

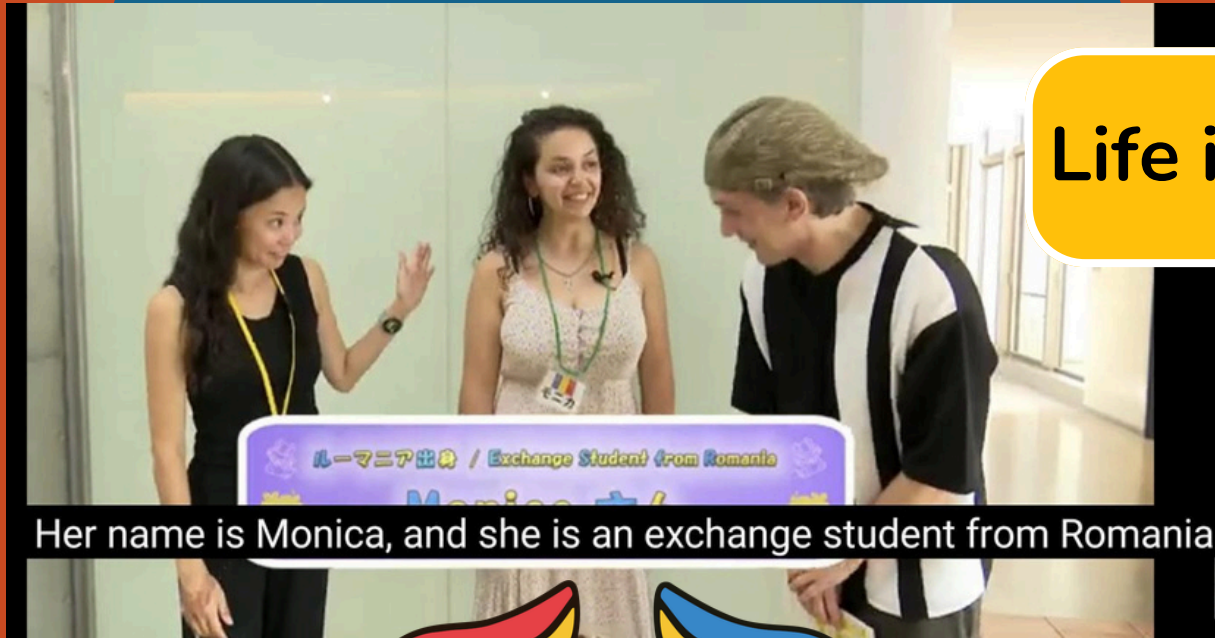


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Linguistics MA

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Life in Okinawa?

Exchange Student insights

Life in Okinawa

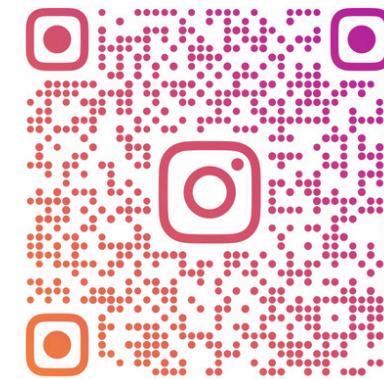
Presented by Monica Andreea Çubuk:

Linguistics MA at Ankara University

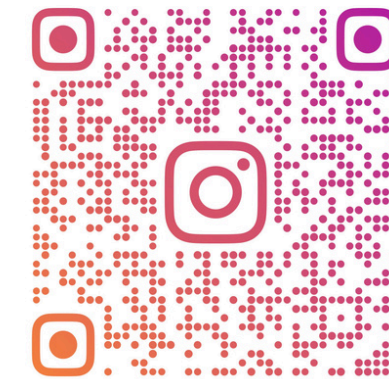
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Kapsayıcı Sanat ve Yaşam Boyu Gelişim Derneği
Inclusive Arts & Lifelong Development Network

