My Japan Experience

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The reason I chose Japan was because I liked the culture and display of traditional customs. I am a Graphics Major so I had an interest in their design. The architecture surrounding Nagasaki was also a plus.
How did I prepare?

Going abroad for the first time I knew nothing about the language: (not recommended)

- Since I was a fan of the Japanese Culture I knew little of the language by watching movies and listening to Japanese music.
- Another instrument I used in learning the Japanese language before I went was self study with materials that can be found:
  - Books
  - CDs
  - www.Realkanji.com for learning to read and write katakana and hiragana
How did I fund my trip?

Most of the funding that I used during my trip was my savings, Help from Financial Aid, EOP Travel Grant.
What did I learn?

I’ve learned a lot from the 3 months stay in Nagasaki but for a little overview:

- From the experience in Nagasaki, Japan I learned the history of the city.
- We had field trips to the museums and historical sites of where the atomic bomb hit.
Epic-Center of where the atomic bomb (Fat Man) hit Nagasaki

Original Mark planted during the aftermath

Photo by Shigeo Hayashi
Their packaging design and various convenient inventions found throughout the city.
During my stay at the School of Nagasaki I was able to learn a bit of Aikido and Kendo. We also were able to experience one of the biggest matches in Decades between two sumo wrestlers.
I was lucky to have an awesome home stay family that taught me a few of the Japanese customs of lifestyle.
I had the chance to meet my Host Mom’s English class
Shinto Shrines
Gaigo-Sai

I had the chance to participate in the student festival
Kunchi Festival

and much more...
My suggestion for future students is just to keep an open mind to everything. Whether it is student activities, extracurricular activities, food, music and places. I've had the unfortunate luck to have met a few students who weren’t open minded and therefore didn’t get the full experience of being abroad. You’ll get to learn new things that are different from your own culture, see things that can be seen only in that country, and best of all get to meet new people to exchange your culture with.