

Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology
The University of Tokyo
Overseas Studies Report
Program for Evolving Humanities and Sociology

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Subject of Research

Formation of the Nation, Cultural Change and Image of Others in Medieval Scotland

Visit

(1) Destination

Country: The United Kingdom (Scotland)

City: Edinburgh

Organisation: The University of Edinburgh: English Language Teaching Centre

(2) Term

14 August – 5 September

What I Studied

(1) The Plan

The main objective of this visit was to improve my English. I set out to equip myself with skills for writing high-level theses and discussing academic matters in English. I took a summer course that focused on enhancing writing and discussion skills. My ultimate goal is to write my B.A. thesis in English.

(2) Classes

I had hoped to take a course in writing and discussion, but the test on the first day showed that I did not have adequate speaking skills to enrol in a discussion class. Hence I registered for one that focused on speaking in English. I gave presentations, had debates and took part in a play. I also studied phonemes and worked on my listening and speaking skills. I had opportunities to hear people speaking in a Scottish accent, and to listen to non-native English speakers as well. It was important for me to be exposed to various accents, particularly those of the non-native speakers, as I may in the future find myself at conferences with researchers whose mother tongue might not be English.

(3) Prospects

The aim of this visit was to improve my English skills, and I believe that I have to continue with it so that I can present the fruits of my research in articles or at academic conferences. In addition, I am going to study Scottish political history from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, not from ethnical and national-historic perspectives but from that of the exercise of power, and analyse the political situation of Scotland at the time.