

# SSIP 2025 Activity Logs

This is the log that the program assistant interns wrote during the program.  
The content and Theme for “Japanese Studies” and “Cross-Cultural Workshop” are subject to change annually.

## SSIP 2025 Opening Ceremony and Welcome Party (6/17)



Today, we hosted the SSIP 2025 opening ceremony, orientation, and welcome party. It went well, and the girls all seemed to have a good time.

The welcome ceremony began with a brief introduction to the program by the PA, Sophie, followed by welcome remarks from Chancellor Dr. Mariko Bando. After her welcome, all the international students were introduced with brief comments on their hopes and expectations. The ceremony then closed with a group photo taken with the Chancellor outside.

After the Ceremony, we moved into Orientation. Ms. Funaki from CIE covered some of the history and basic facts of SWU, as well as other programs that SWU runs, and provided an overview of SSIP. PA Becca then reviewed a few additional items of importance for the program. After orientation, the group went on a campus tour in two groups—one led by Aya and Becca, and the other by Risako and Sophie.



After the tour, we held the welcome party. We started off with another round of introductions and an icebreaker, sitting in a circle. Then we transitioned to having some Japanese snacks and drinks sitting in our groups at tables, getting to know each other. We then played a couple of Japanese games—fukuwarai and Japanese rock-paper-scissors—and after that, we just had some more time to enjoy snacks and get to know each other before wrapping up.

## SSIP 2025 Japanese Tourism Lecture and Cross-Cultural Workshop (6/18)



Today, the students received their first lecture and participated in their first session of the Cross-Cultural Workshop.

To begin, Professor Sage led a lecture on Japanese tourism in Japan Studies. She began by providing an overview of tourism in Japan, including its challenges, benefits, and impacts on the industry. Then, students worked in small groups to discuss tourism in their home countries and local communities. The lecture concluded with students sharing their perspectives on tourism in their own countries, with the entire class.

In the afternoon, students participated in the first session of Cross Cross-Cultural Workshop, joined by 10 SWU students. The first session focused on introducing the group to one another through a variety of activities and games. First, students played a game where they were asked to remember the names of everyone in their group and eventually every student in the class. Next, students participated in an activity where they were asked to obtain signatures from their classmates who met certain criteria, such as having a birthday in May or enjoying morning study sessions. Finally, students used different colored chocolate candies to answer questions about themselves in smaller groups. The students seemed to enjoy these activities and were able to get to know each other on a deeper level.

Overall, the students seemed to enjoy the first day of lessons provided for SSIP 2025 and started to get to know each other better!



## SSIP 2025 Japanese Tea Ceremony, Origami, and Kabuki (6/19)



The 2nd day

of the program started with the Japanese Tea Ceremony (Omote Senke).

First, they took a lecture on the Japanese tea ceremony. The students listened attentively to the lecture, learning about the history and philosophy of the tea ceremony while observing actual utensils used.

After the lecture, they experienced preparing tea themselves and learned about proper etiquette. With guidance from the instructor and members of the tea ceremony club, they prepared tea on their own and enjoyed pieces of confectionery that complemented the Matcha tea. Everyone looked satisfied with the tea they had prepared themselves.

Next, the PA prepared an optional origami activity. Students folded paper cranes while listening to PA Becca's instructions. Even though they don't usually do origami, everyone managed to make beautiful paper cranes, which was impressive, and they went on to try more challenging figures!



In the afternoon, students learned about Kabuki and other traditional art forms related to Kabuki. Students took a survey that included questions about elements representing their countries' performing

arts and UNESCO World Heritage sites, and this information was used to examine the differences and similarities between these art forms. The lecture included many technical terms, but there were slides and occasional videos to help the students prepare for the actual Kabuki performance the group was planning to attend.





## SSIP 2025 Tokyo National Museum and Kabuki (6/20)



Today was the first day of the cultural activity outing. We visited the Tokyo National Museum in Ueno and attended a live Kabuki performance.

In the morning, we all visited the Tokyo National Museum. There were two different buildings. In the main building, the museum showcased a diverse range of artifacts used in Japan from the Jomon period to the Edo period. The other building displayed ancient ceramics and other artifacts that were used in the Asian region. Students were enjoying the exhibition independently, and one group of students was particularly interested in a statue of a raccoon dog that was said to have caused a lot of mischief in Japan in the past. After visiting the museum, we separated into small groups to have lunch.



Then, we all moved to Arakawa Ward to watch a Kabuki performance. The performance was based on the story of Ako Roshi, which the students had learned in class the previous day. During the performance, the students listened to the audio explanation in English and concentrated on the sound and movement of the kabuki actors.

## SSIP 2025 Cross-Cultural Workshop (6/21)



In today's Cross-Cultural Workshop session, students were introduced to their final project. Students will be asked to observe and investigate an aspect of everyday life and culture in Japan, learning more about how much of the culture cannot be easily understood from the surface.



