

FOCUS

フォカース

Student achievements

PROFESSOR INTERVIEWS

INTERNSHIP TIPS!



In The Spotlight!

輝く瞬間

Issue 19 - Spring 2025

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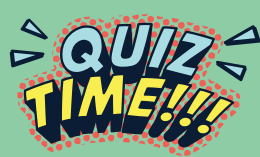
writing center.



Student Contribution



ALRCS ENTERTAINMENT. Crossword



Shinn



Editor's Note 編集者のメモ

Welcome to this semester's issue of FOCUS!

This edition highlights the incredible achievements, stories, and experiences that make APU so special. We hope you enjoy this issue and feel inspired by the stories within!



Faye Alexandra APM 4th Year

Encouragement

Stay consistent and do your best, even when things get tough. Every effort you put in, even the small ones, adds up over time, so trust every process because your hard work matters!



Since coming to APU, learning about **BGS** motivated me to aim for academic excellence and stay within the top 10%. This recognition aligns with my goal of **balancing dedication to studies with personal development**, even as I juggle part-time jobs and participation in circles like Yosshakoi. Achieving this honor reflects my perseverance amid a packed schedule.

The most challenging aspect was **managing time across academics, clubs and work**. Though I sometimes doubted myself when my scores didn't meet expectations, I stayed motivated by trusting my motto: "Do your best and let God."

ANDO Momofuku Award



ISTESHAM FARHAM APM 4th Year

I applied for the Ando Momofuku Award Fall 2023 as a way to challenge myself and explore my experiences, activities at APU, and future goals. One key challenge was crafting a convincing and cohesive storyline, which I overcame by linking my past and current activities, the lessons I've learned, and how they align with my future goals and contributions to society.

"Emphasize on connecting your efforts in your university life to your future goal and how you are systematically working towards your future goal"



OLD

VS

NEW

PROF. ELICIA COUSINS

Department: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
Education Development and Learning Support
Center

Position: Assistant Professor

How long have you been teaching multinational classes at APU?

1–3 years

What challenges have you encountered when teaching multinational and diverse classes at APU?

I think the biggest challenge I've faced is that the extent of prior knowledge and skills that students may have in a particular area, as well as their English fluency, can vary widely in any given class. This can make it tricky to figure out the nature and extent of support that different students may need to tackle various tasks and to feel welcome and included in the learning process.

What do you think are the most significant benefits of teaching in a multinational and diverse classroom at APU?

There is always so much to learn from my students, and so much that they can learn from one another, as long as they're willing to challenge themselves to be seen and heard. I think we often end up learning the most from people who have lived lives so different from our own, and who hold very different constellations of identities and worldviews. Engaging deeply with difference allows us to think more critically about our own perspectives, assumptions, and unconscious biases, and to practice curiosity and open-mindedness in the face of unfamiliar points of view.

What are your future goals at APU?

One goal I have is to keep exploring and applying practices of inclusive pedagogy, and to better understand what exactly that means and looks like in this unique APU context. Since I primarily teach first-year education courses, I also want to continue working toward building a curriculum that helps students transition smoothly into college life and find a sense of belonging and empowerment here.

PROF. HUBERT CHEUNG

Department: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
College of Sustainability and Tourism

Position: Assistant Professor

How long have you been teaching multinational classes at APU?

One semester (since October 2024)

What challenges have you encountered when teaching multinational and diverse classes at APU?

Our students come to APU from all around the world, bringing with them different backgrounds and experiences. It is important to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to learn and succeed. In my classroom, I apply principles of Universal Design for Learning to ensure that every student can access learning materials, and I design activities and assessments so that students can engage and develop at their own level and pace.

