**Why We Should Consider Studying Abroad Now**

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Kosen students must consider study abroad now, while they are young! I am not saying “We have to study abroad today, tomorrow, or next year” or “let’s go to Germany” or “let’s go to America” or “the Philippines!” But, all of us, who are still in our youth, should think over the study abroad opportunities that we have at this time in our lives.

So, why should you think over studying abroad now? Because you are teenagers and students of technical colleges and because globalization is here. Today, I will explain why these three points should lead you to think over your study abroad opportunities now.

First of all, we are teens! This is a special period in our lives. Many Japanese graduate three times from three different schools during this time in their lives. They enroll in new schools, learn a lot, and make many friends. This is all very wonderful! However, there is a proverb in Japan, which goes like this, “Buy hardships when you are young.” It means that hardships in your youth are valuable and useful in the future, so you need to have hardships voluntarily.

It is O.K. to fail in your youth. If you fall, adults or your friends will help you. Failures in youth are growth! And, when you go through these experiences with your friends, your friendships grow as well. The teacher who suggested to me that I should study abroad said, “The friendships you can gain as a teenager have no substitutes.” It’s only now, in this age, that we can take on the type of hardships that we do, learn from failures the easy way, and deepen long lasting friendships in the way we have. Studying abroad is one such hardship, which involves a lot of preparation and learning a new culture, language, and survival skills. And, through this we can make more friendships on an international scale.

Furthermore, as technical college students we study for five years straight. In short, we can focus on learning what we want to learn for a long time in one school. But, regular high school students can not because they have university entrance exams to worry about after their first two years of school. So, technical college students have a bit more flexibility to take time for study abroad. In addition, many technical colleges are very positive about global education. If you want to study abroad, your school will support you very much.

Finally, “globalization.” The World is already here in Japan. Why don’t we go out into the World? Study abroad systems are already well established for students coming to and leaving from Japan. The number of students studying abroad is increasing year by year. You can now easily learn what you want to learn overseas.

So, why not consider these three points about studying abroad now? We have many choices today. And, we can select the best one for ourselves. When you want to study abroad, please act immediately.

You can fall. People will support you!

You are a technical college student. Your opportunities exceed that of others.

And, the World has come here! Therefore, why don’t you go out into the World?

So, when should you start thinking over study abroad?

Right now!

Thank you.