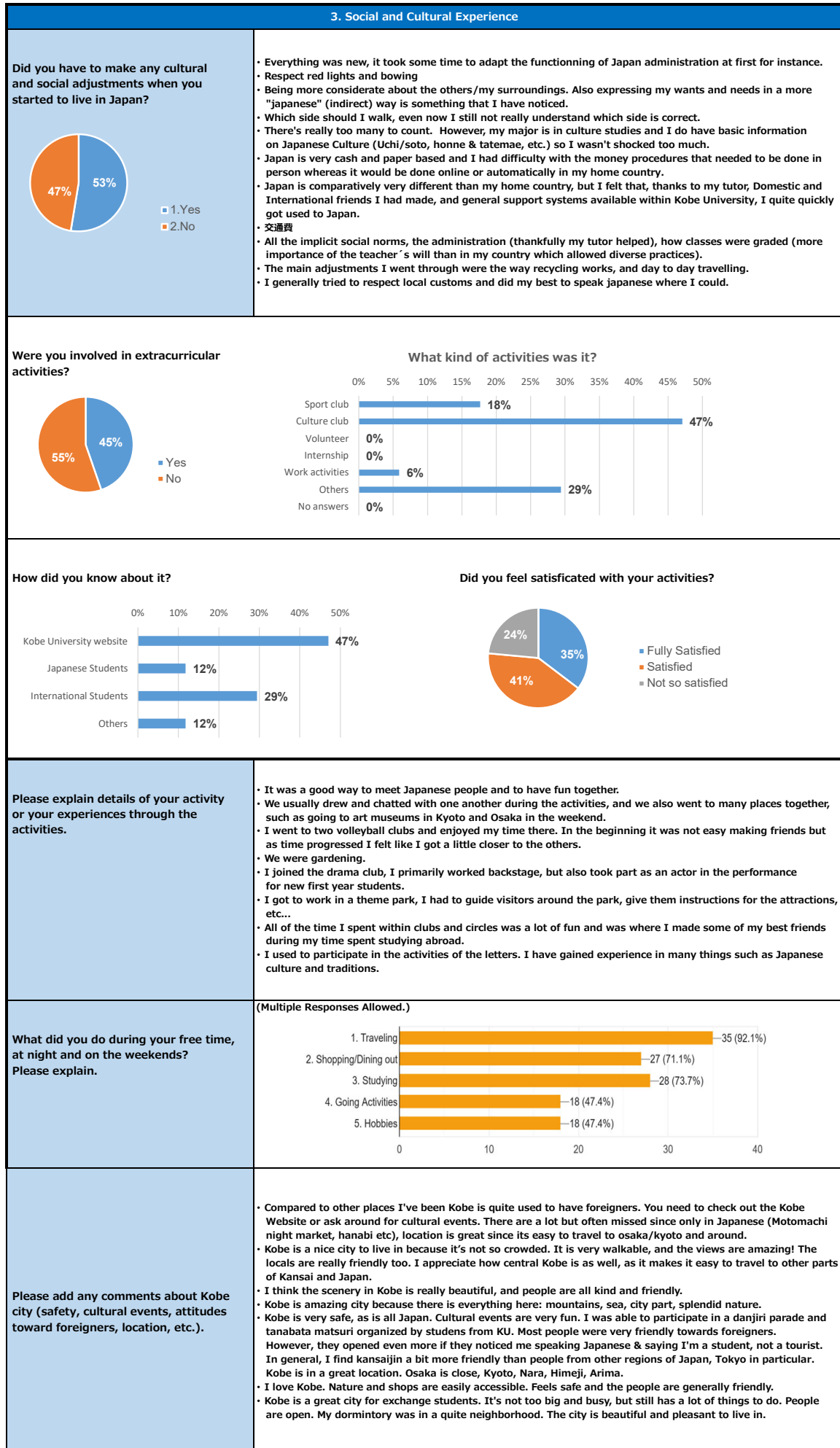


KOBE UNIVERSITY Exchange Program
Result of Completion Questionnaire, Spring 2024

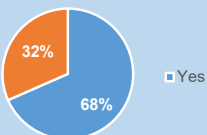
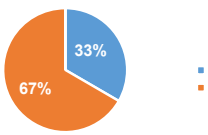
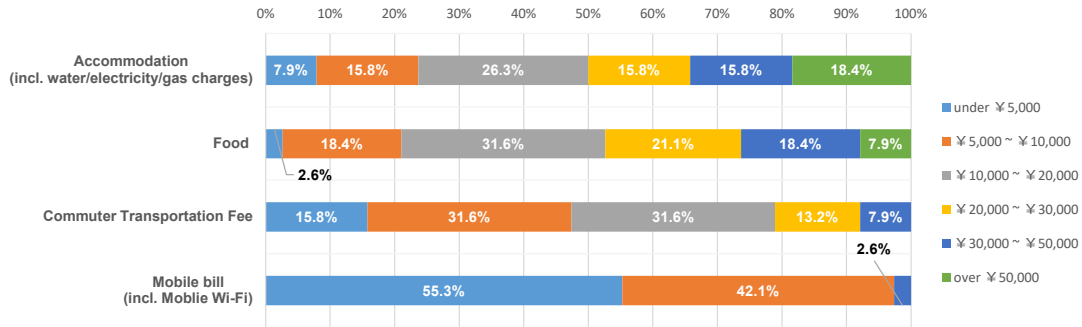
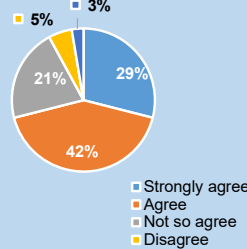


※The percentage may not always add up to 100 due to rounding the decimal places.

1. Academics/Courses [Regular Courses]																					
<p>Have you achieved the purpose of your study on the exchange program?</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for 'Have you achieved the purpose of your study on the exchange program?'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>5.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agree</td> <td>71.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not So Agree</td> <td>22.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Answers</td> <td>5.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly Agree	5.7%	Agree	71.4%	Not So Agree	22.9%	No Answers	5.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To immerse myself in a different culture and meet friends from different cultural backgrounds To experience living in a different country that is very different from my own while learning more about its language and the culture within. I became more confident in talking in Japanese. To learn how to speak Japanese better I was able to learn more about Japanese culture and the perception of certain cultural aspects (such as feminism, multiculturalism) from the Japanese side. 										
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<p>How difficult were courses? If you have any experiences of feeling difficulties/easiness in Japanese Language Courses, please describe them.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for 'How difficult were courses?'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Difficult</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adequate</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Easy</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Difficult	6%	Adequate	90%	Easy	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The level of the course was adequate. Everybody could learn together and understand the teacher. The beginning of the semester felt a bit easy because I had already seen the notions but at the end it was new for me. I felt like some courses felt a bit easier compared to others, but I overall thought that all the courses definitely helped in improving my Japanese. The courses were generally good, although some courses of the same level have different difficulty levels. 												
