



Voices of Discovery Students

2017-2021

The Discovery Program for Global Learners was founded by Okayama University in 2017. “Voices of Discovery Students” is a series featured in the *Program Guide* (2019-2022).



Khaya Tsuyama
from Tokyo, Japan
(April 2018)



Musah Abuguri
from Ghana
(October 2017)



Myia Love Price-Frohlich
from the United States
(October 2017)

The Discovery Program is an extremely interpersonal program that equips its students with the necessary tools to dive deeper into their field of study. Your own unique interests and perspectives can be polished and challenged through personal conversations with professors and discussions with diverse peer groups. It is a great place to experience academic growth and to explore much more than a textbook can offer.

My future goal is to work for an international organization. After graduating from the Discovery Program I plan to pursue graduate studies in Public Health. Currently, I am studying life sciences alongside sociology and anthropology. Being able to study courses in many disciplines at first, and then gradually narrow down the focus for the senior project is one of the strengths of this program.

I was intrigued by the Discovery Program because it allows and encourages me to take courses from multiple fields. I liked the idea of not having a strict, set path through university. Being able to join Discovery in its first year is especially significant to me, as my experiences will directly affect those who join the program in the future.



Lu Guanrong
from China
(October 2017)



Risa Akiyama
from Okayama, Japan
(October 2017)

Discovery students come from all over the world, bearing different cultures and values. We grow together by sharing our diverse experiences and opinions in classrooms. In the future, I hope the program will also increase the diversity of its curriculum to match this diverse student body. Right now, I am working hard to improve my Japanese so that I can also take classes offered in Japanese by other departments on campus.

One of the best traits about the Discovery Program is the environment for any individual to be expressive with their creativity and ideas. The fact that the students are from various parts of the world helps each and every one of us to stand out in our own unique ways. Personally speaking, I would like to focus my studies on sociology and become a journalist who can capture moments that amaze people as well as cultures that are less known to many.



Nanami Kato
from Okayama, Japan
(April 2018)



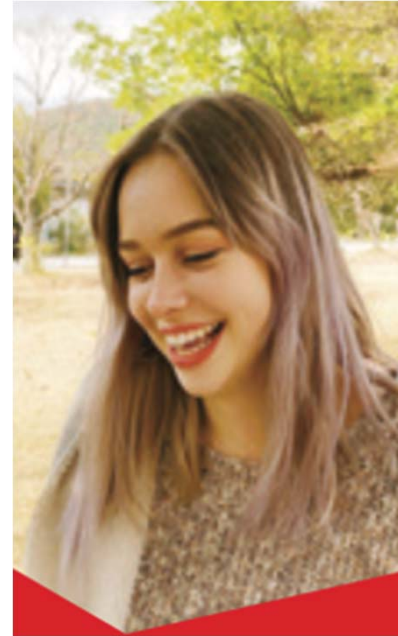
Nicole Angeline Robles Vizconde
From Republic of the Philippines
(October 2018)

When I was in high school I didn't much like studying, but after starting the Discovery Program, I found that learning new things is really interesting. Students in the Discovery Program have diverse backgrounds and interests. By chatting with classmates and encountering new ways of thinking, you may find what you really want to study, like I did. The Discovery Program is the best place for me to accomplish my future goals and grow as a person. I have no regrets about choosing the Discovery Program.

Graduating from high school, I was unsure of what I wanted to pursue. I was interested in agriculture but I didn't want to learn from a solely science-focused perspective. I wanted to learn more about culture and how society works too. In Discovery Program, I am able to take classes in the agriculture faculty while also learning about topics such as 'gender in politics' and 'how science affects societies.' Everything I learn allows me to gain a broader perspective and understanding of how I can be helpful to other.



