

Affiliation	Country	Goals	Impressions	Reflection
Nagoya University	Philippines	To experience Japanese new year tradition and customs.	The event was heartwarming and fun. It made me feel welcome by participating in making mochi and eating local snacks. The community was really open and kind sharing their Japanese new year traditions.	<p>Yes. The Philippines has many glutinous rice based sweets just like mochi. The general term is called "kakanin". In my home province of Pampanga, we have a sweet called "moche", similar to mochi but with red bean filling. Despite its name, it is not derived from Japanese mochi but from the Chinese buchi.</p> <p>However, we do not have a similar tradition of making mochi during the new year. Instead, Filipino new year celebration is filled with noise, fireworks, and round fruits. Also, some Filipinos inspired by Chinese customs follow the tradition of eating "tikoy", a sticky rice cake, during Chinese new year.</p>

Nagoya University	Vietnam	<p>This event gave my son and me our first opportunity to experience making mochi in Japan. It was a meaningful way for us to learn more about traditional Japanese New Year customs and culture together.</p>	<p>We really enjoyed this event. We had the chance to eat the mochi right after making it, which made the experience even more special. We learned about the process of making mochi and gained a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and traditions. My son was also very happy to receive New Year's gift money from the host family and oranges from the professor's garden, which made the event warm and memorable for us</p>	<p>This event reminded me of the traditional Lunar New Year in my country, which is celebrated according to the lunar calendar, usually around mid-February. During this time, we also make traditional cakes from sticky rice, mung beans, and pork. Children similarly receive lucky money from adults, which made me feel many cultural similarities between the two countries.</p>
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<p>Nagoya University, Graduate School of Law</p>	<p>Vietnam</p>	<p>This time is the very first time my husband come to Japan and also the first new-year for my daughter in Japan, so that I would like to introduce to them the Japanese history and traditional culture during new-year holiday.</p>	<p>We were delighted and honored to take part in this event, as it was a wonderful opportunity for my family to immerse ourselves in traditional Japanese culture. The cheerful and warm atmosphere, together with the kindness of our Japanese hosts and the delicious food, left a strong impression on us. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the host, who kindly gave New Year's lucky money to my daughter. I was truly surprised and deeply touched by the thoughtfulness and care shown toward international students.</p>	
<p>名古屋大学</p>	<p>中国</p>	<p>現地文化を体験</p>	<p>現地の人は親切です</p>	

Nagoya University	Philippines	Interested in the practice of Japanese people during the New Year's	It was a fun and new experience. Aside from pounding the mochi, they also taught us how to roll them together. Because there were too many people, the event ended earlier than expected, but everyone was welcoming. It was really sweet of them to give us fruits snacks for free which we really enjoyed, especially during this new year period.	Yes. Our country's practice is entirely different, and Japan's is unique in its own way, offering mochi to welcome the visit of the gods during new year period. It was fun to learn this.
Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University	Pakistan	To immerse in Japanese culture and know more about it.	It was very well organised. Everyone was kind and guided us very nicely. We also received many souvenirs and got the chance to make rice cake.	My country doesn't have much cultural events when it comes to new years celebrations

Fujita Health University	Pakistan	TO try Mochi-tsuki	<p>I enjoyed this event and am very grateful for the opportunity to participate. I had always wanted to see the making of mochi-tsuki and I was so happy to experience it in person at the end of year. Maybe I always ask questions because I want to learn. The professor explained the process to me so clearly and kindly that it inspired me to try making it at home. I found mochi to be not only delicious but also very healthy. Through this experience, I learned that in Japan, mochi is not just a traditional food but also holds deep spiritual significance. I realize, mochi is traditionally eaten during New Year for strength, longevity and good fortune and is offered to God</p>	
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Nagoya University	China	I would like to participate in this program to experience Japanese culture, interact with local people, and make new friends. I believe this program will be a valuable opportunity to build meaningful connections and gain cross-cultural experiences.	The experience of pounding and kneading the mochi was very fun and memorable. I really enjoyed taking part in the process, and it made the event both engaging and meaningful.	Yes. This event reminded me of year-end traditions in my country, where families also gather to prepare special foods together and celebrate the end of the year. It helped me notice similarities between different cultures.
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