Students were grouped with both SWU and International students and got to know each other better through a series of activities, such as identifying commonalities and discussing their universities. Next, students participated in a photo scavenger hunt where they had to take pictures of specific places on campus.

After lunch, students went on their own “field work” activities where they were tasked with exploring Japan and observing potential topics for their final project.



## SSIP 2025 Japan in Films and Religious Views (6/23)

Today, the students began the day by watching the 1953 film “Tokyo Story” in the morning.



Then, after lunch, the students joined the lecture “Japan in Films”, where they discussed the movie “Tokyo Story” and other Japanese cinema. During the class, they split up into discussion groups, going through the talking points prepared by the lecturer, such as “How is the film different from most films made today?” and “How is family depicted in the film?”. Ultimately, all participants shared their individual perspectives on the film.



Their final lecture of the day was on Religious Views in Japan. They sat in a semicircle formation and engaged in a Socratic-style discussion.





## SSIP 2025 Karaoke, Lunch & International Exchange Event, Japanese Education System, and Japanese Economy and Labor Market (6/24)

Despite it being as early as 9 a.m., many students enjoyed karaoke. Both the singers and the listeners contributed to the lively atmosphere, which made it enjoyable for everyone. Students seemed genuinely sad when we let them know that karaoke time had come to an end.



During the lunch exchange with SWU students, the international students practiced their Japanese, enjoyed playing picture chain, and had fun chatting with each other.

In the class on Japanese education, we learned about the differences between Japan's education system and those of other countries. Additionally, we exchanged many ideas about topics such as compulsory education in each country and daily school schedules. We also experienced the Japanese school morning greeting, where the whole class says 'Ohayou gozaimasu' and bows together.



In the Japanese Economy and Labor Market class, we learned about Japan's unemployment rate, declining population, aging society, and unmarried rate, among other topics. Although the class covered difficult topics, there were moments when the teacher's comments made the students laugh.

## SSIP 2025 Akihabara & Asakusa , CCW (6/25)



Today, students visited Akihabara and Asakusa to participate in cultural activities.

We delayed the leaving time since the rain was too heavy to walk outside. At Akihabara, Students roamed freely in a group while playing a scavenger hunt. For the scavenger hunt, we split into three groups and competed to see which group could earn the most points and finish the task the fastest.

Students were assigned to do missions such as taking photos with giant anime posters, gachapon, and some characters with cat ears. They all enjoyed learning about Akihabara's unique Japanese anime and manga culture while playing in Akihabara.



Then, the students went to Asakusa to experience traditional Japan, including the Edo period. Unfortunately, we did not have much time to spend there; however, students enjoyed the shopping street. There were many shops selling Japanese umbrellas and small Japanese items, and they enjoyed looking at them.

After that, SWU students joined the group. Following up on their previous work, they continued their fieldwork to explore Japanese culture in the city.



## SSIP 2025 Gotokuji Temple, Japanese Calligraphy, and Japanese Pop Culture (6/26)



Today, in the morning, students visited Gotokuji Temple in Setagaya City. Although it was an optional activity, most students attended. They had fun observing the traditional cat figurines and trying their luck with fortunes.



After lunch, they had their last two Japan Studies lectures. The first one was about Japanese calligraphy, or “shodo” in Japanese. The students learned the meanings of some Japanese characters and how to draw them with a brush and ink, spending time learning various strokes and then drawing their favorite characters on Japanese-style fans.



Their last lecture of the day was on Japanese pop culture, where they primarily learned about manga and anime. There was also a particular focus on Ghibli in preparation for their visit to the Ghibli Museum the following day. This was the final Japan Studies lecture.



## SSIP 2025 Ghibli Museum, and the 1st day of Tomei (6/27)

Today, students had the opportunity to observe the content covered in the Japanese Popular Culture lecture through a trip to the Ghibli Museum. Students explored the museum's exhibitions and watched a short Studio Ghibli film. Many students visited the gift shop and brought back souvenirs as a reminder of their trip.



After the museum, students headed back to Showa's campus, where they took a bus to Tomei Gakurin. Once they arrived, students were oriented to Tomei's evacuation policies and procedures and given time to settle in.



After eating dinner, students participated in a fireworks activity where they lit both individual sparklers and larger fireworks. The students seemed to enjoy this activity and took lots of pictures with their sparklers!

Students then had a board game night where they played cards, Uno, and Jenga before heading to bed.

## SSIP 2025 CCW(6/28) CCW, Mask painting



Today's CCW class started with pair work. In pairs, we drew one picture together without speaking a word. After finishing the drawings, laughter broke out.

The next activity was a team drawing game based on a given theme. Only the first person in each team was allowed to see the theme and draw the first part of the picture. Then, the other team members continued the drawing, trying to guess the theme from what had already been drawn. Even with the same theme, each team came up with completely different drawings, which was really interesting. For example, for the theme 'Things that fly in the sky,' some groups drew butterflies, others drew airplanes, and some drew hot air balloons.

