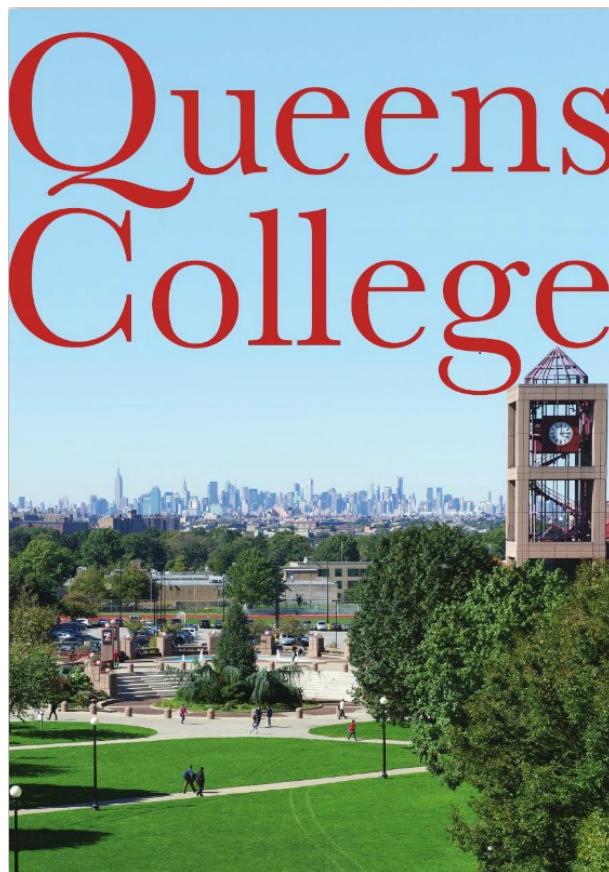


**Toyohashi University of Technology,
Institute for Global Network Innovation in
Technology Education**

News from QC

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■ Reports

What I did and how I felt during my stay in QC

Takeshi Miyashita, Nagaoka University of Technology

1. Introduction

Time has passed more quickly than I expected. Now, it is the end of November, and Thanksgiving is right in front of our eyes. I just have one month left in Queens College (QC). The amount of autumn leaves on the campus have gradually decreased. Although I can still feel warmth from the sun, the temperature in the early morning or late night is about 5° degrees Celsius (41° degrees Fahrenheit). I heard there is time that we have the first snow in this season, but not yet this year. In supermarkets, I can see various Christmas goods. In this report, I'm going to write about what I did and how I felt during my stay in the QC.

2. Summer semester

We took English classes provided by the English Language Institute (ELI) in QC. On Mondays to Thursdays, these classes took from morning, 8:30A.M. to 11:30A.M. and afternoon, 0:30P.M. to 3:30P.M., and consist of Speaking/Listening and Writing/Reading. As my results of a placement test turned out, I belonged to Class 6A (the second class from the highest). All lectures are given in English, so, in the beginning of classes, it was hard for me to understand what the teachers talked about. I've never studied English intensively in my life, and I could refresh my memory. This experience was so useful to me that I was able to review fundamentals of English towards the future. Most of my classmates are in their twenties, and I could also refresh myself as if I returned to school days. However, it was more difficult to speak English than I expected, so I

often felt stressed, especially during daily conversations, rather than my discipline. Even though this issue persists, I do feel like I'm able to speak English more smoothly than I did in the past.



Farewell party in Summer English class

3. Fall semester

I take classes for a credit and an audit, which are chosen by program participants as they like. In addition, there are common classes such as an English class (three hours on Friday morning) and a school education class (two hours on Friday afternoon). Moreover, it's possible to take English classes provided by ESL in fall semester at personal expense. I decided to take evening Speaking/Listening classes. Each of classes are explained below.

- Class for a credit

I selected an undergraduate class (MATH223) relating to an ordinary differential equation (ODE). Focusing on procedure for solving the first and second order ODEs are lectured, and this is very good opportunity to review my knowledge. A textbook used in the class is Differential Equations and Their Applications (ISBN-13: 978-0387978949) by a Professor at QC. Personally, I think this book is very good. For this class, there are 75 minutes of lecture twice per week.