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<p>Do you think you have improved your Japanese language ability? Please explain how it has improved or what kind of specific ability improved.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for 'Do you think you have improved your Japanese language ability?'</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly Agree</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agree</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not So Agree</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Answers</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly Agree	26%	Agree	53%	Not So Agree	16%	No Answers	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammar and kanji definitely improved. However my speaking skills improved outside of class because I spoke to Japanese people. I know more grammatical structure and more vocabulary. All aspects of my Japanese have improved quite a lot, mostly from the language classes but also from the daily life and constant presence of the language. I can now small talk with Japanese and I can read some panels and understand more when Japanese are speaking. I become able to write a business style email and giving presentation in Japanese more fluently. I am able to use more advanced grammar in my daily speech but also feel like I improved my listening abilities. I had not learned Japanese before coming to Japan so being able to understand everything and have no problems living in my everyday life in Japanese is a big improvement for me. Mainly it's about kanji, thanks to learning about 20 kanji a week I could then easily read various things on the streets of the city. When it comes to speaking, everyday conversations with Japanese people helped me more than conversations during classes. Before starting the courses, I knew only a few expressions. Now, I've learned hiragana, katakana, and some useful phrases. I got all the element for writing a report in Japanese, and I am now able to have a conversation about anything in Japanese. I very little pre-existing knowledge of Japanese so they were quite helpful in helping me learn the basics of the language. 										
