

THE ICLA OBENTO

OCT 2023 | ISSUE:6

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ANDREA (NICARAGUA)

4th-year iCLA student Andrea completed her internship with SpeakEasy Language School and shared her experience with us!

SpeakEasy Language School located in Fuefuki City is one of iCLA's internship host organizations and accepts numerous iCLA students in its program.

The Career Development Center prepares students for the Japanese workplace by providing pre-internship training and overseeing the communication between students with their internship location. The iCLA Career Team also informs students about valuable career-related information such as internship opportunities, career forums, and company info sessions. iCLA's career support is now held on the 2F of the Crystal Tower with YGU Career Development Center!



SPEAKEASY LANGUAGE SCHOOL INTERNSHIP INTERVIEW:

Q. What were your responsibilities during the internship at SpeakEasy Language School?

My responsibilities during the internship at SpeakEasy Language School consisted of welcoming students and making sure they practiced English. In addition, I helped with decorating and organization, as well as giving ideas for activities.

Q: What support did you receive from the iCLA Career Team that you found especially helpful?

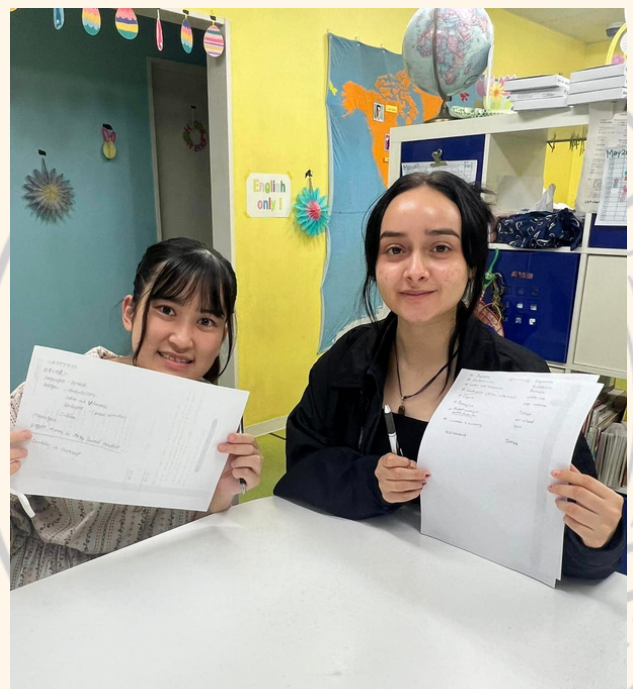
The iCLA Career Team was supportive in answering questions about my internship. In addition, they maintained effective communication with the SpeakEasy Language School and notified me of important information in this regard.

Q. Can you tell us a way which you applied your learning at iCLA to your work at SpeakEasy Language School?

During my internship, I applied the knowledge I gained at iCLA by interacting with my co-workers. iCLA has made me gain experience on how to work in a team, and how to improve active listening and cross-cultural awareness, I believe that my performance at SpeakEasy benefited from this.

Q: If anything, how do you think your learning experience in the internship was different to learning in the classroom?

I think my learning experience in the internship was different from learning in the classroom because I was more independent and had the opportunity to experience a working environment.



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Q: What were some things you enjoyed about this internship?

I enjoyed interacting with my co-workers because they were eager to learn about my culture and teach me about Japan. Furthermore, I liked that SpeakEasy Language School had a welcoming environment where I noticed that everyone working there enjoyed their work.

Q: Did you encounter any challenges during the internship and do you think it helped you grow towards your professional career?

I would say that a challenge I encountered during my internship was not knowing enough Japanese to communicate with students.

I was motivated to practice the language in order to interact more with them.

Q: What did you learn from this internship experience?

My internship experience taught me about work culture and how to improve my communication in order to successfully contribute to teamwork.

Q: What are your tips for undertaking an internship for other students who are interested?

I would advise students who are interested in undertaking an internship to research what internship opportunities they could benefit from in relation to the skills they want to develop/improve. I think that being involved in a workplace where you can focus on your interests can let you know if you want to pursue a career in a similar area of work.