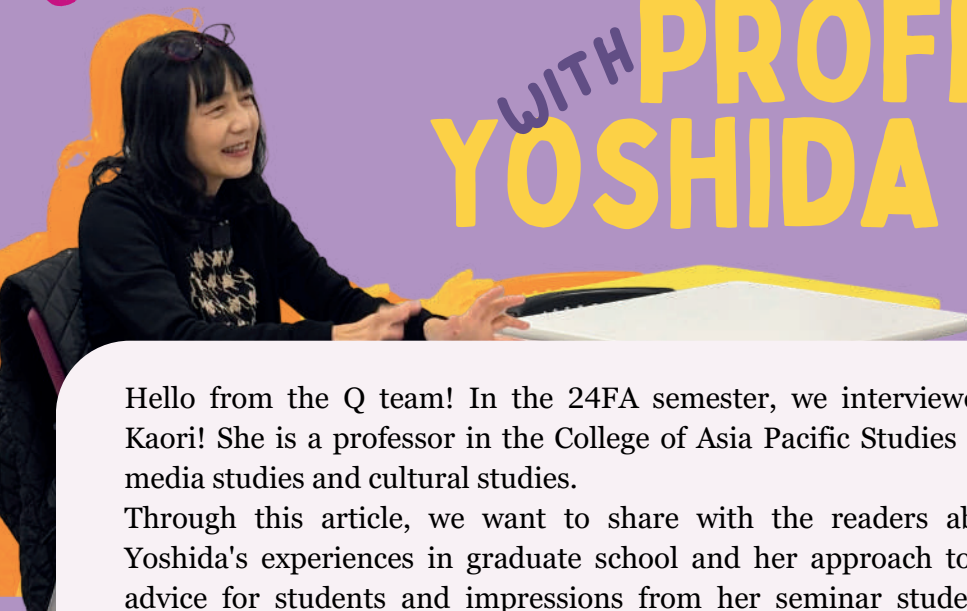
What do you think are the most significant benefits of teaching in a multinational and diverse classroom at APU?

I was born in Canada, grew up in Hong Kong, and lived in England, Australia, Japan and Italy. I've learned a lot from the people in each of these countries. The multinational and diverse learning environment at APU allows us to learn from one another, right here in Beppu. Students at APU aren't the only ones who get to engage and build friendships with people from around the world – the faculty do too.

What are your future goals at APU?

I'm here at APU, first and foremost, as a conservation scientist. My goal here at APU is to build the HC Conservation Lab into a hub for interdisciplinary research that informs conservation policy and practice to improve biodiversity outcomes. We are recruiting motivated students with a love for the natural world who wish to contribute to interdisciplinary and collaborative conservation research and practice. Driven? Interested? Visit www.hcxconservation.org/lab to learn more.



WITH PROFESSOR
YOSHIDA KAORI

Hello from the Q team! In the 24FA semester, we interviewed Professor Yoshida Kaori! She is a professor in the College of Asia Pacific Studies (APS), specializing in media studies and cultural studies.

Through this article, we want to share with the readers about Professor Kaori Yoshida's experiences in graduate school and her approach to teaching, as well as advice for students and impressions from her seminar students. There are many interesting stories about her graduate school days when she encountered language barriers, the challenges of teaching in a multicultural environment, and how to incorporate topics such as war and gender to media studies. Please take a look!

こんにちは! Qチームです!

私たちは今学期吉田香織教授にインタビューをしました! 吉田香織教授はAPS (アジア太平洋学部) の教授で、メディア学と文化研究を横断した、または組み合わせた内容を教えています。この記事では、吉田香織教授の大学院時代の経験や授業への取り組み、他にも学生に対するアドバイスや吉田香織教授のゼミ生たちの感想も載せています!

言語の壁にぶつかった大学院時代のお話や、多文化環境での教育の課題、戦争やジェンダーといったデリケートなテーマにどう向き合うべきかといったお話など、興味深いお話が盛りだくさんです! ぜひご覧ください!



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USEFUL WEBSITES



FOR YOUR



ROBERT WALTERS

A leading specialist recruitment consultancy that offers personalised support and listings in areas from finance to healthcare.



J-Startup

If you have an innovative startup idea this is the perfect platform for you, as it is backed by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The Intern Group

Realize your potential

Provides international internship programs to attain professional and personal experience with a focus on global travel and community.



Great for English speakers and foreigners. You can apply in English directly to Japanese companies.

Daijob.com

Focuses on bilingual applicants and provides opportunities both in Japan and abroad featuring multinational companies.

bff tokyo

Specifically designed for foreigners to help them find jobs, accommodation, and internship opportunities in Tokyo.

