

## JAPAN:Fukuoka

July 1, 2016



Fridays are normal schooldays and I was fortunate enough to be able to attend a class at Fukuoka University. At first glance, I was already surprised at how attendance is taken. Each student has their own card with their ID and scan them as they walk into the classroom.

I was told by students that Mr. Abiru brings guest speakers to his class that cover different topics. Instead of referring to books, students learn and are connected to people who have real companies and come to share their knowledge.

The speakers are admirable and highly respected. To show this, the students stand up from their seats before the speaker commences and bow down together. The same ritual is done at the end of the class. I am currently reading a book titled “Talk like Ted” written by Carmine Gallo. It is a book about public speaking secrets and how to effectively present ideas to the audience. One of the main qualities mentioned in the book

about a good speech is passion because it is proven to grab attention. By seeing the body language and listening to the tone of voice in Mr. Isaki (the guest speaker), I knew that the speech was memorable and interesting. I even found myself laughing along with the rest of the class just by listening and observing!



In just a few days I was already impressed by the organization of the students at Fukuoka University. They come together and organize meetings between each other. It surprises me because there is no professor who tells them when to meet or what to say. The students themselves are leaders and know what they need to do. They respect each others time and carry planners wherever they go to keep themselves organized. Personally, I am not the type of person to carry an agenda. However, after the end of the second day, I was already at the store buying my planner! There was no way that I would be able to remember the date, time, place, and people that I would meet

at a dinner 1 week ahead of time. In 2 days I already had several events that I knew I would be attending from weeks in advance. It would be an embarrassment if I didn't write it down and I accidentally overlapped or forgot an event.

I have a strong belief that adapting to the country you are in is a MUST! I am the foreigner to their country, if I want to be there, I need to respect adapt to their lifestyle. Not the other way around.