

STEPS Students Report

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I went to study at Moscow University from February 7 to March 7, 2019.

First of all, I would like to describe the research I did in Moscow. During my stay at Moscow University, I did research on the impressions made by cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg and what factor made it. First, I took photographs of many places of the city of Moscow before going to my research. I classified the photographs into several categories, and from them we analyzed the impressions that the city brings and the factors that give the impression. Additionally we recorded changes in personal impressions of the city on a weekly basis while collecting further photos. The same was done for St. Petersburg, where I stayed for a week at the end of February. Unfortunately, the results of this study have been scarce at now, but it is expected that the results will be obtained by research in the future. We will further improve at the point of the external validity of the research that is currently considered to be the biggest problem.

Next, I would like to express my impression after having stayed in Russia. Firstly, the characteristics of Russia, which I had been expecting before studying abroad, would be high respect and admiration for art. As everyone can expect, a culture that values art is deeply rooted in Russia, which is even for education. There are many tours or excursion for infants that are held in Russian museums, and students (even if he/she is foreigner) can enter the museums with great discounts. They can maintain their status as a nation of art because Russia never neglects young people and really focuses on education.

On the other hand, one of the great things about Russia that I would never notice before staying in Russia would be the sophisticated transportation system and the warm kindness of the people. The Moscow Metro has the world's second-largest number of passengers after Tokyo's subway. It is no exaggeration to say that it is an excellent transportation system far surpassing Tokyo's subways, considering its fare system and convenience, which are obtained by linking to other transportation such as buses. When it comes to the kindness of people, Japan is also often evaluated for its kind nationality, but it is passive kindness, so to speak. For example, Japanese will guide or help others

only when asked. On the other hand, the people of Moscow are actively kind. If people are in trouble, they will speak to him/her without worrying about others eyes, and it is really natural to give their seats to others on the train. Many Japanese would not expect both of them to Russia. On the contrary, you may think that these of Japan are better. However, in fact, some countries in the world have better characteristics than Japan. I do not want to say that foreign countries are better than Japan. I would like to say only that problems in Japan might be seen by staring foreign countries with one's own eyes. Through this program, I could diversify my perspective and look again at Japan.