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1. Introduction: What 3A meant for me and my initial projects

The first time to live abroad is an unforgettable experience and a decisive one.

My first time wasn't Tokyo but Oxford, when I took a gap year right after high-school. What I learned and experienced there is the reason why I chose to come to the Euro-Asian campus of SciencesPo Le Havre to follow up my study.

Actually, the students that were in my English classes at that time were almost all coming from Asia and rapidly, more than learning English, I found my interest switching towards this region. Discussing with my classmates, I realized how different an experience we were living. For me, living in England, speaking and thinking in a foreign language, eating different food was already a considerable change. Yet, French and British lifestyles are not only relatively close together but our culture bears similar roots too. This was especially striking during the English group lessons. Since French is my mother tongue, I was able to guess the meaning of most of the complicated English words while my Asian friends had no clue of what they could mean. It made me want to know, to live, to feel the same life experience they had in their country. Their thoughts on England were so different, so original from mine that I wanted to find their source of vision, to borrow their eyes.

Funnily enough, it is thus by meeting some parts of Asia in England that I resulted in spending my 3A in Japan three years later. What I mean to say here is that in choosing your 3A destination, you should not be having that scary feeling of limiting yourself to one corner of the world for a year. It is true that you will learn more specifically about one part of the world but you will learn with people coming from different areas of the world. During my 3A, I learned not only about Japan but also about Korea, China, Taiwan, and more unexpectedly about Malaysia, Iceland and Turkey. Therefore my advice for future 3rd Year students would be to take that wonderful opportunity that SciencesPo offers to go to the country where they would learn the most.

By that, I wish to say that you should **not** choose a country you have always longed to visit as a tourist and it is especially true in the case of Japan. To fully thrive during your 3rd year in Japan, liking manga and J-pop won't suffice. You have to be

truly interested in the country, in the culture, in meeting the people. This is true for all the destinations but especially Japan. As you may have noticed if you are in the middle of learning it, Japanese is not a language that offers itself to your understanding without effort. It shows you a whole new world and you have to accept to get lost and ventured in untranslatable imagination to be able to really enjoy learning Japanese. As I have seen lots of my classmates suffering during Japanese classes or finding it too hard to communicate because the codes were too different, I wanted to give you that advice from the start. A year may seem short but during that timeframe you will have plenty of opportunities unrevealing to you. In order to enjoy your 3rd Year fully, go somewhere where you won't rest discovering.

The reasons I decided to come to Japan are multiples and may not be so straightforward. Not to surprise you what first raised my interest in Japan were the mangas, the dramas as well as Japanese traditional and modern music. However it is the Japanese friends I talked to who convinced me to go in the end. Of all the reasons the one that appears the clearest to me is that I had just completed a two year Japanese course in my campus and naturally wanted to try my newly acquired skills out. I must say that it wasn't my first time in Japan at all since I went there during my first year in SciencesPo first for five days and then for three months. However being a tourist in Japan for a whole summer didn't satisfy me yet and I wanted to experience the college life that my friends had told me about.

I barely hesitated a minute to choose the school. Waseda appears as nothing less than a self-evidence. Although I had chosen to follow a full-academic year in Japan, I had the personal project to find a part-time job in order to experience every aspect of life in Japan. The location of Waseda, conveniently situated only 4 minutes away by train from Shinjuku and 15 minutes away from Shibuya made it from the start an attractive option. Moreover, when looking through the different courses offered by each university, I found out that Waseda offered Journalism classes, a subject that has always been of a particular interest to me. It was all the more interesting that I had the intention to apply for the SciencesPo dual degree of Journalism and International Affairs. The SILS program that I will describe in the next part offered the possibility to take Japanese classes to improve our language ability and classes in English to further pursue our academic path. Its convenient location and the interesting courses

offered were two of the three factors that oriented my choice in favour of Waseda. The last one was the Waseda Spirit. The school is very international and Japanese students are for the majority eager to talk with foreigners. Waseda students are known to be cheerful, friendly and crazy and I believed my time in Waseda would be, thanks to them, particularly animated.

