

FUKUSHIMA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Report of my experience in Wuhan

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1. Introduction

I had the opportunity to study at Wuhan University in Hubei(湖北) Province for 6 weeks. During my stay, I met many people every day and had a lot of valuable experience. It is my pleasure to introduce my experience and daily life in Wuhan.

2. Famous spots in Wuhan city

Wuhan city is the central city of Hubei Province and in the middle reaches of Chang Jiang(長江). The heavy industries have been well developed in Wuhan city. It consists of three regions: Wuchang(武昌), Hankou(漢口) and Hanyang(漢陽). There are also countless beautiful lakes, such as East Lake, West Lake, North Lake. Wuhan University is located beside the East Lake that is the biggest lake in Wuhan.

The predecessor of Wuhan University was founded as Ziqiang Institute in 1893, and renamed Wuhan National University in 1928. The main campus of Wuhan University is famous for cherry blossoms. To my surprise, more than ten thousand people come there to enjoy cherry blossoms per day during three straight holidays called “清明節”(April 2nd-4th). ↓ At the gate of main campus of Wuhan University



↑ Cherry blossom street in main campus

The medical campus where we stayed is apart from the main campus. It is 20-minute bus ride from the main campus. The medical campus has also a cherry blossom street named “櫻花通”. At the end of March, cherry blossoms began to come out and students took photos of them. ↓ Cherry blossom street in medical campus

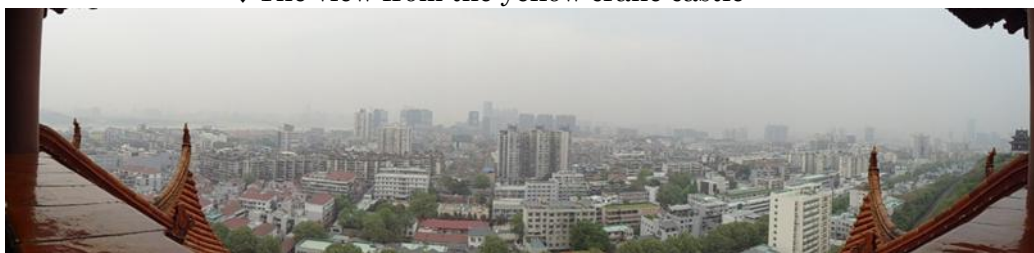


The most famous historical building in Wuhan is the yellow crane castle(黄鹤楼), which is a five-story building located on the top of a mountain. The origin of the name is that 60 yellow roofing tiles look like cranes taking off. If you reach the top floor, you can enjoy a fine view of Chang Jiang.

The Wuhan Chang Jiang Bridge (武漢長江大橋) is to the west of the yellow crane castle. Near the bridge, there are ferryboats moored, which go across Chang Jiang. I got on a ferry boat with my friends and took a walk in shopping districts called “民族路” on the opposite bank. The shopping districts were decorated with a lot of red lanterns and many kinds of merchandise were piled up high on both sides of the passage.

We usually took a bus or taxi to a market because the medical campus where we stayed is at the edge of downtown. In Wuhan, a bus fare is 1 or 2 yuan(元) per person. Once we pay the fare when getting into a bus, we can get off anywhere. Many people use the bus services and bus stops are always crowded.

↓ The view from the yellow crane castle



↓ Wuhan Chang Jiang Bridge



↓ The shopping district on the opposite bank



At a bus stop→



3. The medical campus of Wuhan University

We stayed in the medical campus near the East Lake. In the medical campus, there are basic medicine building, medical library, experiment buildings, administration office, anatomy building, guest house, public health building, gymnasium, soccer and basketball courts, some school stores and many student dormitories. In the park in front of the library, students study during the lunch break and after school when the weather is fine. After school, many students also enjoy playing basketball, soccer, table tennis and badminton.

↓ Administration office called “White House” ↓ The park in front of the library



During my stay, we stayed at the guest house in the medical campus. There are a washing machine, water heater, television, refrigerator and air-conditioner in the room. We can access the Internet in the entrance hall.

Next to the guest house, there is a Chinese restaurant for international students. I went to the restaurant for lunch and dinner every day. I ordered only not-spicy dishes since some Chinese dishes were too spicy for me. My favorite dishes were 西红柿鸡蛋面, 三鲜鸡肉面 and 咖哩鸡肉烧饭. The restaurant serves about 50 kinds of Chinese dishes.

