KCGI

Graduate
Student
Interview
2022

The Kyoto
College of
Graduate
Studies for
Informatics

Created for
Leadership
Theory Class

Introduction

We created this booklet by interviewing multiple students who graduated from KCGI from multiple different backgrounds. This booklet aims to give general information to students who aim to study in Japan in the future by giving the digest of the interview with experienced people. We asked the interviewee topics such as arrival in Japan, study, daily life, part-time jobs, and career. The answers were curated to give an easier read on the target of this booklet.
Thank you and enjoy.

The Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics

KCGI

Vietnamese

Tan Nguyen

I love Japan even before coming to Japan to study. I read Japanese news, anime, and manga, so I wanted to experience living in Japan. For that, I registered for the 2 years of master's program.

I love the people, the scenery of Japan, and especially the weather. Even though I had an N5 level when coming to Japan, my neighbors were very supportive, so I had no problem living here.

Tips before and after arriving in Japan?

Learn Japanese, you cannot enjoy Japan without understanding the language. You need to make friends, to understand history, and the culture to be fully in love with Japan.

What and why did you choose your concentration at KCGI? Do you recommend KCGI?

Business Data Analytics

When I enrolled, I took Entrepreneurship as my concentration but I changed to Business Data Analytics. My previous major was in Computer Science, so Business Data Analytics was quite related. I also wanted to widen my job opportunity and expand my study and career.
Yes I recommend KCGI, it is a good place to study while enjoying life in Japan. They have a flexible education system, so you can work part-time and study, and even travel.

What job prospects did you expect from the field of that concentration?

Data scientist, also in Software Development, having a master's degree and one more field of knowledge you can get a higher position in the company.

Tips for students in choosing concentration and courses?

For students who are still not sure about the concentration they want to take, register for the general concentration (Bespoke) in the first semester. Then you can register for any courses that you are interested in, and jump on to the specific concentration in the second semester.

How was daily life in Japan different than that of your home country?

A lot of things are completely different, the expense is higher but better services. They also have better transportation, and to be the most important thing is better air quality, especially in Kyoto. I didn't really have any particular difficulties, it really depends on people's expectations, lifestyles, and opinions. Personally, I live positively so I didn't see any problem.

Tips related to student daily life?

Go to Kyoto Community House. There you can make friends from Japan or other countries, there are Japanese classes, and you can learn about the culture and get information about Japan.

How was the experience of your most memorable part-time job?

I was a teacher assistant at KCGI for the course python programming for 1 semester. But I quit because it did not fit my area of study. Back then, I was not that good at Japanese, I didn't take the test but I think it was around N3. The people I worked with in the college were also foreigners so they were very kind and forgiving.

What is your current profession and how has your study helped you?

Currently, I am working as a software engineer in Vietnam. I got this job in December after I came back from Japan. Business Data Analytics helped me in researching data and anything related to data.

Do you want to go back to Japan?

I am living in Vietnam now, but I do want to come back to Japan if a job opportunity arises.

What internship or career path-related job did you do before you work full time?

While I was in the Vietnamese university for Computer Science, I took 3 months internship.

Tips or suggestions regarding job-hunting

The internship is a good place to start a career, it is an opportunity to learn about real projects from seniors in the industry.
Right now in the industry, the demand in web programming is in Javascript as the back-end.

S. Wijesundara

KCGI
2019 Graduate

ERP

I love Japanese culture. Also, compared to other destinations, Japan has an easy process with less documentation and minimum cost.

I did not expect or hope for particular life or certain lifestyle in Japan. As per the background studies, I knew life would get busier here. Gradually, I was able to make the transition.

Any problem you faced after arriving to Japan?

The main problem I faced on every occasion lengthiness of my name. Every time I fill out a form, I had to face difficulties. The language barrier made it even harder.

Tips before and after arriving in Japan?

First and foremost advice is to learn the Japanese language at least to a level that you could able to do basic conversation.
Secondly, you should have the ability and courage to find solutions and face problems alone.

What and why did you choose your concentration at KCGI?

ERP

I have done my bachelor's in the management area. Therefore, ERP was my choice.
I expect any job category in the ERP field.

Tips for students in choosing concentration?

The first thing you should consider is your educational background. If you come from a non-IT background, Web Development or Networking will be more challenging. Additionally, when you select a concentration, you have to consider the job market as well.

How was daily life in Japan and are there any difficulties you experienced?

