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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



CAREER SUPPORT AT ICLA



iCLA Career Support Team provides pre-internship training sessions so students can get the most out of their internship. Prior to starting the internship, students will learn how to understand their own skill sets, research the industries they're interested in, goal setting, manners for working, and methods for keeping an activity log.

These skills help students make the most of their internship and ensure that they are equipped with the skills that can help them succeed in the workplace.

iCLA Career Support Team

INTERVIEW WITH YUKINA

iCLA student Yukina undertook an internship with Recamp.Co.,Ltd in August. Prior to joining the internship, Yukina received pre-internship training with iCLA's Career Support Team so she could be prepared for the challenges encountered in the professional workplace. We interviewed Yukina on her internship experience and how she has benefited from it.

Q: What were your responsibilities during the internship at Recamp?

YUKINA: I was responsible for handling check-in and check-out at the campground, as well as reception and campground maintenance.

Q: Can you tell us a way in which you applied your learning at iCLA to your work at Recamp?

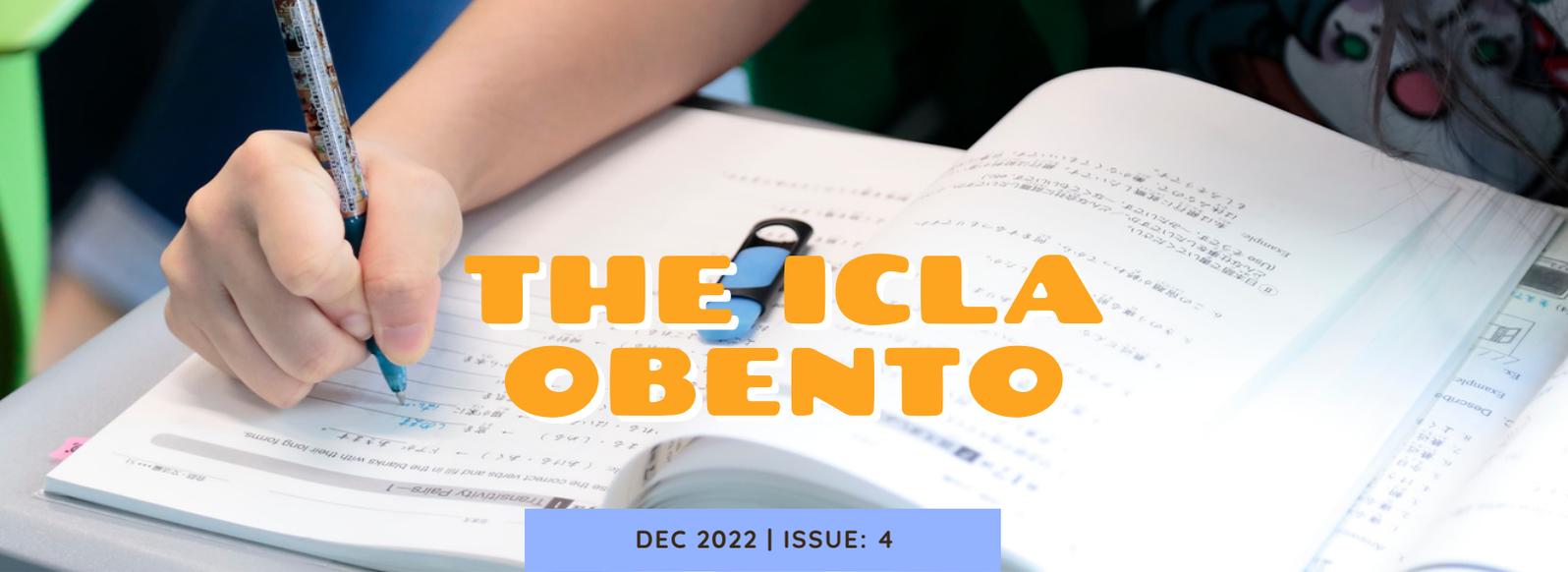
YUKINA: I believe that my ability to be flexible and adaptable, which I developed [at iCLA], was useful at my internship. I also believe that my ability to always think, understand situations, and take action was also useful during my internship. These abilities were obtained while learning at iCLA.

Q: How did you benefit from the pre-internship training sessions of the iCLA Career Team?

YUKINA: During the pre-internship training, I learned about self-analysis, resume writing, honorifics, and manners. After the internship, you will receive feedback from the person in charge. Therefore, knowing my weakness and strengths in the pre-training was a good opportunity for me to compare my self-analysis with what people actually think of me.

Q: Was there anything you wished you had known before going into the internship?

YUKINA: I had done some preliminary research on the company, but I thought I should have done more research on the industry. If I had done more research about it, I would have more deep conversation with the internship site employees.



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INTERVIEW WITH YUKINA (CONTINUED)

Q: Can you share with us the feedback you got from Recamp?

