

# from oban to the orient

A FORMER Oban high pupil has recently been awarded a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study jewellery design in Japan for three months.

Next April Fraser Hamilton, from Dungallan Terrace, Oban, will go to the Hiko Mizuno College of Jewellery in Tokyo.

Fraser is currently in his third year of Silversmithing and Jewellery Design at Glasgow School of Art and is delighted to be given this placement.

'All of my art and design training so far has been, naturally, from a western perspective,' said the student. 'By studying in Tokyo I hope to approach my design training from a totally different perspective.'

The student first learned of the opportunity from his tutor, renowned jewellery designer Jack Cunningham, who encouraged Fraser to benefit from such an experience. Jack regularly exhibits his work in Japan.

Fraser and another third year jewellery student are the first students from Glasgow School of Art to be

invited to attend Hiko Mizuno College. Whilst studying in Japan they will be hosted by a Mizuno student's family.

Fraser is looking forward to experiencing the environment of a Japanese city, and has already begun to learn to speak Japanese.

'I am also very keen to experience a different form of training and discipline at the Mizuno College. I understand that Mizuno benefits from excellent



*Fraser Hamilton, working away in the Glasgow School of Art jewellery department.*

technical facilities and being situated in a bustling, large scale oriental city would enable me to respond to a different culture and environment.'

Although Fraser has secured his placement, he does not qualify for Government funding which is available to EU placements. With long distances to travel and enhanced standard of living awaiting upon his arrival in Tokyo, the art student isn't able to fund the entire trip from his student budget.

'My main expenses will include air fares and travel expenses, workshop and material costs for the course work and subsistence costs,' said Fraser. He will be expected to take his tools with him and fund material costs of things like precious metal and stones while he is there.

The art student is appealing for help with his funding for the trip. Currently he is contacting any likely sources of support - various educational trusts, foundations, organisations such as the Lions Club and Rotary Club, and Japanese and design-related businesses both locally and nationally.

Fraser has already taken on as much casual work and other forms of fundraising as he can without his studies being affected, and has already sold some jewellery he has designed and made.

Anyone who would like to assist Fraser with funding for his trip can e-mail [simpl2@aol.com](mailto:simpl2@aol.com) or [vghamilton@aol.com](mailto:vghamilton@aol.com), or alternatively call 07759147765.

*Perhaps a young Connel girl was not far off the mark when she sang her Christmas carol  
'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New You'.*