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Expectation vs Reality

The “Hawaii” of Japan

Expectations

- “lazy” lifestyle
- being away from mainland Japan
- I won’t be able to speak “real” Japanese
- lack of opportunities

Reality

- slow living & traveling
- always had the chance to take a flight to the mainland for just 900 JPY
- Got the chance to speak “real Japanese” and immerse myself in Okinawan culture as well
- co-organized 2 intercultural festivals in partnership with Nishihara Town Hall



Don't let what other people think of “stuff” or “you” stand in the way of what you're about to experience!!!
Any place is what YOU make of it

The “HOW” to be an exchange student in Okinawa

The primary requirement is a formal exchange agreement between your home university and the University of the Ryukyus.

How I did it

The RISE Program

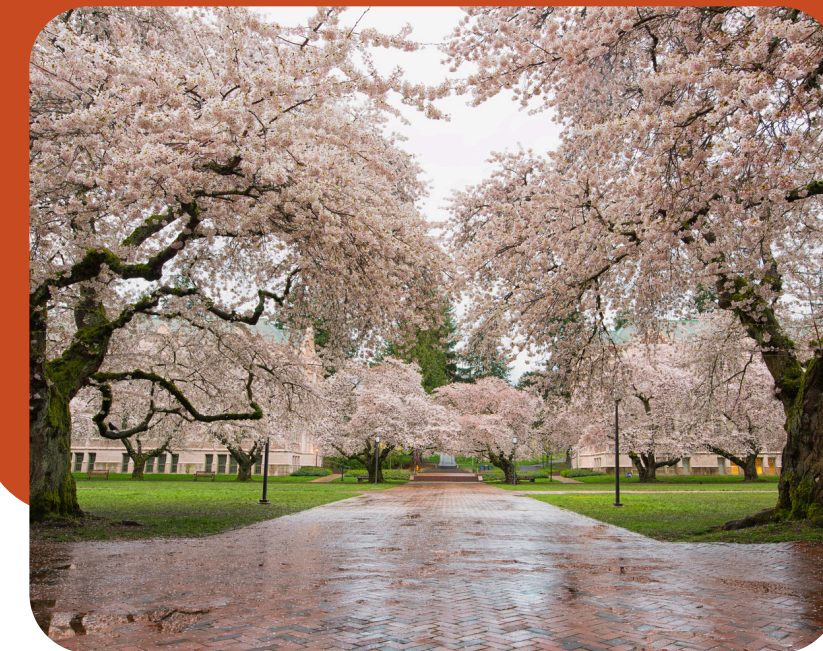
Agreement between home-university and the University of the Ryukyus
Ability to qualify for the JASSO Scholarship (80,000 JPY/month)

*RISE = Ryukyus International Exchange Program

How YOU can do it

Participation Pathways

- Direct University Partnership
- UMAP Network (University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific)
- ISEP (International Student Exchange Programs)



