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Series **My Favorite Kyoto**

The country of my dreams, Japan



Huseyn Asgarov (Republic of Azerbaijan)

My name is Huseyn and I am from Azerbaijan, a small, post-Soviet country between Russia and Iran. My interest in Japan and Japanese culture was aroused about ten years ago when I started playing games on consoles such as PlayStation 3 and Nintendo 3DS. At the time, I liked the games called Street Fighter and Final Fantasy, and other games produced by famous Japanese game companies. Then, I got interested in anime and Japanese music as well. I wanted to learn more about Japanese culture, but the language barrier was a big obstacle to studying and understanding Japanese culture and Japanese people's way of thinking. So, I started to learn Japanese.

Time passed, and I managed to improve my Japanese skills to about pre-intermediate level; I was able to read simple texts, and understand conversational Japanese to some degree. It was a time when I wanted to experience living, studying, and working in Japan. I first applied for the Japanese Government scholarship program (MEXT) in 2016, but couldn't pass the interview. I didn't give up, and in 2017 I applied for the scholarship again. The lengthy selection process took more than six months, but I managed to win the scholarship, and in April, 2018, I came to Japan.

I enrolled at Kyoto University, my first preference, for several reasons. First, for its location in Kyoto, the cultural capital and so-called heart of Japan. Since I took interest in Japanese culture and the Japanese language, I was fascinated by the beauty of Kyoto, its nature, ancient temples, shrines, and the special atmosphere of old Japan. The



Author



The beauty of Kyoto

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