YUKINA: They appreciated me as having a very hard-working attitude and patience. I had told the employees that I had participated in the internship to learn about my drawbacks, and I think that part of my story was appreciated by them. I also received the evaluation that I was able to understand and work quickly and immediately. I was also advised that if I could further expand my horizons, I would have more options for solutions.

Q: What did you learn from this experience?

YUKINA: I participated in the internship because I wanted to learn more about venture companies. It was a very valuable experience for me because I was able to learn firsthand about the sense of unity in the workplace and how strategies are formulated, which are characteristics of venture companies.

Q: If anything, how do you think one's learning experience at the internship is different from that of a classroom setting?

YUKINA: The difference between the learning experience in the internship and in the classroom, in my opinion, is the level of responsibility. In the internship, I interacted with customers as a member of the company. Therefore, if I make a mistake there, it will be the company's mistake. The sense of responsibility for my work gives me a good sense of urgency. I was able to get new stimulation from various aspects because I concentrated on various areas more than classroom learning.

Q: Why would you recommend doing an internship to your peer students? Any tips about internship opportunities?

YUKINA: I recommend internships because I believe that being able to experience real work situations is a good opportunity to learn about your suitability for the job. I think it is a good idea to first find out what industries you are interested in through self-analysis, and then decide which company you would like to intern with based on that analysis.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Get in contact with the iCLA Career Support Team to see what internship opportunities may be available for you.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Q: What sparked your passion for Art?

Stocker: I was making paintings since I was a kid, but I didn't really get into art until I was about 18. I did it in school, but I didn't ever think of it as being something career-wise. I ended up going to a college with an art department. I was about 18, but during that time, I was looking at art and going to art galleries in London. I think when you're that age, you're still exploring a bit about what you're interested in. I had a death in the family, and I made the artwork about my experience of remembering that person I do think from that point in time, I felt like an artist. I was definitely making work about something that was important.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. SAM STOCKER

PROFESSOR OF ART AND DESIGN

COURSE LIST:

- HISTORY OF ART
- ART APPRECIATION
- ART PORTFOLIO
- GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDIO
- WORKSHOP: GRAPHIC DESIGN I
- WORKSHOP: GRAPHIC DESIGN II
- WORKSHOP: PAINTING AND SCULPTING I
- WORKSHOP: PAINTING AND SCULPTING II
- SEMINAR (INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS)

The next point was when I was about 25. I was graduated from my university where I studied art and I was feeling despondent about art at that time because I had been working at a gallery in London. I enjoyed making art a lot but working in the gallery wasn't, and it was driving me down. I got a second wind because I ended up working with children. I remember, for instance, I was living in Scotland at the time, and the snow affected the train, so I was two hours late to a class. When I entered into the room, the children erupted going "Yay!" That enthusiasm was something that made me change my mind from being a graphic designer and try to work being a teacher more. I ended up doing that kind of freelance work for about 10 years, before I came to Japan.

Q: Please tell me about your area of specialization.

Stocker: When I was doing my PhD, it was in painting. I was also doing other things but painting was something that was always happening. If I was making a big installation, artwork, or sculpture, there would be painting that would help me to think about that. I think painting is the thing I would keep on going back to.

I'd like to say that being creative is my specialty, though I'm not sure if it is completely true. When I've got time, I do painting, filmmaking, writing, and performance. I also used to be in a band for a little while.

Q: What do you find most enjoyable in the creative field?

Stocker: I think it's the sense of adventure where there isn't really a right or wrong. A problem in art is people are telling [others] they're doing something wrong, and they tend to do that when people are just starting out. I don't like that very much.

People say that they don't understand contemporary art, but I think it's at the healthiest stage it's ever been because everything is allowed to some extent. It's not that everything is art, but everything is possibly art and everything could possibly be allowed in the gallery.

I can say that there are some types of artwork that I'm not particularly interested in, but I don't look down on them. I think there should be something in the world that isn't so clearly defined by borders.



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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

Q: What attracted you to study and teach Art in Japan?

Stocker: I was working as a community artist for about 7 or 8 years in Scotland. In 2008, a friend of mine who I had been studying with in my undergraduate, invited me and another friend to come and do an art project in Japan because he was working for an art residency. At that time, I was mainly doing teaching, but I was able to come here and do a 2-month art project in a small park in Tokyo. In this time I became fascinated in Japanese architecture especially the traditional kind.

Initially, the idea was that I would come here, get funding, and then I would do my Master's degree. I don't think I thought of it much beyond that. When I got to Tokyo I started doing quite a lot of artwork and I was in the studio quite a lot, and that led me to meet somebody that worked in an art academy – a vocational college for art. I ended up teaching in a college environment as a part-time teacher. It was my intention to come here to start a Master's degree, but it kind of developed and it became possible to do a PhD too.

Q: What advantages are there to working in the Art field in Japan?