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CULTURE CORNER



HALO-HALO



Ingredients:

(Measurements are unnecessary for the most part. Make your halo-halo in the way which best suits your taste!):

- Shaved or crushed ice
- Evaporated Milk (a.k.a. Unsweetened Condensed Milk)
- Sugar
- Jackfruit, sliced and fresh
- Banana slices
- Sweetened beans
- Sweet potatoes sliced into small pieces
- Nata de coco (Coconut gel)
- Tapioca pearls or sago
- Gulaman (flavored or unflavored jello sliced into cubes)
- Pinipig (a flattened rice ingredient)
- Ube halaya (purple yam jam)
- Leche Flan, sliced into cubes
- Ice cream (The flavor is your choice, but Filipinos generally use ube. Vanilla works as well!)
- Additional: mango slices, corn kernels, strawberries, etc.

Preparation:

✓ In a tall glass, put in the desired amount of the small ingredients. A good guideline would be a teaspoon of each. Add sugar if needed.

✓ Top with shaved ice. Just before the rim of the glass should do!

✓ Pour preferred amount of evaporated milk. If you're not sure, about 1/5 of the tall glass should be enough.

✓ Add toppings such as ice cream, ube, or leche flan.

✓ Mix with a spoon and enjoy!



Recipe by Lei (Philippines)

Back in August, we received this tasty recipe submission from Lei! Read what Lei has to say about this popular Filipino treat:



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Throughout the years, Filipinos have sought ways to cool down from the persistent heat of the country's tropical climate. Halo-halo is a famous dessert in the Philippines beloved by many of its citizens. “Halo” literally translates to “mix”, which is fitting since this colorful and cold dessert is made by mixing various sweet ingredients of differing textures and flavor with shaved ice. Halo-halo is incredibly easy and quick to put together. Measurements are hardly needed because you can tailor pretty much everything to your taste!

A little-known fact about the iconic halo-halo is that it most likely originated from the Japanese summertime dessert, kakigori, which is shaved ice topped with flavored syrup. It is suggested that the idea was brought to the Philippines by Japanese migrants in the early 20th century.

I chose to share this recipe because not only is it a dessert that countless Filipinos recognize and love, but because it reminds me of my childhood. Sometimes, neighbors would decide to sell halo-halo out of the blue, so everyone in my house would be rushing out to buy one. Looking back on that childlike excitement makes me smile!

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GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

INTERVIEW WITH KHUE (VIETNAM), CLASS OF FALL 2021

Khue is an alumna of iCLA's Graduate Class of Fall 2021. Recently on her trip to Japan, she visited iCLA along with other fellow alumni! At iCLA, Khue excelled in academics as an Economics-focused student. She was chosen as the first iCLA student to study abroad at the University of Oxford, St. Edmund Hall as a Visiting Student. Today, Khue works in Program & Investment at Touchstone Partners, a venture capital firm based in Vietnam.



Q: Can you tell me a little bit about your job position and your work responsibilities?

I am working for a venture capital firm that invests in early-stage startups. I lead community-building projects and programs for start-up founders.

Q: What was your motivation to enter your field of work?

When I started searching for jobs, I did not have a field of work in mind, but rather just wanted to try everything to see what fits. The motivation for entering VC work was because I want to learn continuously about the newest technology, business models, and follow the exciting development of the world (in an optimistic lens).

Q: What kind of skills did you gain in iCLA that has been beneficial in your work?

The most beneficial experiences are: getting to interact with people from different backgrounds, both cultural and financial, integrating and connecting knowledge from different fields as a generalist, and learning to welcome new ideas and be okay (as in trying not to feel embarrassed) about not knowing anything at all about certain subjects (and embracing the thrill of knowledge reception).

Q: What was the most difficult thing you experienced when searching for a job?

