

2021 Spring Online English-learning programs University of Leicester /UK Asuka Fukasawa / Junior in Faculty of Education

Reason for participation

I have wanted to study abroad for a long time, but because of COVID-19, I have been unable to go abroad. However, I found some online programs that would be offered over spring vacation, and I decided to participate. I chose Leicester's program because I am a big fan of Harry Potter and I wanted to feel the atmosphere of that story.

Classes

In class, students were given many chances to discuss classroom topics. The topics varied and included subjects like British history or culture and art from around the world. Not only was able to improve my English skills this way, but I also learned about other subjects as well.

Presentations

I was given the opportunity to give a presentation for my final project. Thematically, we were told to focus on the differences between Japan and the UK. I chose to focus on sports. More specifically, I delineated the difference between Japanese sports and British sports via a comparison of Japanese Sumo wrestling and British cricket.

History class

There were classes in which I learned about the various castles located around the UK. Leicester has many castles, and the teachers chose several of them as topics for the lessons. The students studied those castles and discussed them. This content is related to British history, and so it was very fun.



Extracurricular activity No.1

There was an online cooking class where I tried to cook scones. Since the cooking class was held online, I wondered how these lessons would be held. Students ended up joining the online cooking class from their home kitchens. During this class, I learned how to make traditional scones and how to eat them. I enjoyed cooking scones; they were very delicious.

Extracurricular activity No.2

There was an extracurricular activity in which Japanese students had the opportunity to teach the art of paper folding—otherwise known as “Origami”—to students studying at Leicester. It was very difficult to teach Origami in English, but the Leicester students seemed to understand my instructions. I taught them how to make Kabuto, a samurai helmet.

Impressions on this program

I am sure my decision to join this program was the right one because now I realize how enjoyable speaking English is for me. This three-week program was a very pleasant time, and it made me to want to actually visit Leicester someday. I am sure I will remember my time at Leicester very fondly and for years to come.

To those who are considering online programs

During the online programs, the teachers and organizers do a lot to entertain the participants. In addition, through online programs, you can not only improve your English skills but also learn British culture and history. In my case, I strongly believe my decision to join the online program was the right one.