2. THE Experience

In the first part, I talked about what I had imagined of Waseda. After living there for seven months, I can say honestly that I encountered only few disappointments and that the overall experience was a positive one. Nonetheless, it is true that, as it may occur, my expectations and the reality didn't always match. In this part, I will talk about what was the real Waseda Experience for me.

A\ SILS Requirements and Lessons attended

Waseda offers two tracks for SciencesPo Exchange Students; the BEKKA program offering exclusively Japanese Classes and the other one being the SILS program that let you attend a mix of Japanese Language classes and Liberal Art classes taught in English.

As a SILS student, you have to take between a minimum of 14 credits and a maximum of 21 credits. More precisely, you can take between 8 to 14 credits for Liberal Art Classes (that are either of 2 or 4 credits) and 6 to 7 credits for Japanese Classes (either 1, 3 or 5 credits).

The list below is a description of each of the classes I attended. With the purpose of being the most accurate and detailed as possible, I added the credits, the class period (time at which the class is held) and the teacher's name.

1st Semester

The first semester I was really enthusiastic by the courses offered in SILS and wanted to improve my Japanese as quickly as possible so I took 20 credits. Before the class registration, Waseda make you take a Japanese test called J-CAT to measure your level. My score rated me as a level 2 but I was only 20 points away from level 3. As the level 2 corresponded to Minna No Nihongo 2 that I had completed in Le Havre, I decided to challenge myself to level 3.

Comprehensive Japanese LVL 3 (5 credits)

Monday 1-2 Wednesday 1-2 Saturday 2

Comprehensive Japanese correspond to the last beginner level in Waseda. If you are rated under level 3 at the J-CAT placement test, I would advise you to take a comprehensive Japanese class (corresponding to your level).

Each class contains no more than 20 students so it makes it easy to interact with each other. The class is taught three days a week by three different teachers. The activities are various and enable you to progress equally on every level. You will have to complete weekly vocabulary tests, read and then listen to short articles, make short presentation after group discussion, write short essays in class on a given topic. At the end of the semester, you will have to do a report on a subject you will have chosen yourself. My topic was 就職活動 (Japanese job hunting). I had to interview Japanese and Foreign Students on this topic, make a summary of my survey and present the results in front of the whole class. Apart from this big assignment, most of the work was done in class. While this means we had little homework, we still had to review the lessons regularly.

This class doesn't require you to learn Kanji. As Native Kanji learners and Non-native Kanji learners are mixed in all classes, Waseda doesn't ask from you to know how to write them. If you want to learn kanji, the only way to do so is to take the Kanji classes that focus exclusively on writing and remembering the different ways of reading.

Reading and Discussion: People at work 3-4 (1 credit)

Tuesday 5

I took this class by default. Waseda gives you two weeks to choose the classes you wish to attend allowing you to try out several of them. It seems like a great idea but if they are too many students who want to attend one same class, the registration system doesn't work on a first-come, first-served basis. This means that if you are unlucky, you may be still cast "overenrolled" on the third (and last) registration period. This was my case for the first semester. But as Waseda requires you to take 6 credits, they called me for the "relief registration" where I had to chose one more class between the ones that were still open depending on my level and my schedule.

The teacher made us work a lot, giving us about 5 pages of readings to read in class. She separated us into readings groups of 6 to 8 people in order to help each other. But the students preferred to read at their own space and search for words they could not understand on their electronic device rather than asking their classmates. Therefore there was only little interaction. All the readings were based on "working people story". The assignments were of two kinds, first we had to answer questions about the text and then talk in groups about questions that were handed to us related to the insights we had got in the previous readings. The class was not really motivating due to the little variation in topic but help me improve my reading pace greatly.

