A Report on the Short-Term Stay Program 2012 Based on Cross-Cultural Experience-Oriented Syllabi

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To further promote the internationalization of universities, "Short-Term Stay Program" administered by the Student Exchange Support Program of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology was launched in the academic year 2011. This article is a report on the implementation of the Short-Term Stay Program that started this academic year as well as its results and problems. The Short-Term Stay Program of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies was a four-week intensive program held from January 11, 2012 to February 9, 2012. Applicants were recruited from three universities in Australia and New Zealand, and twenty-four students participated. "Cross-Cultural Experience-Oriented Syllabi" were adopted, and the courses were designed so that the students would have frequent interaction in Japanese.

Moreover, as a result of incorporating e-portfolio evaluation, performance evaluation through students' learning processes became possible. This enabled not only the teachers at TUFS but also teachers at the students' home universities to share their students' experiences and thoughts.

Japanese language classes taught in the morning were linked to afternoon activities. With some undergraduate students' support, the afternoon activities became highly significant, thanks to the active participation of the international students and the dedicated cooperation of the undergraduate student volunteers. Ex post facto evaluations of the afternoon activities by the international students were generally positive, and this fact seems to have brought about the overall high rating of the whole program. We may safely conclude that this program was successful in that it was able to show that off-campus activities are an integral part of learning, as we had planned.