

## **Why I chose to study abroad in Hokkaido**

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I graduated from a design university in Shanghai, China, in July 2009. In order to improve my skills, I decided to come to Japan to study and arrived here in October 2009, and studied Japanese language at the Tokyo Institute of Japanese. My Japanese is still not all that good, but I study hard every day.

Sapporo is surrounded by the great outdoors and, at the beginning of every February, the Sapporo Snow Festival is held, attracting over 2 million visitors to this northern city that exists in harmony with nature. I think it is really good. Based on these reasons, I chose to study abroad in Hokkaido.

### **What I found good about studying in Hokkaido**

I have experience interacting with people as a Japanese language volunteer at the International Student Center in Sapporo. Based on the philosophy of global friendship, these volunteer classes place importance on mutual understanding between students from different countries, through knowledge of global culture and education, and interaction between people of all regions. I think this matches almost perfectly with my lifelong philosophy, and is an extremely important experience with regard to my life.

### **What I found inconvenient**

There aren't many dormitories at schools in Japan and sometimes the schools are located in the suburbs, making traveling to and from school every day inconvenient.

### **Hokkaido PR, or a message to everyone**

Right now, China-Japan relations are as cold as this winter but I hope that, as of 2013, the new leaders in each country are able to turn a new page. I, too, hope to do all I can to improve friendships between Chinese and Japanese people.