, conversations with local students and instructors helped me expand my range of expressions, while continued interaction with students with diverse accents significantly improved my listening skills. In addition, through extracurricular activities and cross-cultural exchanges, I was able to broaden my perspective by experiencing Australia's strong culture of environmental conservation and volunteerism.

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

– I was struck by the far greater diversity of nationalities and religions compared to Japan. These differences were seen as completely normal, making the country feel welcoming and comfortable for people from all backgrounds. I also found cultural differences such as an early-to-bed, early-to-rise lifestyle and my host family's frequent home gatherings with relatives and friends—often held almost daily—particularly interesting.

- Australia's multicultural society fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect. When expressing their opinions, people first listened carefully to others and clearly stated their own views when differences arose, which left a strong impression on me. I also learned that many shops open early in the morning and close by the evening, encouraging people to use their mornings productively. Overall, Australians seemed to enjoy a relaxed lifestyle, taking time to appreciate nature rather than feeling constantly pressed for time.

-Through my life in Australia, I learned that a culture of caring for and supporting others is deeply rooted in society. I experienced this firsthand through interactions with my host mother and being regularly asked to make donations while shopping. I believe this culture stems from Australia's social background as a country with many immigrants, where mutual support has been essential to everyday life. The value of giving to others, which is still less common in my own cultural context, felt especially warm and inspiring.