Yushi Song
from People's Republic of
China (October 2019)



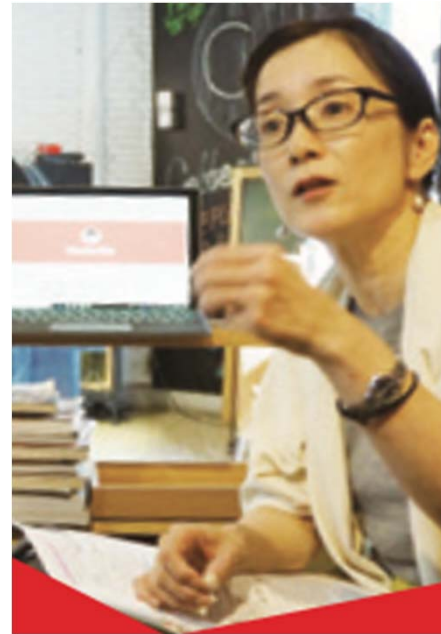
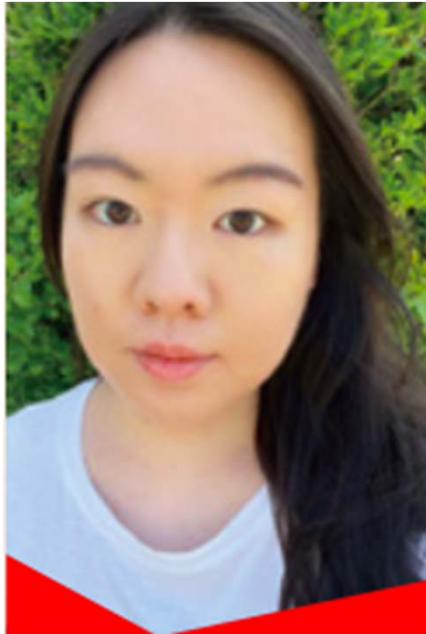
Stephanie Lynn Petrovic
from Canada
(October 2017)

The Discovery Program plays by its own rules; norms and practices taken for granted elsewhere do not necessarily apply here. The interdisciplinary curriculum is fully personalized, giving students a *free pass* to courses offered by other faculties. I have been able to explore different fields of study and combine a range of approaches to develop my idiosyncratic interests. I am primarily concentrating on sociology, anthropology, and political science, but I am also taking classes in business, biology, agriculture, and improving my Japanese and Korean simultaneously. Discovery offers a diverse and harmonious environment and is a great place for academic, professional, and personal growth.

Discovery Program has made me into a more culturally sensitive individual, allowing me to question my surroundings while being more understanding of other people's opinions. Thus, I have gained the courage to share my thoughts and explore commonly taken-for-granted notions. Aiming to become a street or urban photographer, I have been able to take classes from a wide range of fields - including sociology and anthropology - which have helped strengthen my photography style.



Minkyung Jeong
from Republic of Korea
(October 2019)



Mayumi Taira
from Okayama, Japan
(April 2019)

The Discovery Program allows me to explore different interests and interact with an international community. By taking a wide range of courses, I have discovered new passions and gained confidence in my decision-making abilities. Without the opportunities offered by this program, I would not have been able to strengthen my active learning and academic skills to this extent. Moreover, I have widened my perspectives by forming meaningful connections with diverse people from different backgrounds. These experiences have guided me to improve myself by critically analyzing my strengths and limitations.

Studying anthropology and sociology had long been my interest, so I am mainly taking classes from the cultural and social clusters. It is meaningful to study with classmates who have diverse backgrounds because they always give me fresh ideas through discussions. It is exciting, as I learn a lot from great professors in the Discovery Program. I think my past experiences have also added to my education, and I am happy to be able to share them with my young peers. I enjoy learning every day with this motto in mind, “it” s never too late to learn!”



Mikiho Kawata
from Yamaguchi, Japan
(April 2019)



Martha Paterno Balagat
from Republic of the Philippines
(October 2019)

My life at the Discovery Program is full of stimulation and fulfillment. After graduating from high school in Japan, I needed some time and courage to get used to the discussion-based classes. Through this experience, I realized that if I press on with determination, it will surely lead to better learning. In fact, my way of thinking has changed significantly since I joined the program. Discovery Program is the ideal place to broaden your horizons and develop the ability to look at things from multiple angles. I would like to keep studying with friends who encourage each other and to grow further.

Discovery Program's interdisciplinary curriculum has allowed me the freedom to build a unique study path towards finding solutions to today's complicated environmental crises. After initially taking mostly science classes, I have been able to pivot into taking classes in economics, anthropology, and nonprofit studies, allowing me to place my knowledge of environmental degradation within broader societal and cultural contexts. My journey of learning at Discovery is made richer through working with diverse peers and professors, all of whom inspire and challenge me to transform knowledge into services.

We look forward to welcoming you in Okayama!