**The University
of the
Ryukyus,
Okinawa,
Japan**

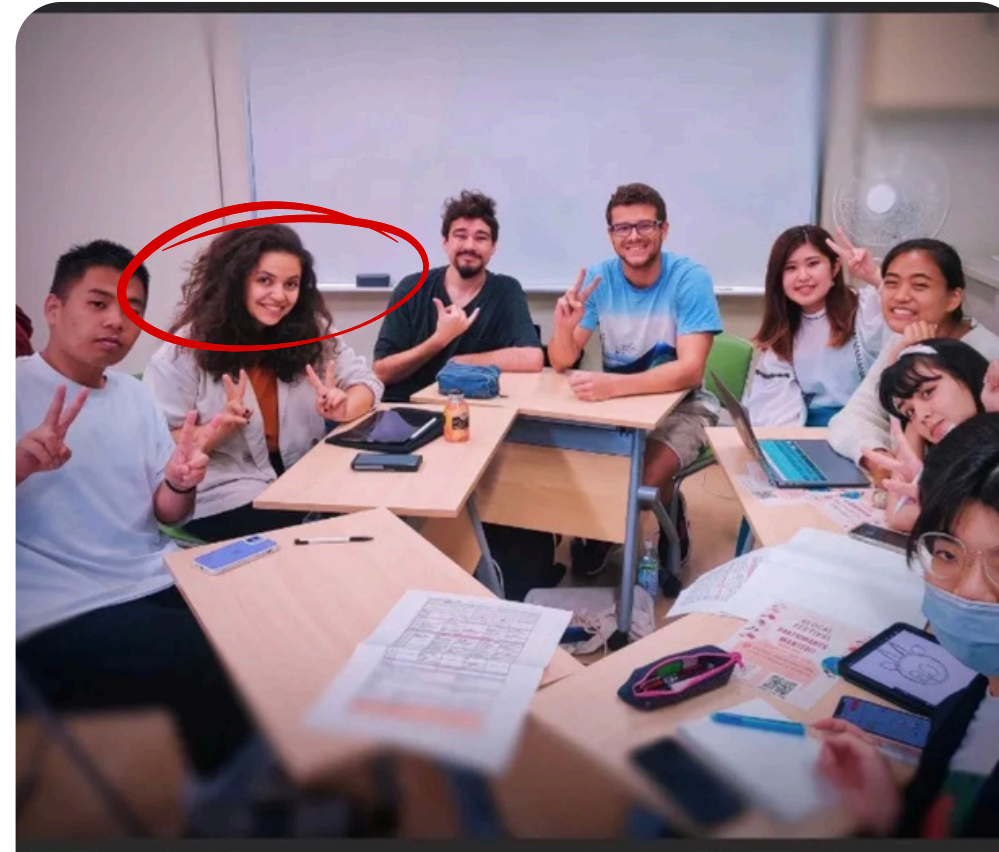
THE RISE PROGRAM

Japan-Okinawa Studies Course

- History & Culture of Japan & Okinawa
- Japanese Language Classes to improve all four competencies (Listening, Writing, Reading, Speaking)
- For more research-focused studies, students should choose the Major Studies Course

Glocal Leadership Course - what Monica chose to study

- Multi-language courses with Japanese Students (e.g., Leadership classes conducted in English)
- Japanese Language classes to improve all four competencies (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking)
- More practical, project-focused (e.g., researching campus problems and creating projects to solve them; co-organizing intercultural festivals with Japanese students and other internationals...



Japanese Language Teacher Training Course

- Training to become a Japanese Teacher
- Recommended level: +N2

Major Studies Course

- Opportunity to research an area of interest
- Undergraduate students can attend lectures related to their research interest
- Graduate students can conduct research



The GLOCAL Festival

What does it mean to be GLOCAL?

GLOCAL = THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

Acknowledging global interconnectedness while prioritizing local community needs and sustainability.

TEAMS

SNS - SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION; PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