The third activity involved each person holding a picture and arranging them in the correct order without showing them to others. Professor Onmura, who led the class, said that teams usually start by talking individually, but the students began discussing together from the start, which she praised as a sign of good teamwork.





After the activities, the students received an explanation of the upcoming schedule and the final poster presentation.

Among the house drawings created during the earlier pair work, the Program Assistants chose their favorite one and awarded the team with a prize—chocolate.

After that, we prepared for the final poster presentation. It was impressive to see each group engaging in both serious discussions and light-hearted conversations.

After dinner, we painted masks. The students created their own unique designs, featuring some with

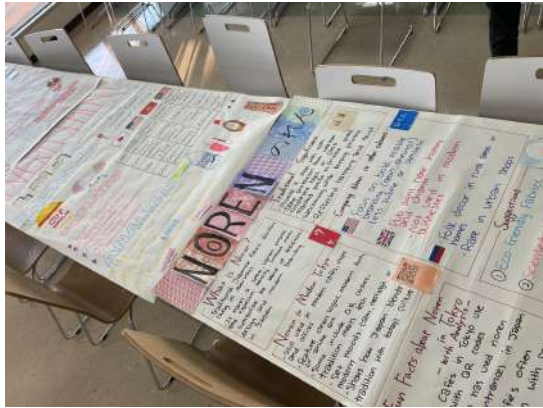


Japanese motifs, such as Kabuki and cherry blossoms. They complemented each other's masks, creating a warm and friendly atmosphere.



## SSIP 2025 Tomei, CCW, Yukata wearing (6/29)

Today, students seriously started preparing for our final presentations. After each group got permission from the teacher for their theme, they began working on creating posters. The posters utilized various creative elements, including origami and purikuras. Many groups showed great teamwork and finished their posters in just one day.



In the afternoon, we went on an optional hike. We enjoyed the beautiful natural scenery of Tōmei, walking to places such as a blueberry-picking spot, a small pond, and the tea path. Many people liked walking through the bamboo forest. The weather was really nice today, and in the evening, Mount Fuji appeared, making the view even more beautiful. Many students took photos with Mount Fuji in the background.



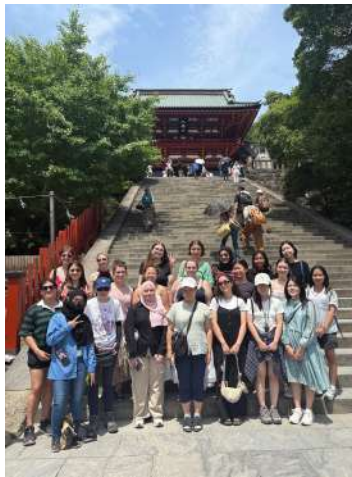
After dinner, students wore yukatas. Students chose their own kimonos and obi, and tried putting them on by themselves. The tricky parts, such as tying the obi, were handled by the PA and CIE staff. We also enjoyed taking traditional Japanese photos with the masks we made during yesterday's activity.

## SSIP 2025 Kamakura Trip (6/30)

Today, the students traveled from Tomei to Kamakura to do some sightseeing. The first stop was Kotokuin Temple, which houses the Daibutsu, also known as the Giant Buddha. Girls were able to both view the Buddha and go inside it. They also walked around the temple and visited a gift shop.



The next stop was Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Temple. Again, students were able to walk around the temple and go inside the main temple building.



Lastly, students were free to go and do as they wanted in Kamakura. Many students walked down the popular food street, trying various types of Japanese street food. Others went to a variety of Japanese cuisine restaurants for lunch. Some visited cafes, and still others went to the beach. It was a fun day for everyone. In the late afternoon, students returned to the Olympic Center.

## SSIP 2025 (7/2) The last day (final poster presentation, closing ceremony, and farewell party)

Today was the last day of SSIP 2025. Before the final poster presentation, many students were doing final checks and practicing repeatedly, which I found impressive. In the final presentations, talks were given on interesting topics such as Japanese photo booths (purikura), manhole covers, and capsule toy machines (gachapon). I learned that purikura reflects the concept of beauty in Japan, and that manhole covers outside of Japan are usually not decorative. It was very informative.



Next, at the closing ceremony, Vice President Tomoaki Ihara presented a certificate to each participant. The participants received their certificates with smiles, which showed how much they had enjoyed the program. There were speeches by two international students and an SWU CCW student. The international student shared that they had not only gained knowledge but also had a variety of valuable experiences. The SWU CCW student expressed words of gratitude to the other participants. After that, we, the interns, also expressed our gratitude to the participants and to the faculty and staff members who were involved in the program. We PAs also received certificates. Also, we took some group photos. After finishing taking the photos, we watched a memory video of SSIP 2025 created by the Program Assistants. While watching the video, various reactions were observed — some students laughed, while others were moved to tears.





After that, we participated in a farewell party. First, Mr. Yamazaki, Director of CIE, offered a toast. We looked back on our memories and sang karaoke.

