



INU Staff Shadowing Program Report

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Purpose of my visit

As an officer in student support group, faculty of Education, Hiroshima University, I want to know about difference of general student support system between Japan and America. For example, curriculum, scholarships, alumni, number of faculty, enrollment system etc.

Result

I had a lot of chance to discuss with officer, faculty member and visited many places. Such as : International Office, Library, Learning Center, Center for Assessment and Research Studies, Center for Instructional Technology, College of Education, etc. Every member was so enthusiastic and I had great time learning how they are doing work. These experiences will definitely support my work in student support, such as academic support, student life support, evaluation, etc. Biggest outcome is that this visit gave me new vision about “University.”

During discussion with member of JMU, I felt some kind of differenceness between U.S and Japan about “What is University”.

That differenceness appeared like this. Staff in JMU said that “5 year graduation rate is one of measurement that evaluates University in U.S. JMU is considered as good University among others. This is because the ratio is more than 80%. Others are about 50%.” When I heard this, I couldn’t understand the meaning immediately. Because in our country, many student or parents think its duty to graduate university in 4years(In case of 4 year curriculum). In fact, 4 year graduation rate in faculty of Education, Hiroshima University is 95% (5 year graduation rate was 97%).

This happens probably because in U.S, university offers many chances to learn , including double degree. Student will independently use that chance to promote themselves. When I think about my life in university, that is ten years ago, I tried to make time to play with friend and didn’t study a lot. Thinking that studying in University is just a preparing period to be an adult, or to be member of society. I’m sure that not many Japanese think like I do, but quite a number of high school students goes to University without certain academic purpose.

INU shadowing program gave me chance to think and this will definitely give me positive impact in the turning point of my work.

Summary

In final, I really want to thank everybody who supported my visit in JMU. I had no trouble during stay and got warmly supported by member. I would like to recommend this shadowing program with JMU to my co-workers.

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