RECEPTION TEAM - REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE

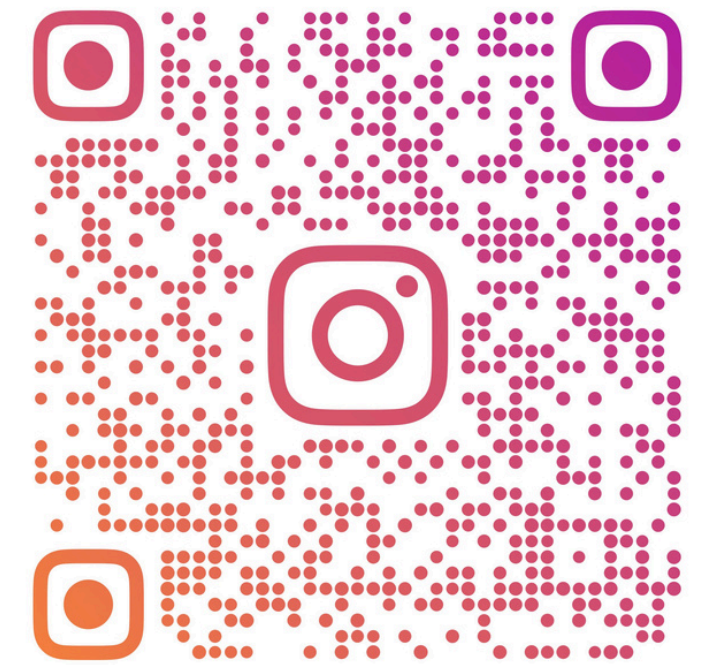
EXHIBITION TEAM - MANAGING VENUES AND EVENT BOOTHS

STAGE TEAM - MANAGING STAGE PERFORMANCES; INTRODUCTION, MUSIC, SOUND, SCRIPTS

HUMAN LIBRARY - COLLECTING PEOPLE'S STORIES AND INVITING THEM TO THE FESTIVAL TO TELL THEIR STORIES TO STUDENTS AND GUESTS; E.G., SOLDIERS, PROJECT MANAGERS OR ANY STUDENT WILLING TO SHARE THEIR CULTURE

FUNDRAISING - RAISING FUNDS FOR THE FESTIVAL;

COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES ETC...



RYUDAIGLOCALFESTIVAL

The "Day in the Life"

How a usual day would look like

8:30 am - 10:00 am - Japanese
(Grammar)

10:30 am - 12:00 pm - Japanese
(Reading)

12:00 - 13:00 - Lunch Break

15:30 - 17:00 - Glocal Festival Class

17:00 + → Homework, hanging out
with friends



Social Activities

Beach Parties

International Welcome Parties

Cooking parties

Trips to surrounding islands (e.g., Tokashiki)
organized by the University

Izakaya meetups

Almost all activities are organized to include everyone.
Don't be afraid to ask to join people.

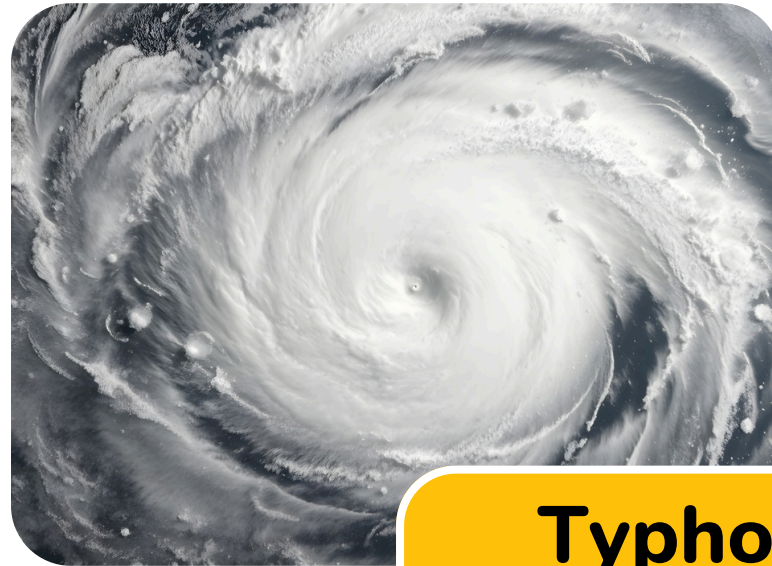
Every international student is assigned to a Japanese student who acts as a mentor to make life in Okinawa easier.