- Class for an audit

My discipline is civil engineering, but there are no engineering departments at QC. Therefore, I dared to take a class at CUNY City College in which I was interested. This class is a structural analysis in graduate course. City College is one of universities in City University of New York (CUNY). It's located in Upper Manhattan, and where there are engineering departments in City College. Before I visited there, I sent an e-mail to Prof. Ghosn about permission for an audit. In addition, I was driven when I saw information in a handout distributed in an orientation meeting for this program: "Contents of global FD program are able to be built by ourselves." Now, I feel this activity was very good choice for me. I have only one class per a week, but per session, it continues from 6:50P.M. to 9:20P.M. without a rest. A lecture is explained through a chalkboard, and the number of reports I needed to write reaches to about twenty. As I felt similarly at ESL, instructors in the U.S. are very tough. This class is only for my audit, but I have handed in every homework assignment and taken every exam. I believe this class will be a lifetime treasure from the educational and academic point of views.

- English class

On every Friday morning, an English class, which is Academic Language Support Course, started from the end of September. This is a practical class where we mainly learn how to pronounce and review English grammar such as articles, prepositions and phrasal verbs.

- School education class

On Friday afternoon, we have a class about school education. On the basis of case studies in a textbook, which is How Learning Works (ISBN-13: 978-0470484104), we share

personal experiences and discuss topics with each other. I could know a concept map and an exam wrapper through this class, so I want to use these tools to improve my classes.

- Others

I didn't want to reduce the number of opportunities to touch English, so I took an evening Speaking/Listening class at ESL. This class is from 6:30P.M. to 8:30P.M. on Tuesday and Thursday. Classmates in this evening class are older than in summer semester. I'm not sure whether this is a reason or not, but many students attend the class actively, and atmosphere in the class drastically changes. After each of the three presidential debates, we discussed our opinions. These are good experience and will be good memories. Moreover, I had opportunities to talk to language partners, who are studying Japanese at QC. Every week we would meet for about one and a half hours, three times in a week.

4. Summary

I am the first person from Nagaoka University of Technology to attend this program. Thus, at first, I was hesitant about participating because I could not get the entire image of the program. However, it was a right decision for me. I strongly hope to continue this program as one of participants.



Farewell party in Fall English class

Some differences between NY and Japan

Masanao Yamada, National Institute of Technology, Kushiro College

In this report, I'd like to introduce some differences between NY and Japan. As this is my first visit to the U.S., I find various things interesting.

When an American student goes through a door, he or she usually holds the door open for the following person. At that time, they exchange a brief conversation like "Thank you", "Your welcome." The Japanese also holds the door for the next person but the American seems to wait a longer time than the Japanese does when the following person comes a little bit more late. I think this is one of the good manners of the Americans.

Revolving doors are popular in NY. We can see them in the campus, stations, and other buildings. In contrast, we rarely see revolving doors in Japan. There was an incident that a six-year old child got caught in a revolving door and died in Tokyo in 2004. After this, many revolving doors in Japan have been replaced for automated doors and almost no new revolving doors have been installed to prevent similar incidents. When I use a revolving door, I always remember the accident and the stance on safety of the Japanese.

The American uses US Customary Units such as yard and pound for measurement instead of International System of Units (SI) such as meter and gram. It is hard to convert from US units to SI or vice versa. For instance, the price of buffet-style food at the cafeteria on campus is shown as \$0.43 per ounce on the menu board (Fig.1 top). If I take 0.775 pound of food — one pound is 16 ounce and approximately equals 454 grams — it costs \$5.34 as shown in the middle and the bottom of

Fig.1. The unit price is shown in pounds (Price/lb., \$6.89) on the receipt. If it were written in SI units like \$1.5/100g, it would be easy to understand for me.

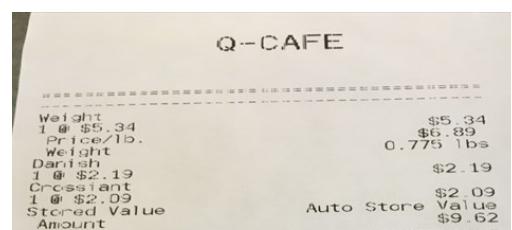


Fig. 1 The price board at the cafeteria on campus, an example of buffet-style food, and its receipt

The other difference between NY and Japan is the way of disposing of garbage. When I was in Toyohashi, Japan, an exchange student from NY asked me where we can throw out an empty can on the street. After I came to NY, I came to understand why he asked me where to dispose of garbage. There are many garbage bins in NY's public places compared to Japan. Sorting

out garbage is not practiced in NY. Household wastes are just put on the roadside without distinction. I was so surprised when I found a toilet seat disposed while jogging around in the morning (Fig. 2). In Japan, we should sort out garbage into several kinds such as combustibles, incombustible, glass bottles, plastic bottles, large-sized garbage, etc.

The differences between NY and Japan mentioned here are some that I noticed. I want to come across more in my remaining month here.



Fig. 2 Household wastes on the roadside

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