I went through a period at the end of my 3rd year where I applied for jobs in London & Tokyo, and at a point where I was sending out around 50 emails each day. It was frustrating to keep getting stashes of rejection emails everyday. When I finally secured some offers, it was especially difficult to navigate the work visa situation, CoE extension, and the ambiguity in entry policy because it was during Covid. Those 2 aspects were the most stressful for me.

Q: What is your job-hunting/career advice for iCLA students?

Job-hunting can be a very uncomfortable process, but you can end up learning a lot about yourself. Also keep in mind that the stress from people is worse than the stress from having lots of work. Choose the people you work with/for well. If you have interviews with your (potential) direct managers, ask yourself if this is someone you want to become? Finally, find that balance in being secure about what you're good at, but also addressing your inexperience at the same time.

Q: Looking back at your time at iCLA, what was something you enjoyed most as a student?

I enjoyed Thursday nights when I don't have classes on Friday, times when I watched sunsets with friends and trying to answer random life questions, and afternoons spent walking up to Yamanashi Science Museum, and getting vending-machine ice-cream afterwards.



iCLA joins Shingenko Festival as Takeda Jiro Nobuchika Troop iCLA students, faculty, and staff from 18 countries joined Yamanashi's biggest Shingen-ko Festival to date

On October 28th, 39 students and faculty joined the Shingen-ko Festival to walk in the largest parade of samurai in the world! The largest and most anticipated event in Yamanashi, the Shingen-ko Festival re-enacts Takeda Shingen's Koshu Battalion Deployment to the Battle of Kawanakajima where he fought with rival warlord, Uesugi Kenshin. The parade boasts of more than 1000 samurai divided into 34 groups, each representing troops who would fight alongside Takeda Shingen. iCLA joined as the Takeda Jiro Nobuchika Troop.

38 iCLA students dressed up as samurai and ashigaru (foot soldiers). The apparel was intensely faithful to the soldiers of the ancient times - down to wearing waraji (straw sandals). As students who joined the event can tell you - it is not easy walking and standing a few hours in waraji! The samurai armor was made by hand by past iCLA students. Although it was a long and rigorous day holding various weapons, flags, and battle instruments, iCLA students shone in the spotlights during the parade, with many people of all ages in the audience excited to see iCLA students of many nationalities wearing samurai armor.



iCLA's participation was organized with Professor William Reed, who has multiple years of experience joining the parade. The event was organized as part of the iEXPerience Program which organizes field trips in Yamanashi so international students can gain a deeper understanding into Yamanashi's culture, arts, and history under the guidance of iCLA professors and local professionals. This is the first time for iCLA to join as an independent group.



This 50th anniversary of the festival was especially memorable as Takeda Shingen and his military strategist Yamamoto Kansuke were played by women - actresses Tominaga Ai and Shirasu Keiko, respectively.

The entire event was held from October 27th to 29th and featured performances and stalls selling festival foods and drinks spanning the entire downtown Kofu, the Maizuru castle park, and surrounding areas of Kofu Station, with the main event being the parade held on October 28th.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Vietnam Festival in Kofu 2023
Nov 4

2:00pm - 4:00pm

This year's festival will feature a show in beautiful traditional costumes and a performance of Vietnamese songs that will touch your heart.



2023 Diversity Day +
Electronic Night

Nov 10

6:00pm - 9:30pm

World Exhibition (Cultural Booths)!

Electronic Night (music and performances)!



Student Organized Tea Ceremony
and Walk-in O Chat Time

Nov 29

12:30 pm - 1:40 pm

Come and experience tea ceremony, or walk in and enjoy chatting over free drinks at the LAC lobby.



Winter Gala 2023

Dec 1

6:00 pm~

A much anticipated semester-end event! Look forward to student performances and artwork exhibition!

SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES



iCLA students and Professor William Reed were featured in Mainichi Shimbun for their participation in the Shingen-ko Festival.



Fall has come to campus. Check out the photos of autumn leaves on campus.



iCLA Graduates summed up their iCLA experience in one word for us!



iCLA's exchange and short-term study abroad students visited Erinji Temple as part of the iEXPerience Program.