

NUSIP 2017 - An Unforgettable Experience!

by

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NUSIP stands for “Nagoya University Summer Intensive Program”. It is an exchange program offered by Nagoya University in Japan to a few selected mechanical engineering programs in the world. One of these programs is MIE. It mainly consists of two components: the Japanese language classes in the morning and the automotive lectures taught in the afternoon. The Japanese classes were divided into different levels; thus, students with different language abilities attain and enjoy best learning experience. The automotive lectures were taught by Professors from Nagoya University and highly specialized guest speakers from the industry such as Toyota, Nissan and Mitsubishi. The latest topics and research areas in the world were brought into our classroom for discussion; such as autonomous driving, automotive embedded computing systems, energy saving technologies, among others. The Professors took the participating students to their respective research labs to show the current research topics shown in the pictures below.

Mengyan and I were extremely fortunate to be selected as MIE’s exchange students in (NUSIP 2017) during the months of June-July 2017. In the 40-day program, we were not only instructed in Japanese and automotive engineering, but also given the opportunity to see the latest advances in automotive technologies in Japanese auto-companies and research centers. Our host, Nagoya University, held many culture excursions for us to experience the Japanese culture first hand. Many extracurricular activities were planned and organized to enrich our experiences such as Japanese cooking and calligraphy lessons.



Figure 1: Driving simulator



Figure 2: Lidar system

One of the most memorable events from this trip was the factory visits to Yokohama Tires, Mitsubishi and Toyota. Not only did we get to see some of the most advanced and efficient automated manufacturing, but some of us got lucky and experienced Toyota’s driving simulator first hand, or got a thrilling ride on their banked curved testing tracks. These factory visits truly extended our experience and opened our eyes beyond anything that could be taught in class, and forced us to look at things from a different engineering perspective.

Studying is only one component of this program. Nagoya University took us on many tours, including a trip to Kyoto and Nara where you could have a “friendly” encounter with the deer. Later, we had a peek at the traditional clothes “Kimono” and enjoyed the beautiful temples that both cities have to offer. On weekends, we together with new friends, went to explore Japanese culture in other famous cities such as Tokyo and Osaka.



Figure 3: Toyota Driving Simulator



Figure 4: Golden temple in Kyoto



Figure 5: Deer in Nara

The fun doesn't end after school, as many activities were organized for students. The calligraphy lesson was an exciting event as we learned how to write Japanese characters with a brush. By following the instructions provided by professional calligraphers, many of us were able to write and keep the beautiful work we have created. In one weekend, we joined a cooking club where the class was held in a traditional Japanese house. After going through washing, slicing, deep-frying and other cooking tasks, we made delicious tempura, fried tofu, and miso soup and had a glimpse of the lifestyle of a Japanese family.



Figure 6: Cooking Class



Figure 7: Food Preparation



Figure 8: Fried Tofu



Figure 9: Tempura

By the time the program was over and we were planning to leave, we were united as a warm family: all the students as well as the professors and our Japanese teachers. The knowledge we gained from a world-class university with all the unforgettable memories we had in our daily life as well as from our technical and cultural trips would be kept and cherished forever. We will forever be indebted to our Japanese Professors and Teachers.



Figure 10: Elementary Japanese Class B

Thank you, NUSIP and Thank you MIE!