Japan's largest job fair & platforms:



Oita based opportunities



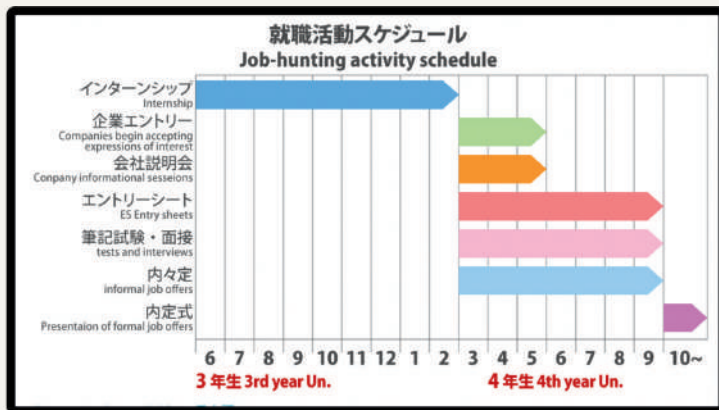
おおいた留学生人材情報バンク

active-net

International Students Talent Bank of Oita

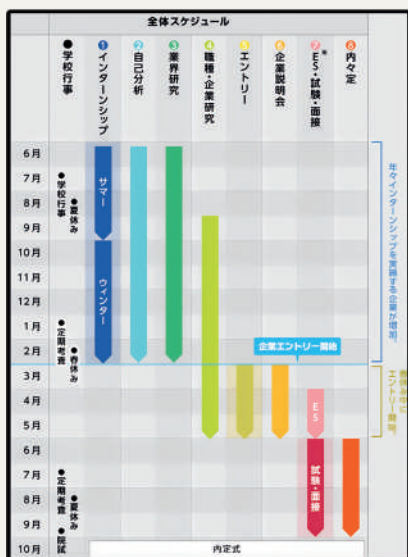


in Japan?



The traditional Japanese job hunting process

What is
Job Hunting



“就職活動”
とは
何ですか?

Credit to
マイナビ

Differences Between Japanese companies (日系企業) and
foreign-affiliated companies or (外資系企業).

Feature	Japan	World
Timing and Duration	Starts 14 months before graduation, lasting up to a year	Begins closer to or after graduation
Recruitment Process	Mass hiring during a specific season	Year-round hiring based on immediate needs
Focus on New Graduates	Prioritizes fresh graduates and their potential	Focuses more on experience and skills

You can also find concise, English-friendly information on Jport Journal and Daijob.com





Professor By Day **JAZZ MUSICIAN BY NIGHT**

A Cup of Tea with Professor Joseph Progler

JOURNEY TO JAZZ

My parents always played Frank Sinatra around the house. I didn't really like it then, but I heard it a lot. When I started looking at other ways to play guitar besides rock, I came across a jazz guitar and I fell in love with it immediately.

I ended up getting a jazz guitar scholarship at a college in New York for a degree in Music Education. Throughout most of the 1980s, I was mostly trying to be a working musician while still attending college. After about ten years, I got really tired of the whole thing: I realized I liked music but not as a job. I didn't want to be an entertainer; I just wanted to play music.

During the 1990s, I sold all of my musical instruments and equipment, and traveled while working on a graduate degree in Ethnomusicology. I picked up the guitar again in the early 2000s, just as a hobby. After moving to Japan to work at APU, I eventually found a very vibrant jazz jam session scene in Oita where people get together to play the music they love.. And I found that there is a very vibrant jazz interest in Japan where people just get together and play. I just preferred that casual and fun environment to having it as a job. So now I go to those jam sessions at least once a week.

Do you find any similarities between performing jazz and teaching a class?

Yes, of course. You can play the music, but you can also "play around" with the music. To do that, however, you need to know the materials inside out and upside down. I spend a tremendous amount of time familiarizing myself with my class content because when you improvise, there is an unpredictability factor. I don't think I've taught the same course the same way ever. Of course, you need structure: there's an introduction for the song, then you play the song, then there is an ending. So pacing, timing, and moving into a new part or section are things in common between playing jazz and teaching lectures.

I think that to be a good teacher you have to be an eager learner. Because of my jazz sensibility, I'm not happy to just learn something and then reproduce it. I learned it and, now that I know it, I enjoy figuring out how to explain it to a certain group of people. I gravitate towards doing lectures and, to do a good lecture, you have to have good timing. It's similar to playing music: If you just play the same thing for an hour it's going to get boring.

How does playing jazz influence your teaching style?

One time, I asked my seminar students to write a paragraph about something that stood out to them after reading a forum we had with previous students' comments.

One of them said that she noticed that I was a "jazz professor" because I treat my teaching the way a musician treats a piece of music for jazz. Spontaneity, creativity, and improvisation are really big parts of jazz.

In her view, I was doing that in my teaching, too.

“Jazz is alive and well, it lives in Japan, and it smells like coffee.”

Where do you usually perform?

