

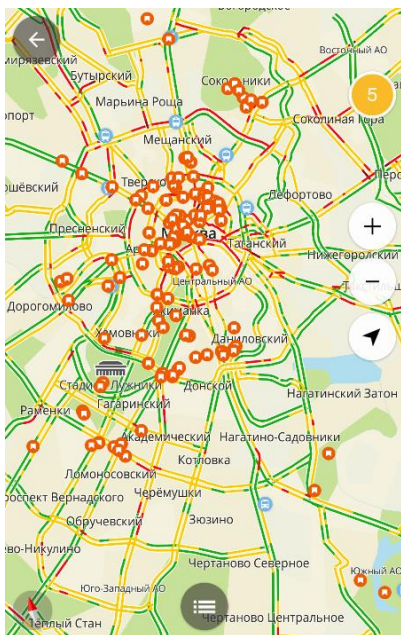
STEPS Students Report

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I participated in this program during February 2019. It was at the end of my third year at the University of Tokyo. I was kindly accepted by Professor Yuri Mazurov at Faculty of Geography from Moscow State University. Faculty of Geography is one of the oldest faculties in MSU.

I would like to describe my stay at MSU from two perspectives. First, my research was regarding "the image of Moscow city". It was rather tough but was full of academic interests. Generally, it had two parts. One is the walking survey of Moscow city. The other is conducting interviews with some people who participate in the urban planning of Moscow. Professor Mazurov kindly took his time to meet me at least once a week, accompanied my interview and helped a lot to manage my excursion trip to St. Petersburg.



Places visited

The walking survey took me a lot of time but it was necessary to walk a lot in the city when I would like to understand what the everyday life in Moscow is. Just walking was not enough, so it included picturing, measuring or interviewing (lightly). The places I visited are pinned in picture 1. In this way, I could capture "the image of Moscow city" in quite a big range. Moscow city was much more pedestrian-friendly than I expected, and much more vigorous even in the cold weather whose temperature is behind zero degree Celsius. The traffic jam seemed to be a big problem as I have heard, but in some occasions, it was already part of Moscow city's distinct scenery. I was amazed by the World Cultural Heritage Site "Kolomenskoe" at the point that we can visit there from

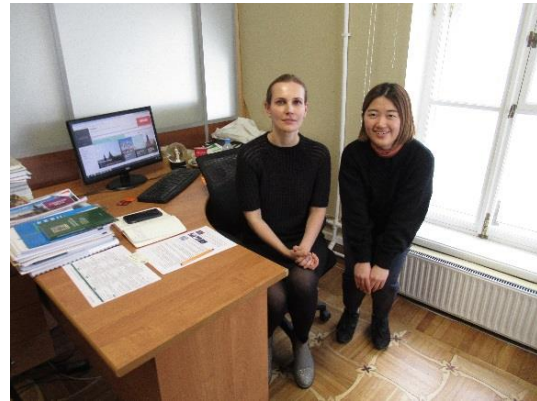
the city center by just a 40 minutes ride on subway.

The interviews were one of the hardest part of the program. I had good opportunities to meet with a professor from Department of Architecture and Iuliia Loginova from Department of Cultural Heritage of Moscow in Moscow city. I made a question sheet and sent it to interviewees in advance, and did the interview under the supervision of Professor Yuri Mazurov. The architectural professor taught me about the history of

architectural movements, which created Moscow city at present. Ms. Loginova told me about the challenges of restoration of cultural heritages in Moscow. In addition to these official interviews, I had an opportunity to talk with an art school student who was around the same as me, and it was very interesting to hear from her about rapidly changing situation of the city development.



Department of Cultural Heritage of Moscow



With Prof. Iwliia Loginova

My life during this program was also very fruitful. I have been interested in Russian Culture because Russia is one of the most important Japanese neighbors, and it does not resemble European Culture nor Asian Culture. One of the greatest things in Moscow is the Tretyakov gallery (new and old), and one of the greatest things in St. Petersburg is Russia museum. I could spend hours to watch and learn Russian Art history, for example, the art movements that accompanied or reacted to social movements in Russia. This experience helped me enrich the understanding of Russian history I learned in Japan, and it enhanced my understanding of the stories behind the present figure of Moscow city.

In my opinion, when we analyze the planning of cities in foreign countries, we have to be interested in the cultural surroundings at the site because these two topics should not be separated. At the last, this program made me believe it.