Media Economics (4 credits) Nakamura 先生

Tuesday 3 – Thursday 3

The Media Economics was a lecture class taught by a brilliant Japanese professor fluent in English. He used powerpoint in a very imaginative and engaging way that kept the class attentive. The powerpoint slides were also handed out to each student so that they could review at home and take notes of the professor explanations. While the content of the class was particularly interesting, I had a bit of trouble as a SciencesPo Law Major student to understand the math behind the concepts. I would therefore advise this class for those who still have some fresh math insights in mind. Despite the size of the class (about 100 students), the teacher still divided us in groups and asked us to do research

on a particular media. I was in the Newspaper research group and chose to research on the evolution of Journalism work through the digitalization of Newspaper.

Photography (4 credits)

Wednesday 3-4

Despite the interest I had in this class, I was a bit disappointed by the teacher who had a poor level of English (or was he shy?). Because of that, he would rather show us videos explaining the history of Photography, the artistic trends and the basic concepts. The videos were still insightful but I would have preferred to learn directly from the Professor experience. However, a very good point about this class was that the professor asked the students to take photos on three different subjects which were; *Waseda*, *Gender* and *Decisive Moment*. The professor also took us to two photo exhibitions and to a dark room.

Japan's Foreign Policy (4 credits) Ikeshima 先生

Thursday 1-2

This class was the one that resembles the closest to the ones I had in SciencesPo. At first, the professor gave us an overall presentation on the history of Japan's relationship with its neighbours and then the rest of the semester was made of students' presentation on the topics given by the professor. The classes were thus divided thematically and we covered Japan's Foreign Policy with the United States, Russia, Europe, the World Organisations, Korea, China and the South-East Asian countries. Since this class is basically taught by students, it really depends on them to make it interesting. A good point was the handouts that the teacher was giving to us at the beginning of each session which contained recent articles.

Introduction to World Politics and Journalism (2 credits)

Saturday 1

The particularity of this class was that the professor was not an academician but a professional; a former journalist from the Yomiuri Shinbun. He was previously a foreign correspondent in America and interviewed President Bill Clinton and President Georges Bush. At the beginning of every class, 5 students had to make an individual presentation of 5 minutes in the way of a newscaster about the news of the week and then answer questions from the students. The professor was then showing us a powerpoint on the most important points of a chapter from *The Elements of Journalism* that we had to read. The book was incredibly interesting and I really enjoyed writing the weekly reports on each chapter. Moreover, the teacher always gave us professional advices coupled with anecdotes making the class lively and unique.

2nd Semester

During the spring holiday that spanned from the end of January to the beginning of April, I started to work as an intern in two different companies. This forced me to restrain myself in choosing the classes as I had professional duties to comply with. Thus, I applied for only 14 credits. However, I still had the same number of classes as the previous semester because I chose to take 6 different Japanese classes. While the Comprehensive Japanese Level 3 was satisfying at the time of the start of the semester, I realized by the end of it that it would be more beneficial for me to take classes focusing on my weak points rather than an overall course.

International Journalism and East Asian Diplomacy (4 credits) Shigemura 先生

Tuesday 3-4

This class caught my interest during the first semester but I didn't dare to take it as the teacher was requiring students to write a weekly article in Japanese. After 6 months living in Japan, I had gathered enough confidence in my Japanese to take it. In reality, the class is more chill than I imagined and a bit of a disappointment. The teacher is also a former journalist but give us really few insights on his experience. His way of

teaching is not really satisfying. He often asks really vague questions, wait for students to answer but quickly give up and make us watch a movie or let us talk together. I would not recommend this class for those who want to learn something.

Ethnographic Documentary Film: Theory and Practice (4 credits) Bernard 先生

Monday 4-5

A professional canadian ethnograph is teaching this class. As said in the title, this class deals as much with theory as practice. We have to complete a 15 to 30 minutes ethnographic movie by the end of the semester. During the classes, we watch several documentaries, discuss on the shooting style, on the content and, on the ethics. Several academic readings on ethnography and the art of filming are also handed out.

Japanese Academic Writing for Intermediate Learner 4-5 (1 credit)

Tuesday 1

Japanese classes lasting for only one hour and thirty minutes each, it is harder to know so early in the semester how good is the class but I will do my best to give you my first insights.