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<p>If you have any additional comments about the academic aspect of the courses, please describe them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was interactive classes with a good level of preparation for the class. Although there were a variety of classes teaching different aspects of the Japanese language I would have wished for a speaking class where our spoken Japanese gets corrected properly by the teacher, thus, sounding more native. I feel like there was a significantly bigger selection beginner level subjects than those of higher levels. I think that we should work on explaining grammar, because sometimes, from a foreigner's perspective, certain things are not understandable and this simply creates gaps in knowledge, which is also a problem in later learning new topics. I felt as though every professor I had for my Japanese language classes were absolutely wonderful and clearly passionate about teaching Japanese. Additionally, all of the students in each class made every class feel like a safe environment in which I can make plenty of mistakes without feeling judged. 																				



4. Housing/Food																									
Where did you live?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Housing Type</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Internatinal Residence</td><td>24%</td></tr> <tr><td>Kokui Residence</td><td>18%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sumiyoshi International Student House</td><td>24%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sumiyoshi Residence(only men)</td><td>3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's Dormitory</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>International House</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Hakuo Dormitory</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>KU Rokko House</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>Host Family</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Apartment</td><td>13%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sharehouse</td><td>3%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Housing Type	Percentage	Internatinal Residence	24%	Kokui Residence	18%	Sumiyoshi International Student House	24%	Sumiyoshi Residence(only men)	3%	Women's Dormitory	5%	International House	0%	Hakuo Dormitory	0%	KU Rokko House	11%	Host Family	0%	Apartment	13%	Sharehouse	3%
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How sufficient was your housing? Please explain why. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Fully Sufficient</td><td>45%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sufficient</td><td>47%</td></tr> <tr><td>Not sufficient enough</td><td>8%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Fully Sufficient	45%	Sufficient	47%	Not sufficient enough	8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The share house I stayed in was near sannomiya and was not so expensive for me. It was also beautiful and I had great roommates. I could walk to university, the rent was cheap and it had everything I needed. It provided many amenities that were very useful to me. For the price it was very adequate. However, it would have been nice to have my own shower in my room. The room was very well laid out, the common rooms were clean, the office manager was also very nice and I was able to walk to the university from there. I had everything I needed. Perfect location, included meals, nothing to complain about. The dormitory is comfortable for living and studying. The facilities are sufficient, the staff are kind, and I am not disturbed by anyone. Having a kitchen within each room is a great aspect of the dorm. It is clean, well maintained and the dorm managers are always available to assist with anything. Rooms were equipped with all necessary amenities and meals were provided at cafeteria. Everything I needed was readily available and I was able to live close by and communicate with a lot of my friends I had made in my classes. It was quite sufficient, a good distance from Sannomiya and kobe University. The office of My accommodation was wonderful, the teachers there were really kind and helpful. Having a room with items left by previous residents was very useful. Having meals in a common room helped me to build new friendship. The position was perfect and the dorm was new and clean. Wonderful experience! Small room but everything that is needed. Nice walk to university. It's nice to be grouped with other students. <p>*Conditions may vary depending on the dormitory.</p>																
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If you have any good experiences or difficulties with your neighborhood and community, please describe them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Me and my friend had the opportunity to participate in a Matsuri held at the local shrine. We helped pull the cord attached to the Mikoshi to move it across the neighbourhood, and finished the day by eating with all the other people who participated in the masturi. It was one of the best moments of my life I think. I knew lots of my neighbours, we spent lots of time together. It was to be able to shared a common space to be together. I nearly never heard sounds coming from their room so it was really good. I made very good friends with the other international students living at my dorm. Sometimes, on the way to or from university, (Japanese) people would start a conversation with me, which was nice. We (international students) watched Eurovision Song Contest and some football matches together. It was fun! There was a strong community. We often did activities together both within the common room of the dorm and out in sannomiya. The neighbourhood felt safe and you see lots of people out walking saying hello to each other each morning. No complaints. Specifically, the people I had met that ran the convinience store close to my dorm and the soba restaurant were super nice and welcoming, while also giving me plenty opportunities to practice my Japanese and brighten up my day in general. 																								

