

令和3年度

福岡県移住者子弟留学報告書

2021 Exchange Students Program for
Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture

C o m p l e t i o n R e p o r t

Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation

公益財団法人福岡県国際交流センター

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Egami Lissa Ayumi (Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

Kyushu Sangyo University, Zokei Junior College of Art and Design

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Kyushu Sangyo University, Faculty of Art and Design



**Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai
Egami Lissa Ayumi
Kyushu Sangyo University,
Zokei Junior College of Art and Design**

It was my mother who inspired me to become a Student for the Exchange Student Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture (Kenpi student). She told me about her time in Japan as a Kenpi student. At first I was not very interested, but I am grateful for the many experiences I have had over the past year. I am also very happy to have had the opportunity to get to know Fukuoka, my grandparents' homeland.

When I first came to Japan with my mother in 2016. At that time, we first went to Nagoya, where my brother lives. Then we went to Tokyo, we also visited my relatives in Nagano Prefecture and also came to Fukuoka too. In 2019, I graduated from the Fashion Department of Unicesumar University. I had a part time job in fashion while I was in college.

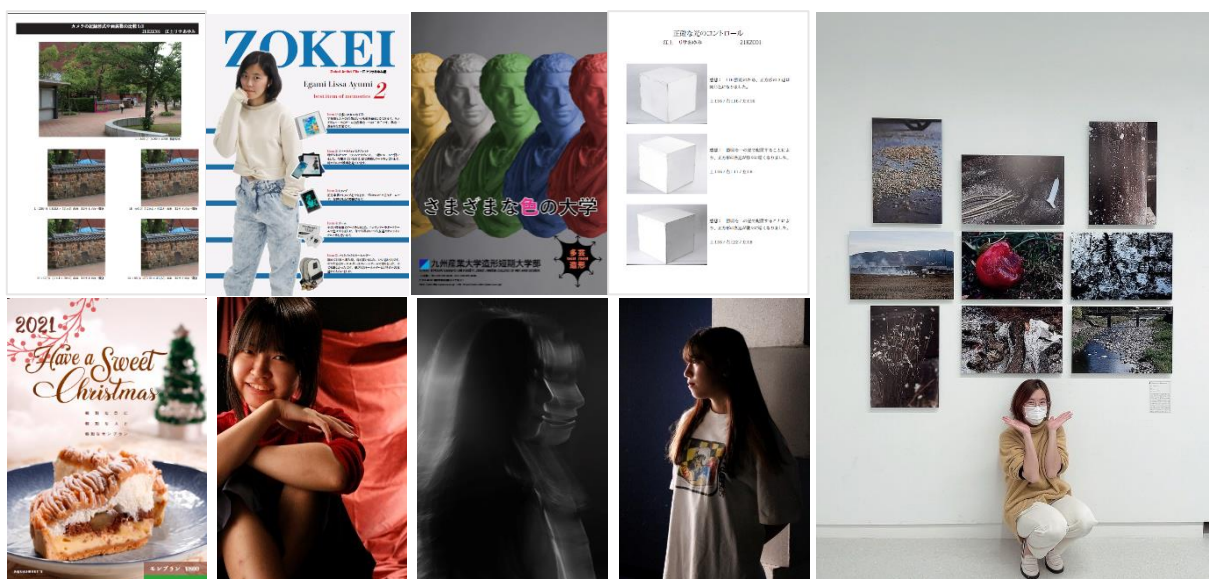
I went to take the test to become a Kenpi student and ran into a friend from my childhood. She also took the test and we passed. However, just before we're about to go to Japan. COVID-19 broke out and we waited a year but we couldn't go to Japan. I took the test again being concerned about not being able to enter Japan but I was able to go to Japan at the end of April 2021. The departure date was suddenly decided, so I had to quickly prepare for the trip. I could not say goodbye to my friends. When I boarded the plane, there were very few people on board. Once I arrived at Haneda Airport in Japan, I was quarantined for 15 days. During that period, I was able to recover from jet lag. I finally arrived in Fukuoka on May 8.

Lifestyle

My time in Fukuoka is coming to an end. Time passed by very quickly. I have experienced as much as I can. In the beginning, I was a little sad because I couldn't leave the house due the state of emergency being issued in Fukuoka. And I didn't know anyone. As time went by, I made friends at the university. I enjoyed talking with them a lot. I walked to the supermarket and stores to find out where the dormitories were. There were days when I couldn't do anything, but there were also days when my friends and I went and sightsee Fukuoka.