The teacher in this class explains grammar points and makes us aware of the difference between written and spoken Japanese. The class is very useful if you wish to learn how to write academic essays in Japanese.

Let's speak Japanese: Role-playing 4-5 (1 credit)

Tuesday 2

In this class, we learn colloquial Japanese sentences. We work in groups of two, write short dialogue about a given situation and try to correct each other's Japanese in order to make it sound more natural.

Enjoy Short Novels: Reading, Listening & Watching Videos (1 credit)

Tuesday 5

This class has multiple purposes. It allows you through the reading of short stories to improve your understanding of written Japanese and learn new vocabulary and grammar points. It is a very good start if you are interested in reading Japanese novel but feel unsure about your Japanese ability.

Write Essays with Photograph about the meaning of living abroad 5 (1 credit)

Wednesday 2

I took this class because I was looking for a creative and inspiring Japanese class. As you have seen from my previous classes choices, I am interested in writing articles and taking pictures. In this class, I could put my passion into practice using Japanese. I suppose that, since this class is more personal and ask creativity from the students, it is the reason why the students' interaction is really active.

My Waseda Experience 3-5 (1 credit)

Wednesday 3

Again, I had to take this class during the “relief registration”. From what I know so far, the class consists in student discussion and presentation on Waseda Experience. I didn't want to take this class because it looked like a repetition of the casual small talk, you have with every Japanese people during the first encounter.

Communication at workplace 4 (1 credit)

Wednesday 4

This class is in reality a keigo (polite Japanese) class. I am so far very happy with the content of the class as the teacher explanations are very clear and helpful. Surely this class will be the one that will turn out to be the most useful so far.

B\ Clubs/ サークル

There are two periods during which students can enter a student club; the Waseda Festival in October and the Club Fair at the beginning of the academic year in April.

The **クラブ** are for serious players who are already at high-level in their sport. The **クラブ** are official university sports clubs which play in inter-university competition or even regional competition. Their practices are really intensive, about 3 hours of practice **everyday** of the week.

The **サークル** (circle) are groups of students who share a common interest. Depending on the circles, the practice may be more or less intensive. In Waseda, there are no less than 10 circles for the most popular sport/art/activities but I can say, without any doubt, that whatever is your interest you will find at least a circle dedicated in Waseda.



I was the Captain of the hardworking football girl team in SciencesPo Le Havre so I wanted to keep improving my football skills. In Japan, Futsal is a bit more famous so I joined a futsal circle called *Diente* from as early as October last year. It was at first an all-boy circle but they accepted me like any other player and they soon became my closest Japanese friends. There were about three other foreigners in this circle. You have to know that sometimes Japanese circles won't be willing to integrate foreigners for reasons such as the shortness of our stay in Japan or the fear that we may not be able to communicate. But if you have mastered good conversation skills in Japanese, you should be able to convince them to let you in.

At this time of the year, I only kept the futsal circle out of the three circles I belonged to. The others were a Japanese/Chinese Conversation club that I gave up because I could not keep up with the level of other Japanese students who were actually taking Chinese courses and a hip-hop circle called A.K.A WASEDA for which I participated in a Dance contest but the practices were far away from Waseda and made it impossible for me to keep coming to the practice during the second semester.

C\ Internships

During the two months long spring holiday, I didn't go travelling anywhere but stayed in Japan. One of the reason was my will to fully explore Japan but and the other, my lack of financial means. Japan being one of the richest countries in the world, the plane tickets toward other Asian countries from Japan are not so cheap. For those who wish to travel a lot during their 3A, Japan is not recommended.

Instead of discovering new lands, I engaged into discovering a new lifestyle. With the aim in mind to travel in Japan during the summer, I started looking for a job. I got very lucky to find a job within one month that matched my interest and my skills. Since February, I have been interning at the Japanese company Ace Queen situated at Shibuya. My duties consist in writing articles in English on Japanese Culture for the newly created Japanistas.com website. My manager wishes to make this website the reference site for people travelling to Japan by the end of this year and I am really glad

to participate in such a challenging project. Although the company is Japanese, my colleagues working on the same project are all foreigners who have settled in Japan.