Technology-wise, Japan is in a far better place than my home country. Transportation, Purchasing groceries, and many more activities integrated with modern technology. Further, Japan has convenient utilities. On the other hand, it has a busy lifestyle.
Getting used to Japan's daily life is not difficult if you are equipped with the Japanese language. The language barrier is the main difficulty that I suffer at the beginning.

## Tips regarding part-time job and daily life in Japan?

Always adhere to the 28 hours rule. Further, if you can schedule your job into the night shift, you will have more time to focus on your studies.
One helpful tip is if you cook your meals, you can save more money. Further, you can have a well-balanced diet as well. I usually buy groceries at the wholesale supermarket, Gyomu Super in Nishijin
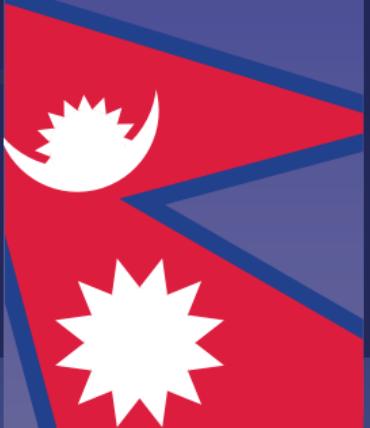
What is your current activity and any tips about job-hunting?

After graduation, I focused on improving my Japanese skills. Therefore, I have enrolled in a Japanese language school and currently studying for JLPT level 3.
Before starting job hunting, try to complete at least the JLPT N4 level. Additionally, you can refer to job search platforms like "Hello Work" and get to know the requirement so you can focus on acquiring them while studying.

Rabin Giri

Currently working on the KCGI campus at the Office of Student Service, I came to Japan after checking out the newly introduced IT Tourism concentration from KCGI. In my starting phase, Japan was like a strange community because they don't speak English. For the first three to six months, I feel like I am in a different world than my home country. Slowly, I am adapting to the society and the daily lifestyle of Japan.

KCGI
2021 Graduate
IT Tourism

Any problem you faced after arriving to Japan?

Of course, I think every international student will face a communication barrier problem because we cannot speak Japanese properly at the beginning. Even if we want to travel somewhere we need to search the map or something to help us to go through our destination.

Tips before and after arriving in Japan?

I would like to guide them to focus on their Japanese language skills. They should also be aware of the number of courses to take in the college and have proper planning before enrollment.

What and why did you choose your concentration at KCGI? Do you recommend KCGI?

(IT Tourism)

I want to work in the tourism sector in Nepal in the future. In Nepal, we have lots of possibilities for tourism in the tourism sector, and I want to build some kind of

system over there. I do different kinds of research specifically in the trekking sectors or how we can build a smart system on that, I build one system also during my different research.

For that, I found out about different kinds of problems we are facing. The lack of the internet or proper facilities during trekking routes, and to find out different kinds of new trekking routes, some kind of smart system for management might work, because everything is getting better in AI.

Tips for students in choosing concentration and courses?

You must find out the field or at least go by the general idea. I had already interested in the tourism sector and was doing something in tourism. What is your interest or what do you want to invest in the future?

I also suggest preparing some kind of your own system that you want to build in the future. In the two years, you can build some kind of project or research on your own. Not only in IT Tourism, but it will also be applicable in other concentrations. It will benefit you in the future. So, not only focus on the study but do extra research about the project you want to do.

How was daily life in Japan and were there any difficulties you experienced?

I was lucky that classes were not online, I joined different classes and was busy with different kinds of schedules. Not only classes but there were also part-time jobs.

The Japanese culture and Nepali culture are totally different. The working and learning environments are different.There is also a difference between Nepalese and Japanese communication patterns. Actually, I am still working on that difference and it is not easy.

How did you find part-time jobs?

I waited around three months before starting my first part-time job. We couldn't speak proper Japanese nor read the vacancy. For me, I got a recommendation. My grades were good, so I was offered to be a teaching assistant for different subjects in the college.

What is your current profession and how has your study helped you?
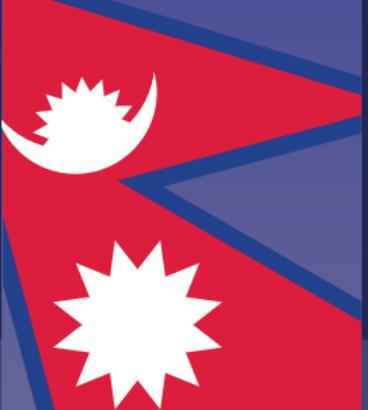
I am working at the KCGI Campus at the Office of Student Service. My work here is to help the students. I knew the system used here and how it worked as a student, so as an employee the experience is beneficial.

