

Princeton in Ishikawa
Homestay Option: Yes
Maximum Language Credit: 2

Strong Points:

- Staying in homestay allowed me to practice Japanese with the natives (my host family) every day. Also, there were lots of cultural activities to join after class which is very fun. (2019)
- The teachers are really caring and work hard to teach us. I think having to constantly studying Japanese really helped me improved. I also enjoyed all cultural activities, which helped me learn a different side of Japan. (2019)
- The homestay experience was a great chance to practice the Japanese I learned in class, since I was able to talk with my host family every day. Also, I was able to make good friends with my classmates, with whom I had many shared interests. (2019)
- This program provides its participants with a unique opportunity to experience traditional Japanese culture and prototypical Japanese living style. PII and IFIE offer various cultural experiences for us to engage with Japanese traditions and cultures, which are both informative and interesting. Living with our host families enables us to practice our speaking skills and apply the acquired grammars and vocabularies into conversation. In addition, PII is an excellent place to get to know people outside the Duke Community. As we spend at least 15 hours per week learning together, we are capable of developing friendship with some other students. (2018)
- You really learn so much through this program and really helped me strengthen my resolve to continue Japanese. It was so much fun due to the great teachers and amazing classmates. (2018)
- PII uses the skilled resource of the Japanese teachers to quickly help you reach an advanced ability level while simultaneously helping you understand Japanese culture more thoroughly by offering a plethora of after-school cultural activities. Additionally, having a homestay requires students to always speak Japanese which dramatically increases one's fluency level. Furthermore, using community projects one is also able to engage with the Kanazawa communities and become an integrated member of the city. (2017)
- Develop close relationship with host family and get to experience a lot of traditional Japanese culture. (2016)
- In 2 months, I was really immersed in Japanese through intense studying in class and communicating with my host family in daily life. The small size of the class (mine has 9

people) allowed for in-depth interactions with the instructors and the peers. The program also hosts many interesting cultural enrichment events and a class trip to Kaga Onsen, which helps me appreciate the diverse aspects of Japanese culture. (2016)

- The Japanese classes were really interesting and high-quality. And the homestay experience was very good. (2016)
- Homestay experience! Kanazawa is very nice. (2015)
- Covered a lot of materials. Allows one to interact much with the community. (2015)
- Intensive and well organized. (2015)

Weak Points:

- The pace of the class goes very fast. I also found the textbook we used a little bit hard to understand. So, it required a of self-study. (2019)
- The flow of the program is inconsistent in my opinion. On some days, we would have a speech draft, a homework, quiz and reading to do. I think it would have been better if assignments were equally distributed. (2019)
- While the cultural activities were interesting, there were a few in number and a bit lacking in depth. I would have preferred a larger variety to choose from, as towards the end of the program there were many afternoon without activities. (2019)
- Sometimes the course moves by too quickly and it is sometimes hard to catch up to. However, there are always teachers available for additional help and classmates are also willing to help. (2018)
- The division of level 2 and 2.5 is mysterious. The organization of level 2 class is a little bit unreasonable. For each day, the three-hour learning period is divided into three courses. The instructors of the first and second courses tend to skip several materials and explain the usage of grammars and vocabularies vaguely in order to keep pace, while those in charge of the third course waste everyone's time teaching meaningless and useless expressions. There are around six instructors for level 2 class, and the qualities of these instructors vastly vary. Those affiliated to Princeton are sophisticated at teaching, yet several local instructors sometimes fail to explain the course materials clearly and instead only read the PowerPoint. Grading is also slightly mysterious, yet since the grades are counted as pass/fail this does not really matter. (2018)
- PII is relatively short so students are often forced to do homework all the time and not experience the city as much as we would like. That being said, this program is very intensive and there is still plenty of time to have fun, so it's not a very strong complaint. (2017)
- They should organize more activities for the students to get to know the Ishikawa community outside of classrooms (2016)

- The limited time does not allow instructors to go in-depth into each chapter, so it requires reviewing and frequent practicing. (2016)
- It'll be better if the cultural activities can last for a longer term for the students to delve into their interests more deeply. (2016)
- Quality of language instruction is mixed. Information is barely taught and hardly reinforced. There is not enough time to process and solidify skills. (2015)
- Possibly too fast to fully internalize all taught material. (2015)
- Fast pace. (2015)