At the end of March, I also contacted Thomson Reuters and after a successful interview with them, they hired me as an intern from the beginning of May. I am working as an assistant to the journalist, keeping an eye on Japanese News and sending summaries to them, editing videos and sometimes accompanying them to shot a story.

I am now cumulating two internships and still following Waseda courses.

D\ Volunteering

For SILS students, Waseda offers lots of opportunity to do volunteering. The offers are sent to your Waseda mail. They often ask you to have a whole day free to participate in the activities so it is good to keep a day free in your class schedule. During the first semester, I did a presentation in English of France to Japanese primary school students in Honjo and then the organizers showed us around the city. In January, I also did volunteering near Mt Fuji. We had to play with Japanese children in English and the next day, we visited the Mt Fuji area, the ice cave, the lake and the lake forest. We had to then write a short article to narrate this experience in our native language that was to be published on the Mt Fuji Tourist Information Website. I strongly recommend you to take part in these volunteering activities as it is a unique way to meet locals and travel in the region.



3. Comparative Dimension

A\ Face to Face with the Difference

As a European, Japan is without any doubt a country that differs a lot from what I had always known. However during the seven months that I have been living here, I have never ever felt homesick (if it isn't for the taste of the bread that I long for savouring again).

While the differences are numerous and sometimes quite marked, Japan is a country where it is easy to live and where everything is made for the comfort of the customers. The convenient stores operating 24hours everyday day, the shops staying open till late, took out the stress that I had felt in France when everything closed at the same as everyone finish their work. Japanese Service Industry is very efficient and prosperous. For instance, in every station, you can always find a train employee to who you can ask for help if needed. Thanks to this, the society lives in harmony and everything is handled smoothly.

I was also very impressed by how hard-working were my Japanese colleagues and the emulation that followed from the part of my foreigners colleagues. However this seriousness isn't found in the university environment. The Japanese students were often not participating actively in class. I believe it was less due to their lack of investment than to the way of learning that they have been accustomed to. In addition, college life represents for Japanese Students the last time of their life when they can enjoy a lot of freedom. After having studied really hard during their Junior High School to enter the best universities, they have three years to relax before engaging themselves into the next challenge which is job hunting. Therefore these four years in university are dedicated to friendship, clubs and exploring, discovering new interests.

The difference that stroked me the most was the relationship between Japanese girls and Japanese boys. I had the chance to talk to each group separately but was very surprised to see that the way that they communicated with each other changed

completely from the one they had with me. Sexism is still a serious matter in Japan. However, it seems that gender roles are fully accepted and enforced by boys as well as by girls. I was really grateful to my futsal teammates to let me play with them even though I was the only girl. When I talked to them, they told me they were looking forward to have more girls playing with them and were happy to have me in the team to incite others to try too. However the girls that came to the practice almost always refused to play preferring to stay on a bench, not even really watching the match. I heard lots of frustration from my teammates on the difficulty to exchange with girls always moving in groups and hardly ever expressing their own opinion. I believe one of the causes can be found in the language. It was hard for me to speak Japanese like the Japanese as I was often told I was using too much boyish vocabulary. While my personality matched my words, I was looked upon as weird for using such frank expressions and was expected to express myself in a cuter way. That may be the reason why I found it easier to interact with Japanese boys rather than Japanese Girls.

B\ 2014-2015 Japan's Socio-Cultural Context

In 2014-2015, Japan stands still as the forefront of the international scene as one of the most powerful nations of the world. The regional tensions while not showing much improvement, except from the planning of a first trilateral meeting in three years between the Heads of State of China, South Korea and Japan, did not aggravated further.

However there is a growing public dissension in Japan, especially on the question of the modification of the constitution and role of the "military". Yet the demonstrations against the government remain peaceful.

While Japanese economy is undergoing some kind of recession, the Japanese economic climate is still relatively good. The exchange rate between the euro and yen (weak yen) is still beneficial for international students making it possible for us to live a year in Tokyo without having to end up broken.

