

Hokkaido International Foundation
Homestay Option: Yes
Maximum Language Credit: 0

Strong Points:

- The quality of instruction was excellent, the instructors and staff were encouraging and positive. This helped me have a positive attitude and try my best. (Summer, 2010)
- The instruction given is extremely helpful, especially because you get to use the expressions you learned with your homestay. Also, the city of Hakodate is very supportive of HIF. (Summer, 2012)
- Homestay, Independent Study (IS) Program, Hakodate (relatively cool in summer, beautiful sea and mountains, easy-going locals). (Summer, 2014)
- Continuous use of language required, homestay where language can be practiced, multiple classes for all skill levels. (Summer, 2014)
- HIF provides you with a lot of extra-curricular opportunities that give a great overview of Japanese culture. The staff is also really helpful—if you want to participate in anything outside of the program, they can contact the right people for you. The coursework was also rigorous. I learned so much from the program. The homestay was also a great experience for me! (Summer, 2015)
- The homestay aspect of HIF enforces the “NDR” (Nihongo Dake Rule) and helps you learn more about real Japanese lifestyles and provides an experience not found in the classroom. Additionally, along with the truly incredible staff, the wide array of extracurricular activities and guest speakers really makes the program have something for everyone. The location is also beautiful and avoids the hustle and bustle of other places such as Tokyo. (Summer, 2015)

Weak Points:

- I felt that I was placed in the right level at HIF based on what was taught in first year Japanese at Duke, but there was not enough material taught in my level to equal what is covered in the intermediate level at Duke, so it doesn't really count as a year of Japanese for people coming out of beginning Japanese at Duke. The homestay can be difficult, especially for older students. (Summer, 2010)
- Although a good program in general, there are very few chances to make actual Japanese friends our age. (Summer, 2012)
- Public transportation is not very convenient. (Summer, 2014)
- Not allowed to use English when confused about something even when talking to people in the office. (Summer, 2014)
- Although they had other Japanese college students on field trips, it was hard to build really tight friendships with them, compared to a program that is located on a college campus. (Summer, 2015)
- The shortness of the program means that the content is taught at a *very* fast pace, and it is quite easy to fall behind. This is compounded by the wide array of things to do as well as homestay obligations which may limit study times and place an unnecessarily large amount of stress on the student. (Summer, 2015)