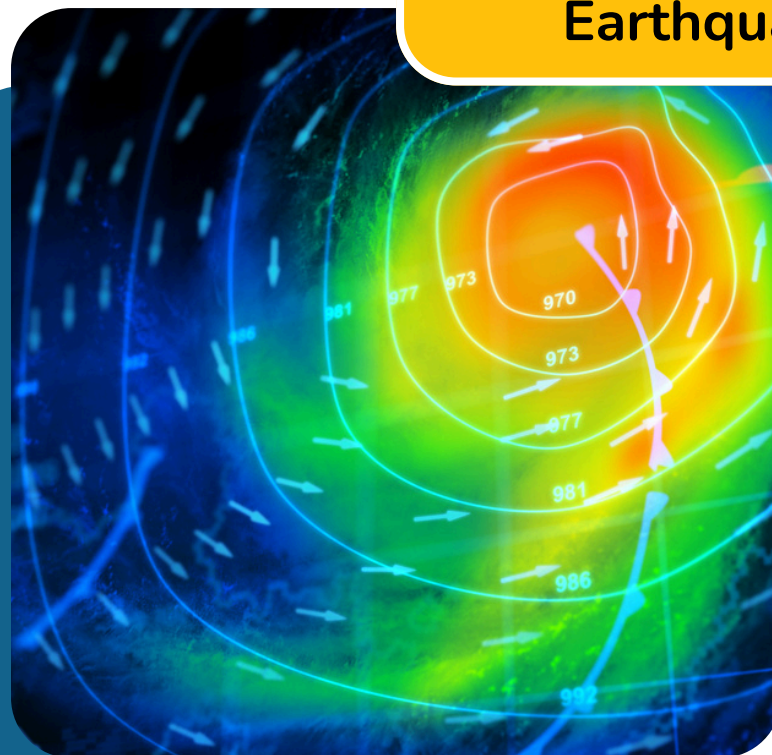
Natural Disasters

About 7-8 typhoons can hit Okinawa each year
Earthquakes are not as common as typhoons,
though they may take place every now and
then

2023: Typhoons Mawar (May) & Khanun
(August)



