



Issue 02 | 2025年2月

今学期(こんがっき)も イベントがたくさん!

みなさん、ふゆやすみはたのしかったですか。まいにちさむいですね。クラスもいそがしいですよ。でも、日本語プログラムは、今学期（こんがっき=this semester）も**たのしいイベント**がたくさんありますよ！ぜひきてください。

JET PROGRAM

STUDY ABROAD IN JAPAN

and learn about the JET Program!

Join the information session to learn more about studying abroad and the JET Program!

Advisors from the ISSS office will be present

Thursday, February 13th
3:00 to 4:00
Korean Center

If you are interested but unable to make the time, please contact Mariko Hashimoto
mhashimo@binghamton.edu

The poster includes a circular image of a Japanese pagoda and a group photo of four people standing in front of Mount Fuji.

If you are interested in living in Japan, JET program is a wonderful option. Please come to the information session (**Study Abroad in Japan**) to learn more about working in Japan after graduation! Susan, our reporter also shares her internship experience in Japan. Please check her article on the next page!

Do you want to enhance your speaking and gain more confidence? Apply for the **BU 1st Japanese Speech Contest!** For more information, scan the QR code↓

BU Japanese 2025

SPEECH CONTEST

MARCH 21ST, 2025
@ UUW324

The poster features a yellow speech bubble graphic with the year '2025' inside.

INTERNSHIPS AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES Part 2

By Sophie Hsu



スーさん（3年生）は、日本の福岡（ふくおか）で
GHJのインターンシップをしました。For this and
issue, Hsu-san will introduce a **GHJ International**. To
read her full article and her previous article, scan
the QR code➡



GHJ International, located in Munakata city, Fukuoka, is a teaching practicum program internship that offers the perfect opportunity to those who are interested in working in Japan, applying for JET, teaching, or becoming an ALT. Though the internship is unpaid, GHJ will cover living costs at Global Arena, transportation to and from the schools, and 3 meals a day. (Flight expenses are not covered). Accepted participants will be working in smaller groups with other interns to create lesson plans and brainstorm ideas for when we teach in the physical classroom setting with real students. This internship is open to all as it offers a diverse and creative environment where I was fortunately able to work with others from places like; Latvia, Philippines, China, etc. Additionally, the ages of the interns ranged from 18-41, which surprisingly helped us to have an even greater connection with each other as we got to share different levels of ideas along with insightful feedback from those who may have more experience.



GHJのインターンシップ

スーさんはどこでしょ
う?!（クイズです♪）



I highly recommend taking this step to get out of your comfort zone and begin to explore the world! My experience at GHJ International was an experience like no other. On top of the cultural exchange activities that the program offers, in my experience this past summer, I was fortunately given the opportunity to attend weekly classes for a month at University of Teacher Education Fukuoka (UTEF) and even Japanese language lessons for all levels. The program was extremely accommodating to all interns with their limitations, scheduling, and interests as they provided optional weekend trips to places like Nagasaki, and Hakata. I also got to participate in a homestay for the opportunity to really get the feel of life in a Japanese household. All these outside teaching opportunities are optional in the program as one weekend I decided to take a weekend trip to Busan, South Korea just across the ocean from Fukuoka.



I was hesitant to apply to GHJ International originally because I did not have any interest towards going down the career path of education. However, I am so glad that I pushed myself to take this risk because I now have new aspirations to work harder on improving my Japanese skills, along with teaching, communication, etc. to potentially work and live in Japan through JET. Like many other interns stated, I have truly fallen in love with the country. This internship has helped me to learn so many new things about myself, along with my new found passions for teaching and working with children.

If you are unsure on where your studies may bring you career wise, or what you want to do this summer, take this opportunity to apply and take a life-changing trip to Japan, and expand your interests and potential to learn and find more about yourself.



私の推し(おし)の歌手について語らせてください! Let me talk about my favorite singer



By Ayaka Mori



森（もり）さんは、日本の早稲田大学からきた留学生（りゅうがくせい）です！日本の音楽（おんがく）をたくさんしています。For this issue, she wrote about one of her favorite Japanese singers. You should say “こんにちは” and be her friend if you see her on campus!

Who is Chanmina?(ちゃんみな)

Do you know a Japanese female singer, Chanmina(ちゃんみな) ?

What makes her distinctive?

I don't know how others feel about her songs but I always feel like her songs have a strong message. I find the vulnerable part of the independent lady in every song of hers in her lyrics and her facial expressions in a music video.

It is not what everyone can do. It is natural people have a fear of judgements by others. What if somebody considers me a weirdo? What if somebody hates me? Everybody wants to show only their strength. But, at the same time, we need somebody who understands us.

I think she captures this conflict well since she is a survivor of bullying. Probably, she herself was the one who needed “somebody” badly in her past and she tries to be “somebody” for someone who needs support now. I don't know how she really feels but, at least, she always shows understanding about vulnerable aspects.

“Never grow up”

Let me introduce one of her songs; “Never grow up”. This song is about heartbreak.



『何が愛（あい）か知（し）らない だから二人で愛を作（つく）ったんだ』
(We didn't know what "love" is. That's why two of us have created "love")

『あなたがピーターで 私がウェンディを演（えん）じた』

(You were my Peter and I was your Wendy)

『いつもとは違（ちが）う ほんとのほんとのさよならをしよう
月が綺麗（きれい）だね』

(Let's say "true" good-bye. Such a beautiful moon tonight)

From the lyric 『何が愛か知らない』, I guess the girl and the boy has a complex background such as growing up in a dysfunctional family or going through cold relationships. They tried to find something different. – a relationship with trust and mutual understanding. However, it doesn't really work. Peter is a boy who rejects growing up. He lives in the world which only has the present. Wendy is a girl who accepts to be a lady, hoping a good future. That is to say, the boy is satisfied with the happy current relationship and the girl wants more. What they look for is different.

So they put an end to their relationship. But she said 『月が綺麗だね』 This means more than "the moon is beautiful" in Japanese. There is a rumor that Natsume Soseki – 文豪 or a Japanese classic author- translates "I love you" into "the moon is beautiful" since Japanese people are not as open. When I heard this translation, the picture came up in my mind which a couple is looking at the beautiful moon in a peaceful night together, sitting next to each other. Now, it turned out this rumor is just a rumor, not true. That being said, this translation is loved. Whether this rumor is true or not, this translation fits Japanese culture which loves nuanced fleeting beauty rather than explicit long-lasting beauty.

After all, in the song, the girl might think their relationship is not a waste of time even though it isn't a happy ending.

By the way, she is so good at English and Korean as well and some of her songs include a lot of English songs. I think her songs are easy to listen to for learners of Japanese. I hope you enjoy this article and if so, listen to her songs and share ⁵your comments!

MEET THE TEAM



ソフィー・スー



もり あやか



アマト・AJ
Logo