↓ The guest house Chinese restaurant for international students ↓



4. Student Life

At Wuhan University, we can choose the education course or the research course. I

chose the education course where I took part in the classes for international students from foreign countries. I attended the classes of 1st and 2nd medical grade. International students are from a lot of different countries, such as India, Thailand, Myanmar, UAE, Kenya, Yemen, Somalia. In the international classes, teachers speak only English. International students speak their own native languages when chatting with their classmates from the same country and they speak English when talking with their classmates from different country. They speak English fluently and I was always impressed by their English. I attended the classes of anatomy, embryology, biochemistry, physiology, pathology, pharmacology and basic Chinese. Although I had already finished the classes in basic medicine, it was difficult for me to keep up with the classes in English. I had to look up medical words in my electric dictionary many times during classes. It was a good opportunity to study medicine in English. The following is the schedule of classes that I attended.

Time of class

Morning		Afternoon	
1 st period	8:00-8:45	6 th period	13:15-14:00
2 nd period	8:50-9:35	7 th period	14:05-14:50
3 rd period	9:50-10:35	8 th period	14:55-15:40
4 th period	10:40-11:25	9 th period	15:45-16:30
5 th period	11:30-12:15	10 th period	16:40-17:25

Schedule of class

Monday		Tuesday	
1 st -2 nd period	Anatomy II	1 st -2 nd period	Anatomy Practice II
3 rd -5 th period	Embryology&Genetics	3 rd -4 th period	Basic Chinese
7 th -8 th period	Biochemistry I	7 th -8 th period	Embryology Practice
Wednesday		Thursday	
1 st -2 nd period	Pathology I	1 st -2 nd period	Basic Chinese
3 rd -4 th period	Pharmacology I	3 rd -4 th period	Anatomy Practice II
7 th -8 th period	Anatomy II	7 th -9 th period	Physiology I
Friday			
1 st -2 nd period	Physiology I		
3 rd -5 th period	Pathology I		
7 th -10 th period	Basic Chinese		

Classroom→



In Basic Chinese class, international students were divided into four groups based on their mother countries, such as Indian group and African group. I took part in the African group and attended Basic Chinese classes with my friends from Africa. In the class, the teacher asked questions and students answered them in Chinese. African students actively participated in the classes. I think it is easy for Japanese to understand Chinese characters but difficult to pronounce Chinese language. Though I couldn't understand what they said at first, I learned to catch some Chinese words.

↓ West experiment building

Teacher and classmates in Basic Chinese ↓



5. The pharmacology laboratory

I sometimes didn't attend classes and went to a pharmacology laboratory that I belonged to. I was permitted to go to the laboratory anytime. Whenever I visited the laboratory, the members of the labo welcomed me. One of the labo members helped me with my homework of Basic Chinese class.

On April 18th, Professor Yang and labo members invited me to a Chinese restaurant near the East Lake. The restaurant was on the water and there were many goldfishes in the ponds. I enjoyed delicious Chinese dishes and talking with them. After the meal, they took me to main campus of Wuhan University. They showed me around the administration office, student dormitories and library and told me the historical events in Wuhan University. I had a very good time with them.

↓ At the restaurant with labo members



↓ Student dormitories in the main campus



6. Events

On April 9th, we visited Wuhan University Citizens Hospital as part of the study. Dr. Chengdan took us to the inpatients' ward and the Institute of Artificial Insemination in the Hospital. So many patients were hospitalized and some of the patients lay down on the beds in the corridor since there wasn't enough space. It was a precious experience for me to visit a hospital in China.

On April 16th, the friendship party between Chinese students and Japanese students was held in the administration office. International students were also invited to the party. Chinese students introduced us the history, culture and new education system of Wuhan University. We made a presentation about Fukushima prefecture, Japanese culture, medical education system in Japan and the earthquake disaster last March. After the presentation, they presented each of us a school batch of Wuhan University and beautiful bookmark.

↓ A commemorative photo at friendship party



During my stay, I met countless people and made friends with students of Wuhan University. Through my experience, I learned different cultures and a broad view of things. I deeply appreciate all the people giving me the opportunity to study at Wuhan University. Thank you so much again.