

SEIJI MÁRQUEZ-MATSUMURA

BST Alumnus 2020

After choosing Geography, Maths, Spanish and Japanese for his A Levels, Seiji Márquez-Matsumura is now studying a wide and varied range of humanities subjects in the 'Japan in East Asia' Liberal Arts degree through The University of Tokyo's PEAK course. Seiji was born and raised in Japan, but spent one year abroad in Atlanta, Georgia in America. Seiji has always had an international outlook, though, and wanted a degree that was interdisciplinary and international, and so the PEAK Programme was perfect for him. He's gone on to study a rich array of subjects in his course such as Political Science, Economics and History and is doing an in-depth study into the Criminal Justice System, a topic in which Seiji has a keen interest.



At BST, Seiji spent quite a large amount of time contributing to helping backstage at Drama performances and festivals as well as helping with the Music department. As someone who is going to take part in an upcoming BST play *The Naivety*, and knowing that there is a strong and motivated backstage team helping us each step of the way, it was a delight to hear about the hours that Seiji spent dedicated to helping the actors and musicians at BST perform to the best of their abilities. This certainly helped him convince his interviewers that he was a team player.

It is truly inspiring for younger students like me, as we can learn a valuable lesson that stepping up and getting involved in projects is not only fun, but valuable and important for your future.

He also took on the role of being a Senior School Prefect, in which he had responsibilities to run the autumn lecture series and manage Senior School spaces like the common room. It was also interesting to hear how interested and fascinated he was about Geography, especially with its branching themes of geopolitics, Political Science and even the travel industry, especially with aviation.



One of the most challenging aspects of his course at the University of Tokyo was the intensive Japanese course that he humorously described as “very, very rigorous.” The demanding course takes place twice a week for Seiji, and he stated that the homework load as well as the classes themselves were something of a battle to keep up. Despite this, he still kept persevering due to the fact that fluent written and spoken Japanese can massively assist his research into Japan’s criminal justice system. “Focus on your goals, and onerous tasks seem worthwhile,” he said. Seiji’s research is focused on analysing patterns in sentencing Japanese and non-Japanese offenders to identify whether discriminatory sentencing practices are operating.

When asking about what advice he would give younger students in BST, he decided it be “put your heart into what you do, be passionate.” He went on to say that there is “no point in doing something you don’t like or half-like,” and that the main reason why he is where he is now is because he had the drive to pursue the things he loves. So when asking Seiji about what he wanted to pursue in his future career, it came to me as no surprise when he enthusiastically said that he wanted to be involved in the travel industry, working in aviation and trains. Heightening his love for Geography, he went on to say that Geography significantly helped him with finding this love for travelling. It was an immense pleasure being able to be inspired by someone who has as much drive as Seiji does. His passion, conviction in what he wants to pursue and unequivocal dedication to his studies is a lesson everyone at BST could learn from. In a time of confusion and uncertainty with people my age questioning their futures, it was refreshing to interview someone who had as much determination as Seiji does.

Good luck with your future in the travel industry, Seiji!

*Article written by BST Year 10 student,
Enzo Thomaz (October 2021)*

