The EAUI semester exchange program was a marvelous experience for me. First, it gave a chance for us the student from five countries to get together and communicate with each other. We often had lunch and dinner together, and we discussed the different modes of education, politics, and cultural issues. That daily discussion helped me to understand another culture. Just to give an example, I discussed dozen of times with one exchange student from Thailand. We discussed whether Thailand had so many military camps in history; how the different parties function in Thai politics; and how people protect their rights and evaluate the government; etc. This program gave me an amazing opportunity to understand different societies.

Second, I have a good access to audit different seminars and lectures in Waseda University. GSAPS embraces a diversified community of academics, which has many disciplines, such as politics, international relations, sociology, economics, history, etc. The studies of international relations gave me a much broader outlook to understand individuals, organizations, and nations and the relationship between; sociology lectures helped me to see more perspective of social network to understand my research. I would not have learned these ideas if I just stayed in NTU, in public management.

Actually the most fascinating experiences is that I learned a lot about Japanese people, Japanese society, economy, and politics. I have many images about Japan before I arrived; each, such as strong social norm, conservative, and anti-China. But after I stayed in Japan for several months, I realized how I was wrong. I joined many of International Community Center (ICC) activities with the purpose of knowing Japanese people. I found them very friendly and helpful to foreign students. Wherever you go, you can feel the politeness of Japanese people. This is so amazing and comfortable for me. All in all, this journey gave me a lot of knowledge and experience, not only about Japan but also other countries.

My study benefited a lot from this exchange program for both knowledge and research methodology. My PhD research topic is about individual's social identity and public service motivation in terms of cooperation. Waseda University, especially GSAPS, is very internationalized community. When I talked about my research and notions to them, different people offered diversified understanding. Then I had to consider the cultural background when carrying out my interview. I had definitely thought about cultural issue before, but it was never as prominent.

I regularly attended my seminar (seminar) once a week. It was really interesting that different topics and different methodologies were integrated together. Students could give a very new and innovative thinking about each other’s research. This helped me improve my research designs or proposals. Because each of us needed to give a presentation and be challenged by others. After the audiences challenged our proposal over and over again, it become much better one. In my seminar, students from sociology and international relations gave me a lot of suggestions about how to formulate a piece of qualitative research. Due to my business school background, I used more quantitative methods during past several years, such as survey, statistic research and econometrical studies. But due to the different methodologies, students used many methods such as interview, field research, and case study, etc. Then I began to read more papers of qualitative studies. Many students know that, qualitative study can give more descriptive information, more detailed story, and well organized causal analysis. But qualitative study can make one’s results or theory more acceptable and more general by using hundreds of thousands of samples or research objectives. I realize it is better to use both methods to carry out research. I believe this exchange program can facilitate participants’ research via both seminars and lectures. It provides a much diversified knowledge, research methods and effective communication, which helps students get more understanding of their research fields.

It is not easy to conclude the whole story of the EAUI semester exchange program with several sentences. To sum up, I can say it is “an integrated, systematic and colorful experience for participant life and research.”