### How was daily life in Japan and were there any difficulties you experienced?

I feel like there is a communication gap between the career center and the students too. Most students are not giving that much priority to job hunts or seminars from the career center. I suggest everyone attend the job-hunting activities from the college and outside the college.

Job hunting in Japan is really hard, I suggest working on your Japanese proficiency and communication skill. Create a good CV, and consult with the career center about the CV. For English-based jobs, there are different kinds of websites available and the career center can also help with that, even personal guidance.

Nepali

Dangi

To me, Japan is a developed country and in no. 1 in technology. Also I wanted to pursue my Master's Degree in IT so I choose Japan as my destination country.

When I was in Nepal I thought Japan is the country where I can fulfill my dream and accomplish my career but expectation vs reality it is not easy in Japan. We have to work hard and should not panic after failure.

Any problem you faced after arriving to Japan?

After arriving in Japan the most problem was language for communicating with Japanese people and finding part-time jobs.

Tips before and after arriving in Japan?

If you are planning to come to Japan then please do not expect too much and at least study Japanese prior to your arrival.

What and why did you choose your concentration at KCGI?

(ERP)

In Nepal I did my Bachelor's Degree in Management and ERP is a management base course, I choose this as my concentration.
I expect from this concentration to be a good manager in any company in Japan and to be better at leadership also.

How was daily life in Japan and are there any difficulties you experienced?

In Japan, life is too busy, and everyone respects time and people here. It took 6 months for me to get adjusted to this country.

I usually do my groceries in supermarkets and sometimes 100-yen shops. If you can't find groceries shop near you then you can use Google Maps, and use Google Translate to communicate with Japanese people.

How did you find part-time jobs and how was it?

I found a part-time job from an online application called Arubaito. You can find it on Google Play Store.

My first part-time job was at Kuroneko Yamato (shipping company) and it is quite difficult but there were many Nepalese people so I didn't feel bored while doing work.

I studied the Japanese language up to N5 in Nepal, and while doing the part-time job I usually speak Japanese with my co-workers.

What is your current job and did your study help that process?

Currently, I am working as a leader in Kuroneko Yamato. My study helped me because I have studied Leadership Theory in my concentration, and from that, I got knowledge about the characteristics of being a good leader and now I am applying it right now. After my graduation, I started to hunt for a full-time job and finally found a vacancy via social media for a leader post in Kuroneko Yamato then I gave an interview and my interview goes well then they select me among 10 applicants.

Tips regarding job-hunting in Japan?

Don't panic about a full-time job you can easily find it but for this, you have to make your Japanese language up to N3 and do hard work because Japan is for hard workers not for losers.

Nepali

Adhikar Rijal

To me, Japan is well known for its excellent education system. Also, Japan is the safest country in the world. And, I loved the Japanese culture. So I choose Japan.

Life in Japan seems to be in a constant rush, they valued time most, Japan is not for lazy people. And the most important thing that I learned from Japan is the manner.

Any problem you faced after arriving to Japan?

Even though I studied for 1 month in Nepal before coming to Japan, I wasn't able to understand a single word from a Japanese native speaker. I expected people here to speak and understand English too, but it was only my expectation because most people don't speak nor understand.

What and why did you choose your concentration at KCGI? Do you recommend KCGI?

Web System Development

I always try to learn new things which is an opportunity for growth. It has high earning potential too. So I had chosen web programming. I expect myself to be a software engineer from this study.
Of course, I do recommend learning at KCGI. However, It would be better for the other students if they do proper research before choosing anything.

How was daily life in Japan different than that of your home country?

When I was in Nepal I feel freer. In Japan, I need to do all of the things like cooking, groceries, etc on my own. Compared to Nepal, Life in Japan is busy.

How did you find part-time jobs and how was it?

I found part-time work through Facebook. I saw the part-time work vacancies on Facebook and I applied. They called me for an interview and I was selected. I worked at a manufacturing company. The experience was great. Most of the colleagues were Japanese and Vietnamese. They were kind and helpful, they taught me their culture and food I also develop my Japanese skills.

I think getting a part-time job is not hard even if you don't speak the Japanese language, but you need to make a good CV and search for job vacancies online. Also, ask your friends who are already working.

What is your current job and did your study help that process?