C\ Differences in teaching between SciencesPo & Waseda

Alike SciencesPo Le Havre, the lessons in Waseda are taught in English. The English level of the teachers is acceptable or at the very least understandable. They do sometimes cannot help themselves to resort to Japanese to explain some notions but the classmates are always ready to translate for you if you need so. Unfortunately the guest speakers almost always use Japanese only during their presentation.

Most classes take the form of lectures with the professor continuously talking unless students have a question to ask, in which case they are encouraged to interrupt the teacher. The classes are made up of 30 students to 100 students. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the students are Japanese and the majority of them have already spent a year abroad. The last quarter is made of exchange students. Finally each class lasts for only 1 hour and 30 minutes which I felt was a perfect balance to allow a steady focus from the part of the students as well as from the teacher.

The biggest difference between Sciences Po and Waseda is the broadness of the courses that are offered. In Sciences Po, we could only choose between three to four classes for one same subject but here in Waseda, we could take courses as various as programming, linguistics, gender studies, business and photography.

Finally, regarding grading and assignments, those of Waseda may seem a little bit easier than SciencesPo due to the rather mild competitive atmosphere. As stated earlier, Japanese students prefer to dedicate their time in university to sport or interests clubs rather than studying. Moreover their grades are not being taken into account for their placement in their future company so they usually take the courses which they are curious about and not those that are in relation to their future job.

However there are still some assignments to do and Waseda teachers ask lots of work and group discussion from the students. The finals are usually really short and last for less than an hour. Teachers don't expect students to write more than a page or two but to be really concise and straight to the point in their answers. Attendance often counts for a big share of the final grade so, while the exams are not over complicated, it is important to attend the classes.

4. Intakes

A\ New Knowledge & Skills Acquired

At the end of the first semester, I was really proud to be admitted to the Dean's List for my "outstanding academic achievements". It is true that the classes were really interesting and motivated me in learning more. I have now a more accurate and precise understanding of the relations between Japan and its neighbours countries thanks to the open discussion between the students from different nationalities that were in class. My Japanese has also considerably improved. After learning it for two years in Le Havre, I was indeed able to say a few sentences but could not handle a whole conversation. Now, I am using fluently Japanese to communicate at work or with my friends, following the news in Japanese and my understanding of this language is likely to overpass, by the end of my stay, my understanding of English.

As for the skills, I am now an experienced user of Wordpress, I can edit journalistic videos and I am familiar with Journalistic Rules and Ethics. I can now also produce three to four articles a day, as well as research and verify information in a foreign language.

B\ Human Qualities

Learning Japanese and living in Tokyo made me discover yet another different take on life. I learned to communicate in a new way, paying more attention to the meaning of the silence than of the words. Japanese is a very respectful language that aims at not hurting your interlocutor. Therefore often words are not said in order to mind for other's feelings and you need to read the answer through the atmosphere.

I was very impressed by the pride and the love Japanese People have for their nation and moved to see that nationalism, love for own's country, one nation wasn't frowned upon. While it is true that I have at some occasions been discriminated against as a foreigner and even more as a non-asian, I felt it was more due to fear and ignorance than pure meanness. Nonetheless, this was the first time for me to experience racism and made me grow aware more of what minorities may feel.

In the end, these cases were rare and I am really grateful for the warm welcome that Japanese people gave me and their complete acceptance of myself into their group. For this reason, I wish to continue to improve relationships between Japanese nationals and people for other nationalities and would be honoured to work for the sake of Japan in the future.

5. Final Words

I still have three months left in Japan and a lot of things that I have yet to learn. With the most sincere feelings I can say that this year has been an incredible one, one in which I learnt so much on all levels of life, may it be on a professional or a human level.

This year has confirmed my love for Asia as well as my dedication for Journalism. I am only coming back next year in Paris for my master because I know that if I don't leave now, before I make one more friend, before I got the opportunity to work in yet another amazing place, I will never leave Japan again. But I believe there are still other places in the world that are worth discovering and learning about and that it is no time to settle yet.