Stocker: For students, Japan has a commercial art scene that is possible to get involved with through paying to exhibit, if you are making commercial work that is good. But there are also other opportunities to exhibit in art festivals such as the Nakanojo biennale. These kind of festivals are extensive in Japan. The gallery scene in Japan is extensive so if a person looks they should be able to find an area that interests them. But I also have friends who have been working for famous artists and that has been good for them to develop their network. Network is very important to artistic success. For people who are more interested in manga, animation and gaming there are also options, but it's a highly competitive field and there are many people studying visual art full time.

Q: How would you describe your class style?

Stocker: I like to imagine I'm quite laid back and friendly, but I also have to give students work to do. I think there is probably a little bit more work than people expect in the classes. There are readings that students have to do and visual note taking, things like that. But I want it to be as inclusive as possible. I want people to be involved in things.

Q: Looking at the artwork and sculptures in the Gala – there were so many people and so many different styles. I think that it's great that you nurture everyone's creativity.

Stocker: I think that is a difficult thing, to try to find something that doesn't stifle people. My feeling is that creativity is one of the most important things that I can help students to learn. In an art setting, you're able to do things creatively, have them go wrong, and repair them. I think that is quite an important lesson of any life – you can actually repair things, it's not the end of the world if something goes wrong.

Q: What is your tip for students who want to pursue a career in Art?

Stocker: The idea of natural skill in anything often determines the people that are interested in a subject, but natural talent is not enough by itself for any kind of creativity. If we use sport as an example, there are no famous or successful sports people who didn't have to train and nurture their talent. Persistence, resilience, and adaptability may be some of the most valuable characteristics you adopt as you move forward.

For students who are interested in any of the creative industries it will be very important to do internships in the field that you are interested in, and its best to try to do that while you are a student. It really gets difficult to work and do internships. But an internship will open your eyes to the reality of the creative industry. Things that, to be honest, is very difficult to learn from a book or a classroom. You may be making a few cups of coffee but try to be as positive as you can about what they ask you to do as the internship could help set up your career, or at least it will help you to decide what you want that career to be.

Find the thing that ignites you and try to follow it. Sometimes, people do art only because they think it's an easy way, and it isn't (laugh). There really isn't many people in the art world -graphic design, fashion, manga, or computer game making - that have made it there by being lazy. The saying, "if you find the thing that you love doing, you'll never work another day in your life", it's a little bit like that, even though art can be frustrating and exhibitions are really stressful. Work hard, put the hours in and enjoy yourself. Because if you don't, I can guarantee there are thousands of people behind you that will.

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CULTURE CORNER



OKLAHOMA, USA



OKLAHOMA



TOP 3 TIPS FOR VISITING



My top three tips when visiting Oklahoma:

1. If you're visiting in the summer, wear bug spray! (I had some Austrian friends visit who went hiking and very much regretted not wearing any 😊)
2. Oklahoma is known as 'tornado alley' so if you're there during tornado season, please research the best places to go for safety!
3. Oklahoma gets the best (and worst) of all seasons, so make sure to bundle up if you come in the winter!



MEGAN (USA)

3RD YEAR,
JAPAN STUDIES MAJOR

My name is Megan, a 3rd year student at iCLA. I'm a current student from the United States - specifically Oklahoma.

Oklahoma is located in the middle of the United States, right above Texas. It's called the Panhandle State due to how it's shaped! Oklahoma is known for its cowboy culture, Indigenous history, and vast nature consisting of wide-open plains and hills.

MUST-DO, MUST-EAT, MUST-VISIT



One of my favorite things to do when I'm in Oklahoma is go to the Arts District where there are often events being held on the weekend! Sometimes local artisans will set up stands and sell their goods, or there will be unique cultural activities relating to the various tribes (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole) in Oklahoma.

My favorite dish to eat while at home has to be Barbeque! My older brother owns a local Barbeque restaurant that has some delicious food and yummy sides. (I recommend the macaroni as a side and banana pudding for dessert)!



INTERESTING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OKLAHOMA AND JAPAN?

One big difference I have noticed between Oklahoma and Japan would have to be how people dress! In Oklahoma (or the States in general) people dress casually day-to-day. Of course, we dress up too! However, in Japan and even in a smaller prefecture like Yamanashi, people dress to impress every day! It's interesting to see what is fashionable here in Japan.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Enjoy Winter
Vacation!



SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES



[iCLA's new How to Apply video is up on YouTube!](#)



[The Winter Gala was a blast - what a wonderful night of performances and exhibitions!](#)



[The Tea Ceremony Workshop was held in the iCLA lobby.](#)



[Check out Daniel's Instagram Takeover](#)

iCLA CONNECT

Are you an iCLA student that wants to connect with other iCLA students?
Get involved in the iCLA community with iCLA Connect.

[SIGN UP](#)

RE-CONNECT

Find and reminisce with fellow graduates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.



EXPAND

Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know.



GET INVOLVED

Join on and off campus events and get involved in YGU community and Yamanashi life.



STUDY ABROAD

Find students from partner universities, connect with each other and get ready for study abroad.