I now work in Hotel management. The Information Technology department is responsible for the day-to-day support of all IT systems, business systems, office systems, computer networks, and telephony systems throughout the hotel, that's how my concentration helps me out to the current profession.
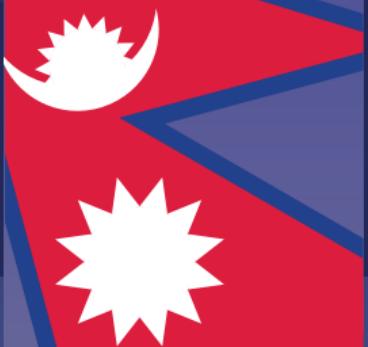
How were your processes of job hunting and any tips regarding it?

I attended a job-hunting seminar from college, LinkedIn, link Japan career, and daijob.com. I uploaded my CV to various companies. Most of them didn't respond, and some of them called me for interviews, thankfully I got a job offer from one of them.

I think LinkedIn is a great application for job hunting. You can find thousands of companies across the world, and upload your CV for the job that matches the requirements.

Nepali

M.C. (Alias)

As a developed country, Japan is attractive and full of enthusiasm.

This attracted me and I came to Japan with the goal to achieve an excellent path as a website developer and engage in an international web-based company.

Any problem you faced after arriving to Japan?

It was hard to adjust to new things, such as price differences, language problems, time and money management, and getting used to public transportation.

What and why did you choose your concentration at KCGI? What did you expect from it?

Web System Development

I wanted to be a website developer. I expected with this concentration, I will be able to become an employee in a reputed company.

How was daily life in Japan different than that of your home country?

It is amazing, everything here is technical. With priority for work, people here are working like robots. Little time for entertainment and enjoyment with other people. In my country, happiness depends upon each other and enjoyment with other people.

How long did it take you to become accustomed to Japan and any tips for daily life?

It took me 2 years to become accustomed to the Japanese culture and environment.
Be punctual with time and policy in Japan, and manage your study and part-time job.

What is your current profession and did your concentration help?

An employee of a company as a supervisor.
I use little of the knowledge I gained at my work.

Can you describe your process of job hunting?

I requested a job bank (agent) for their service of job search. After I gained more experience and knowledge in Japanese, I searched online and in newspapers.

Do you want to go back to your home country?
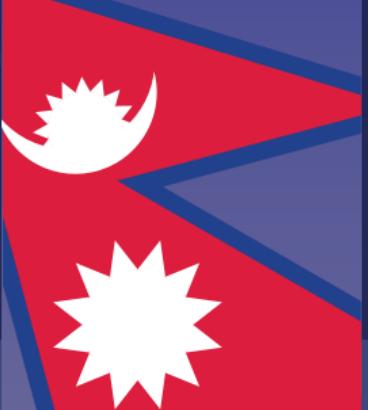
Absolutely, I miss my country, the people I respected, and my family. I was thinking of staying here for around 5 years and then returning back.

Any tips or suggestions regarding job-hunting in Japan.

Make sure to have your language and skill at an excellent level, you should be able to find a satisfactory job.

Nepali

Bikalp Bhattarai

I choose Japan for my further studies due to its advancement in technology and the international degree recognized all around the world.
Here, I see hardworking and disciplined people, maintaining each other.

KCGI
2020 Graduate
ERP

Any problem you faced after arriving to Japan?

Mainly, I faced language problems. Due to that, it is hard to do job-hunting, open a bank account, mobile phone contract agreement, etc.

What and why did you choose your concentration at KCGI? What did you expect from it?

(ERP)

My background is in management, so I decided to pursue ERP as further studies.
From this study, I expected to get jobs such as accountant, receptionist, and supervisor of different types of companies in many industries.

How was daily life in Japan and where do you usually buy your grocery?

Japan is largely different than my home country, with lots of technology and disciplined life.

I usually go to supermarkets such as Life, Freshco, and wholesale Gyomu Super.

What is your current profession and did your concentration help?

Currently, I work in a hotel as a front-desk job. I think ERP as my concentration helped me fine.

Can you describe your process of job hunting?

I searched through a lot of job vacancies in many companies. I choose a hotel job and I got the job after an interview.

Do you want to go back to your home country?

Yes, after a year I am planning to go back after learning about the system.

Any tips or suggestions regarding job-hunting in Japan.

Learn how to find jobs from websites and how to deal with the company. Also, language proficiency is the most important thing you can focus on.

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Benjamin Nouvel
Sanford Gold
Created by:
M21W7198   Glenaldy
M22W0160   Gyawali Pawan
M22W0259   Oli Kumar
M22W0223   Mahato Mukesh
M22W0090   Bohara Nisan
M22W0329   Pandey Dipak
M22W0411   Pandey Kharal Laxmi
M22W0386   Gautam Dhruba
M22W0314   Gayantha S Aluthgama
M22W0345   Karki Samjhana

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