From there goes my final words to you. Wherever you may go, whether it is your first and second choice, embrace this chance fully and discover just about everything you can. There are wonders everywhere in the world and you are the lucky one to be able to witness it!

6. Appendix

A\ Important Administrative Steps

I believe the first important administrative step is getting your visa. For that purpose, you need to have with you the document proving that you have been accepted into Waseda. This document will be sent to you through your sciences po mail quite late around the end of may or even in June. I got my Visa about two weeks after I

applied for it but it is recommended that you apply as soon as you get the necessary documents.

Upon your arrival in Japan, you will have to go to the Town Hall to get registered, open a bank account (if you have a scholarship and/or live in a dorm) and get the national insurance. Luckily for those living in one of the Waseda Dormitories, the international circles of Waseda in charge of exchange students will take you to every place you need to go.

I would recommend applying for a work permit at the airport even if you don't plan at first to work in Japan. The work permit is **allowing** you not forcing you to work in Japan. If ever you get an unexpected job opportunity, having done it firsthand will save you a useless hassle and waste of time. You can work up to 28 hours a week during the academic year and up to 8 hours a day during holiday time.

B\ Living Conditions and University Facilities

All Sciences Po students who came to Waseda this year have chosen the Waseda dormitories as accommodation. Contrary to the previous years, we all stayed the whole year in the dormitories. It is true that living in a dormitory has its downsides, for instance the fact that you can invite ANY friends inside but ours wasn't so bad as to have a curfew. The Waseda dormitories are a viable option as they are really convenient, situated maximum ten minutes by foot from the campus and quite affordable. Since we all obtained a room in one of the dormitories, I don't think it is hard for SciencesPo students to get one. Nonetheless, I would recommend that you apply early if you want a room, especially a single room, as they are limited.

I was hosted in the NishiWaseda dormitory which is a new and really comfortable place to live in. I personally chose a double room as I thought that I would be only there to sleep since I was planning and DID spend the most time I possibly could to enjoy Japan. Although, it went well with my first roommate; the one that arrives this semester got a bit on my nerves and required from me tremendous diplomatic skills to have her turn off the lights at 1 AM and not take her shower in the middle of the night so as to let me sleep.

I had no choice but to take a double room due to my financial means but if you can allow yourself to spend 50 euros more per month for a single room, I would advise you to do so!

C\ Budget

I was already a scholarship student from SciencesPo and was very fortunate in getting a scholarship from Waseda as well. On that note, if you have still the time to make your grades go higher, do it now. The JASSO Scholarship, as it is called, is attributed depending on grades and not on your social status. Not to turn you into emotionless and restless students but this scholarship is only given to one of the SciencesPo students that come to Waseda... The JASSO Scholarship amounts to 80000Yen a month which averaged to about 600 euros per month.

- Below is an average of my monthly budget:

Double Room Fee	46000 Yen = 370 euros
Food	36000 Yen = 290 euros
Transportation	10000 Yen = 80 euros
Circles Activities	10000 Yen = 80 euros
Pocket Wifi	40 euros
Others (Museums, Night out, Expos)	150 euros

Total Sum: 1010 euros/month

I wish to bring your attention on the fact that I was working while studying and that thus my expenses may be a bit higher than that of the other SciencesPo Students. Having to work in Shibuya and Akasaka, I had to take quick lunches in restaurant and

commute to work about 4 times a week therefore spending more money in food and transportation.

Another problem that explains why I spent so much money on food was that I am originally vegetarian. But in Japan, fruits and western vegetables are luxury goods, even considered as gifts. One apple, for example, will cost minimum 3 euros. Apart from that, Japanese Food is utterly delicious and you can have a satisfying meal in a restaurant for less than 10 euro.

Finally, I rented a pocket wifi simple because it was necessary for me, in order to perform well my journalistic duties, to be reachable any time.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my report.

May have I failed to answer one of your questions in this report, feel more than free to contact me by mail (written at the top of the 1st page).

