

The Letter from Lam-Thanh Ly

(stay in 30-Dec, 2019 ~ 20-Mar, 2020)

*** Why did you choose our University or Hospital?**

*** How did you find our university of Hospital?**

I am a 6th year medical student from Germany and spent 12 weeks at Nara Medical University. On a German medical website, this hospital was listed as one of the 6 hospitals which were eligible for an international clerkship in Japan so I applied for an elective from 30th of Dec 2019 to the 20th of March 2020. In fact, I applied for all of the six hospitals throughout Japan but only Mrs Koda answered my application (thank you Mrs Koda!).

I spent one of the most wonderful times at the Cardiovascular/ Thoracic Surgery and at the Oncology Department. Mrs Koda, who is such a friendly person, was a great help when I applied for an elective at the university but also during my stay in Nara. I am very thankful that she introduced me to Japanese local food and people.

*** How is your studying circumstances?**

During the internship, I also met the great doctors of the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, who were very friendly and patient. They were very eager to improve their English and tried to explain a lot of the procedures during surgery. Moreover, we also talked a lot about Japanese culture, language and food so I learnt a lot about the country as well. They welcomed me very warm-heartedly and although they were very busy, they always tried to do some other not work-related activities with me like having food together (as you might notice, food is one of the many highlights of Japan).

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, I had to move to the Oncology Department. Although the doctors were not prepared to take care of another German student, they tried really hard to take some extra time to teach me about Oncology. They even made the effort to prepare a presentation about Japanese history which was very interesting. I was really amazed how much effort everyone in the hospital took to make this a wonderful experience for me.

- * **What is the impression of Japan, Nara Pref.?**
- * **How is your private life here?**

The hospital is located in Kashihara City. Although it's located in Nara, which is quite a big city, Kashihara City has a bit more of a rural feeling. But you can get to Nara Center within maybe half an hour and to Osaka or Kyoto within an hour.

I really enjoyed staying at Nara. It's very peaceful and you can visit a lot of shrines and temples or you can visit the cute deer in Nara Park. But since Osaka and Kyoto (which were personally my favorite cities of Japan) are very near, there are always fun things to do. In Kyoto, you have beautiful streets, houses and sightseeings, whereas in Osaka, you can go shopping, eating, or doing sports. I also became friends with some other Japanese medical students and also with other German students, which I met during the elective. I think we all had one of the best times at Japan.

- * **Have you been staying at our Guest House? Yes · No**

Throughout the internship, I stayed at an Airbnb apartment. The host was, like almost any Japanese people that I met, super friendly and we got along very well.

- * **Please give a message for the coming Students in future !!**

Now that I returned back to Germany, I am still in contact with my Japanese friends and I am sure that I will return to this beautiful country as soon as possible. To anyone who is considering to spend his/ her elective at Nara Medical University Hospital, I can only urge him/ her to do it!