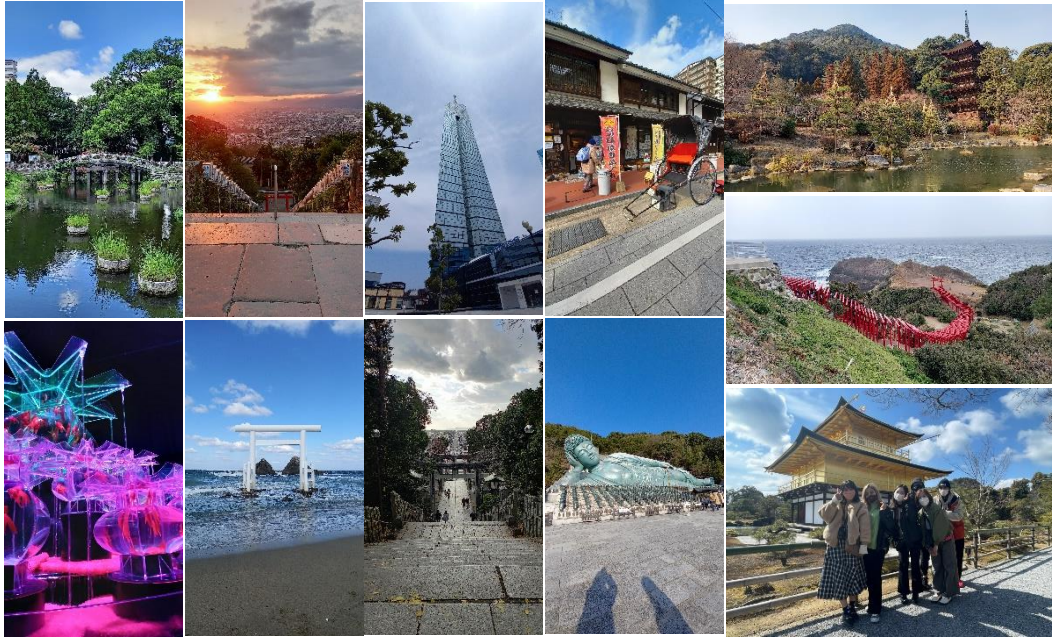
Studies

For my university studies I chose photography, which has always interested me. My university studies were very interesting and expanded my knowledge. I was able to review the basics of camera handling, learn how to use new software, and learn more about the photography department. For example, sales photography, photographic research, stock photography, and so on. In the second semester, I also had the opportunity to write my senior thesis. My topic was my great-grandfather's roots in Brazil. I felt nostalgic when I went to that place and took pictures. It was like it was my homeland. I was very moved.



Traveling

During the summer vacation, I could not travel because of the COVID-19, but I decided to visit tourist attractions and festivals in Fukuoka to learn more about the prefecture. During winter vacation, I was able to visit other prefectures. I went to Yamaguchi and Kyoto with my university friends. There we went to tourist attractions. I had a lot of fun booking inns, deciding what to eat and where to go.



Club Activities

Thanks to a friend at the university, I was able to join the tea ceremony club. At first, I only observed, but I was invited to join the club, so I did. It was very interesting for me to learn about tea ceremony, a Japanese cultural activity. I found the ceremony of making tea very elegant and the way of handling the utensils very careful. I participated in the tea ceremony for graduation. I was very nervous because it was my first time to make tea in front of guests. I was relieved and happy when everyone told me that I had done well. After the tea ceremony, the graduates were presented with gifts, which made me very happy and touched. I will treasure it forever.



Family Association

We were also able to meet members of the family association. The family association introduced Japanese culture to the international students. The first experience was learning how to put on a yukata, which was given by Ms. Otaki. I went to learn how to put it on several times. On the last day, we had a tea ceremony with the staff. It was very fun because I learned how to wear a yukata. But there was no summer festival, so unfortunately, I did not have a chance to wear a yukata. Another exciting event was strawberry picking. At the end of January, I attended a tea ceremony where I was allowed to wear a kimono. The kimono I chose was very nice. The place where the tea ceremony was held was very nice with Japanese architecture and gardens. Ms. Yamazaki, who lives in Kurume, took us to a famous place in Yame City. Yame is famous for its matcha (powdered green tea). The tea I drank there was very delicious.



Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation

I am grateful for the opportunity to live in Fukuoka for a year as a Kenpi student. I was able to experience many things, learn about the culture I am interested in, and learn more about my great-grandfather's homeland. There were many events that took place during this year. For example, online Japanese classes for children, translating flyers, which helped me learn Japanese. I met the vice governor of Fukuoka Prefecture and talked to him about my life in Fukuoka and my university studies. Finally, I thanked him for giving me this opportunity.



When I return to Brazil, I would like to continue with fashion producers related work again. I would like to make what I learned in college my hobby. As for the Brazilian Prefectural Association, I am away from Sao Paulo now, so I can't always help, but I would like to support it.