5. Cost	
<p>Did you receive any scholarships?</p>  <p>■ Yes</p>	<p>Sponsor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) • Kobe University Fund = JPY50,000- • HUMAP= ¥80,000 • Erasmus+ • Home University ¥50,000~¥120,000 • Freeman Asia Scholarship
<p>Do you think that the scholarship you received was sufficiently helpful for your program?</p>	 <p>■ Fully sufficient ■ Sufficient</p>
<p>How much did you spend for the following items? (per month)</p>  <p>Legend: ■ under ¥5,000 ■ ¥5,000 ~ ¥10,000 ■ ¥10,000 ~ ¥20,000 ■ ¥20,000 ~ ¥30,000 ■ ¥30,000 ~ ¥50,000 ■ over ¥50,000</p>	
<p>Please add any comments/advice for prospective student about managing expenses while at KU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat at the cafeteria while at uni, go to super market near Kobe University, go shopping later (reduced prices for some articles), cook by yourself, transportation can be expensive so walk when you can and for travelling: use the night-/Highway buses. Get the mobile phone contract from the University (cheaper than what I found and it includes a telephone number) • Transportation fees to do touristic activities are quite expensive, and even when the prices per item seem cheaper than in your home country, it will cost a lot when everything is added together. On top of that, there are not a lot of free activities to do, so if you are not careful those small costs quickly become expensive when considered as a whole. • Life in Japan can be quite cheap especially now with the value of the yen. If you manage to not spent too much money on things that are not needed most of the times you will still have a budget for travelling or enjoy your everyday life. But everybody manage his money differently. • Eating often at the cafeteria of KU helps a lot to save money. Also tracking expenses might help as well - speaking from personal experience. One can lose quite fast track how much money one has spent during a day/week. • I recommend buying envelopes, signing them for months and putting money in them for certain expenses such as rent, common charge, telephone, electricity. • 1. Calculate whether getting a commuter pass is cheaper than charging suica. If you have classes 3 or more times per week, it probably is. • 2. Do not buy things in konbini, go to supermarkets instead. • 3. Buy discounted items & get point cards • 4. Use common sense & basic financial literacy. Eg. Calculate a monthly budget. No impulse buying. Treat yourself with money leftover at the END of the month, with budget that still remains, NOT at the beginning of the month. • Make spreadsheets. Set budgets • For the telephone subscription, I advise you not to use an operator designed for foreigners, as they are extremely expensive. • Pocket wifi is convenient for both phone and laptop use in the dorm (instead of internet subscription only for your room) and outside. It is a good deal on the long-term in price, quality and quantity.
6. Additional Comments	
<p>Has study abroad changed the direction of your life in any way?</p>  <p>■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Not so agree ■ Disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It helped me broaden up my views of cultures as I met and spoke to a lot of international students. I also started going out and travelling way more than I used to before. • I think I found a field I want to write my master thesis in and maybe work in later. It showed me that travelling is such a great thing to broaden your horizon. • I have made many connections with people from all over the world. • I have a better understanding of the types of environments I can and cannot live in. I also learned a lot of where my priorities were, what were my non-negotiable boundaries and what were my needs in my daily life. • It helped in academically path. I am starting a master next month and this exchange helped to broaden my knowledge internationally. • I think I become more independent, and I also become more courageous to speak out my opinion or chat with strangers. • With my level of Japanese I developed here and culture knowledges I have more option for the future and future job. • I start to think about working in Japan not that bad but I still want to use English skill for work. • I'm going to live in Japan. • I gained a lot from the exchange in terms of improving the language, getting to know the culture and the people growing up in it better, and the history of the Kansai region. I think it also helped me with ideas for future career paths. • I am now more inclined toward pursuing academic/professional future in Japan. • Beforehand I was largely learning Japanese as a way to diversify what I was studying, but now I have a clear goal to help others who are currently studying abroad or wish to study abroad while also hoping to use my Japanese skills in whatever profession I head towards.