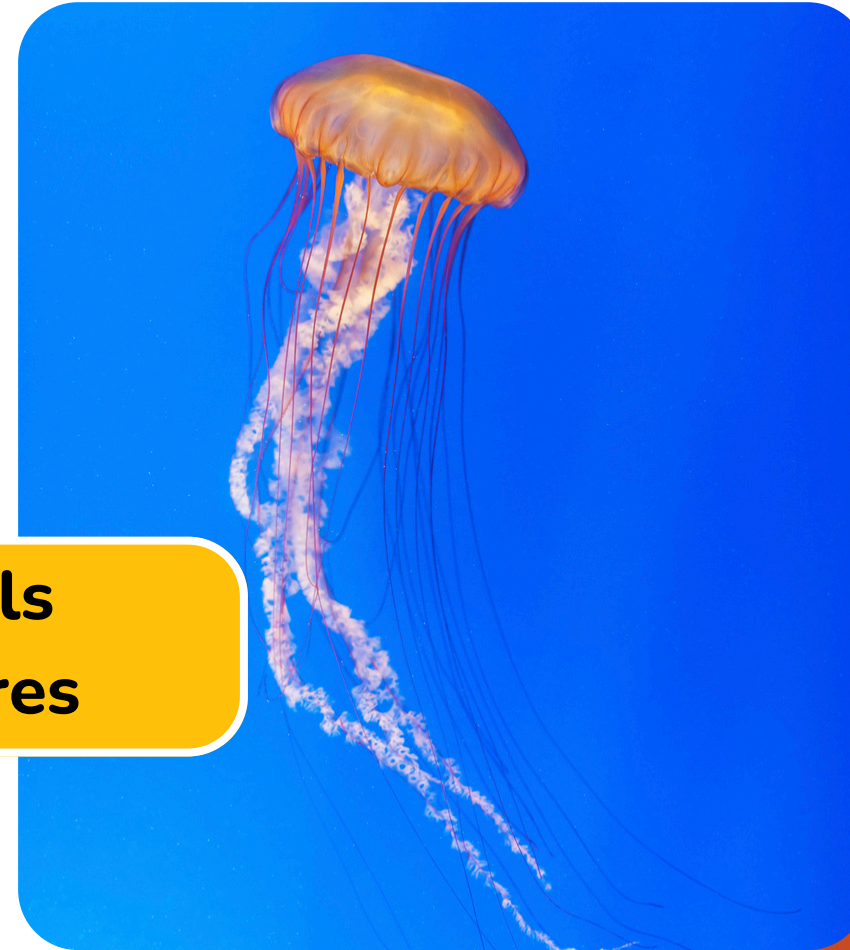
Typhoons
Earthquakes



Animals



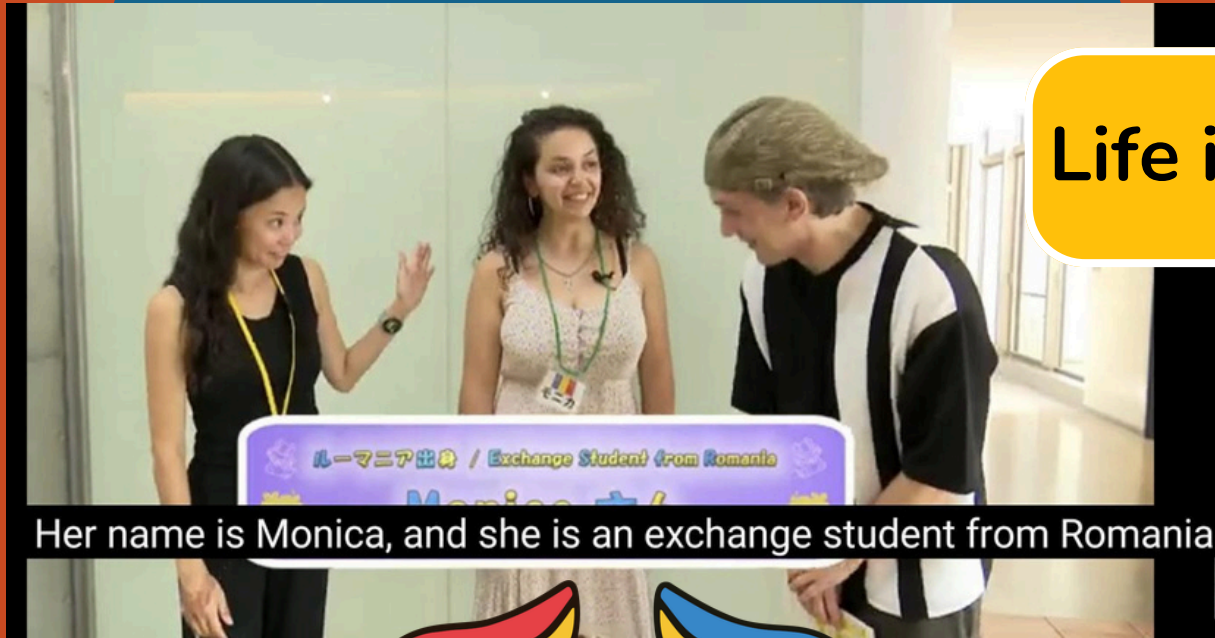
**Animals
Creatures**



- **HABU SNAKE**
- **Jellyfish**
- **Giant African Snail**
- **Frogs**
- **Spiders**
- **Bats**
- **Lizards**



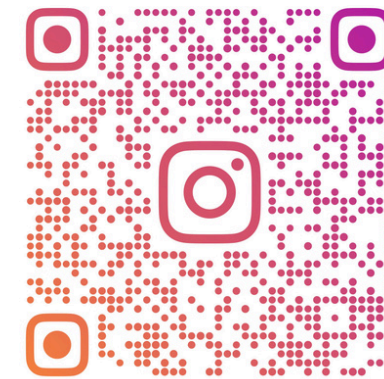
THANK YOU!



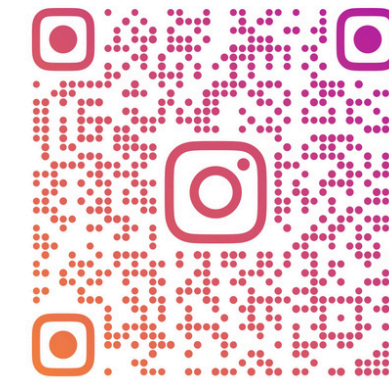
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