Thank you!



Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai
Miyazono Toyomi
Kyushu Sangyo University
Faculty of Fine Arts

My name is Toyomi Miyazono and I am from the Bolivian Kenjinkai. I was born in Santa Cruz city and graduated from the Faculty of Social Communication in 2020. In my home country, I'm a photographer and YouTuber, but I also run a company that makes peanut butter and peanut tofu with my sister.

My first language is Spanish, but I also speak English and Portuguese. My Japanese is still not good, but I am studying hard. This is my third time coming to Japan and my first time coming to Fukuoka. My mother and maternal grandparents are from Fukuoka. My family is my parents, my brother, me and my twin sister. My father is Bolivian and my mother was born in Kurogi Machi, Yame City, Fukuoka Prefecture. In 1968, She and her parents moved to San Juan, a Japanese immigrant colony. Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to learn about my roots and the place my maternal grandparents were born.

It was a difficult decision due to the coronavirus pandemic, but It was a good opportunity to come to Fukuoka as a prefectural-sponsored international student to learn more about my roots and to learn Japanese, so it became one of my goals.

This is the first time that I live away from home and separated from my sister, at first it was difficult but over time I got used to it and learned to do many things on my own.

I am studying Photography and Video Media at the Faculty of Arts in Kyushu Sangyo University. I went to college by bicycle almost every day. It takes about 15 minutes. My Japanese is not very good, so I decided to choose only practical subjects. Initially, it was very difficult to use the computers at school because they were operated in Japanese and on a Mac system. In the photography class, I had to take pictures of various things such as wallets, clothes, sweets and snacks. I also learned how to use professional photo lighting, photo studio tools, backgrounds and more.

No one spoke English or Spanish in the subjects I chose, but by observing, I was able to learn what to do and manage to finish the lesson assignments. When we had to take a portrait photo, I became a model for a colleague several times. Even if we didn't speak the same language, I enjoyed learning a lot by becoming a model and connecting with the photographer.

My graduation project was a project about Japanese culture and life in Japan. My topic was "Introducing Japanese culture to Latin Americans from the experience of living in Fukuoka". Here, I have created some videos that introduce the culture of Omiyage, gastronomic experiences, Japanese manners, and more.

The coronavirus has continued to suffer, but during the summer vacation, I traveled to Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo. Of course, I always acted with caution. I have never been infected while living in Japan. I purchased a travel ticket in advance and booked the hostel online. So, I was able to get it at a cheap price.

In Osaka, I visited Dotonbori, took a picture in front of the famous Glico Running Man, and ate okonomiyaki and takoyaki, visit Namba Shrine in Osaka Castle, and I ate the famous cheesecake "Rikuro". I climbed the Umeda Sky Building with a beautiful view of the city. The city was in a state of emergency and many stores were closed. It was a bit sad, but I enjoyed it anyway.

In Kyoto, I visited Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, The Inari Taisha Shrine, The Kinkakuji Temple, Gion Suburbs, and Kiyomizudera Temple.

I went to Tokyo by night bus from Osaka. In Tokyo, I went up to Shibuya Sky, and it became my favorite view in Japan. I was able to visit Tokyo Tower, Shibuya area and Ueno. I really enjoyed this trip because I met my uncle in Tokyo and made new friends with Japanese and foreigners. It was my first time traveling around Japan alone, and I was worried at first, but I realized that I was able to understand more than before and to move alone and practice Japanese. We held two classes of Japanese culture in Japanese, Spanish, English and Portuguese for the children of the Fukuoka Kenjinkai in different countries.

Thanks to the Kazokukai, I was able to learn about the history of Hakata, have a pear harvest and a strawberry picking.

I also gave a presentation of my country to the people of Fukuoka Kenjinkai. I was very nervous, but I could speak Japanese.

I learned about many beautiful places in Fukuoka and tried delicious foods such as Tonkotsu Ramen, which I was not good at when I was in Bolivia, but now I always want to eat it.

Thanks to my friends and seniors, I am enjoying Fukuoka very much. I appreciate it very much. And I'm very lucky to have them.

One of my favorite experiences was a tea ceremony in Kimono, but it was difficult to decide because all the kimonos in the store were beautiful. At the tea ceremony, I was nervous and focused on the details, but I was really happy to learn a little more about Japanese culture.

When I go back to Bolivia, I would like to continue my YouTube channel, take pictures and videos, and use my work as a bridge between Japanese and Bolivian culture. I would also like to help and encourage the descendants of Fukuoka to participate in this program. I hope that the videos I made in Japan will be an invitation to members of the Fukuoka Kenjinkai in Bolivia to learn more about Fukuoka and Japanese culture.

