

Dear IUC Alumni and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well despite the ongoing pandemic.

I am writing you as a recent graduate and member of the IUC Class of 2020. As you may know, we suffered a major disruption this past year. With the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in March, IUC's fourth quarter was moved entirely online, with classes, final presentations, and a virtual graduation ceremony all held via videoconference. Like our *senpai* from the class of 2011, many members of our class had to leave Japan early and finish the fourth term from locations all over the globe.

The way IUC has come through the events of the past few months says a lot about the community that existed before the virus. Teachers and staff supported us not only by making sure our education didn't suffer, but also by sending COVID care packages and checking in regularly about our mental and physical well-being. We kept in touch over video and text chat, sharing information about study opportunities, and sending each other messages of support.

As students who benefited from scholarships in order to attend the IUC, we know how much incoming students also need help. Thanks to the generosity of alums and friends like you, the IUC has managed to support a full enrollment of 56 students for the Class of 2021, supplying them with the tuition scholarships and living stipends they need to dedicate themselves to ten months of full-time language study.

As a recent graduate, I have come to appreciate the IUC community as something special and rare. It is also crucial that we support it, especially during a difficult time like this. I know many of us are also experiencing financial constraints in the ongoing crisis, but if you're able to do so, please join me in continuing the strong tradition of alumni and community support for future students by donating to the IUC's annual fund.

Sincerely,



Emily Buttner
Class of 2020

P.S. The IUC has just begun taking applications for the class of 2022. Your help now will ensure it can support the best candidates!