



*Conrad and Cynthia Welti*  
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October 7, 2021

To Hiroshima University Admissions,

Last week, my husband and I watched the welcoming ceremony for the incoming graduate students. Our daughter, Sophia Welti, is entering the Phoenix Program, and we really appreciated being included, albeit remotely. The ceremony was just right for us. It was a good length, and the quality of the audio and video was excellent. We could see clearly both the officiants on stage and the students in the audience. The moderators did a fine job of keeping us informed, both in Japanese (which was interesting for us, as beginning students of the language) and English (which we could easily understand). We loved hearing the school song, and seeing people carry it along, even with their masks on.

The best part was the president's speech. It was clear and direct, and conveyed a well-founded pride in Hiroshima University. We learned of the university's leadership role, including that of creating Covid protocols that protect people while allowing their work to continue. It made me proud too that our daughter is going there. I appreciated when the president spoke of the current great hardship for students to get there, as we have felt this in our family.

It was wonderful to briefly see Sophia in the audience. Though we longed to be there ourselves, it made it very real to us she is there and we could see live what she was experiencing. We are very grateful to have had a live-streamed connection to the ceremony and to feel so good about this institution where Sophia will be spending the next 4+ years. Thank you very much making it possible.

Sincerely,

Cynthia and Conrad Welti