I really enjoy going to different places and playing music with people. Cantaloop is one of them. It's run by a couple who are musicians and they have jazz jam sessions every week on Wednesday. There are also two former jazz "kissa" that have been open for over 30 years and now operate as livehouses: Naima and Base-1. These places are like a hub for communities of people who love jazz.





Leaders (はなandりく) JAPANESE WEEK 2024

Q: なぜ「Japan Week」を行おうと思ったのですか？

“はな”

もともとAPUにはJapan Weekがなく、マルチカルチャーウィークがとても面白いのに「どうして日本のウィークがないんだろう？」と思ったのがきっかけです。それで、私たちがJapan Weekを立ち上げるようになりました！

Q: 元々Japan Weekが無かったとは驚きです！

“りく”

そうなんです。実は、12年前に「Japanese Week」、10年前には「京都Week」というイベントがありました。でも今回のJapan Weekは、日本神話を題材にした全く新しいイベントで、過去のイベントの形式や資料は引き継いでいません。完全にゼロから作り上げたんです！



Q: なるほど、ゼロからのスタートだったんですね！それは大変だったでしょうね。そんなJapan Weekでの一番の思い出は何ですか？

“りく”

一番の思い出は、国際生の皆さんが日本の文化に触れられる場を提供できたことです。特に、グラウンドショーに約1000人もの観客が集まってくれたのは、本当に感動的でした！

Q: 1000人も！すごいですね。日本人だけでなく、国際生の皆さんもたくさん来られたんですね。多国籍なAPUの環境で、特に気をつけたことはありますか？

“はな”

Japan Weekにはコアメンバーやスタッフとして、日本に興味を持つ国際生に参加してもらいました。そのため、ミーティングや連絡は必ず日英両言語で行うようにしていました。

りく:

グラウンドショーの内容も、日本神話をテーマにしました。八百万の神々の話をどうすれば面白く伝えられるか、異なる文化背景を持つ参加者にも理解してもらえるかをすごく考えましたね。

Q: 文化や背景が異なる中で、伝える工夫は確かに大事ですね。では、代表として特に苦労した点は何かでしょうか？

“りく”

組織運営ですね。メンバーは約100人いたのですが、それぞれの役割を調整しながら進めるのは本当に大変でした。また、イベントには約100万円の資金が必要で、その調達も苦労しました。

Q: なるほど、ゼロからのスタートだったんですね！それは大変だったでしょうね。そんなJapan Weekでの一番の思い出は何ですか？

“りく”

組織運営ですね。メンバーは約100人いたのですが、それぞれの役割を調整しながら進めるのは本当に大変でした。また、イベントには約100万円の資金が必要で、その調達も苦労しました。

Q: 大規模イベントですね。はなさんは副代表として、どんな点で苦労しましたか？

“はな”

Japan Weekが初めての試みだったので、先輩からのアドバイスをもらえる機会がありませんでした。そのため、オフィスとの連絡や開催時期の調整などがスムーズにいかず、試行錯誤の連続でした。

Q: 様々な苦労を乗り越えた結果、とても素晴らしいWeekになったと思います。本当にお疲れ様でした！最後に、これからJapan Weekを開催したい人たちに向けてメッセージをお願いします。

“はな”

ぜひ、皆さんがやりたいことを形にして、自分たちらしいWeekを作ってください！新しいアイデアをどんどん取り入れて、楽しいイベントにしてくださいね。

“りく”

Japan Weekがこれからも成長して、さらに良いイベントになっていくことを願っています。そして、日本人だけでなく、全ての参加者に向けたイベントを作り上げる精神を大切にしてほしいです！

Q: 本日は貴重なお話をありがとうございました！



writing center.

「より良い文章ではなく、より良いライターを生み出すために」

論文の添削やプレゼンテーションの準備はしていますか？ライティング・センター(WC)は、どんなプロジェクトでも対応ができ、あなたのライティングスキルの向上をサポートします！

エッセイの下書きや研究論文の添削、あるいは客観ようなアドバイスが必要な場合にも、WCは専門的なガイダンスを提供し、あなたを成功へ今後の道を考えます。

表現、調査の方法など、一般的な文章作成の課題に取り組むワークショップも開催しています。

重要な詳細:

課題の用紙をご持参ください。(まだ書き始めている方は不要です。)

各セッションは40分です。

セッションの予約はこちらから

メッセージ(船越玲) 皆さんも文章に関することがあると思いますので、お気軽にライティングセンターをおたずねください。



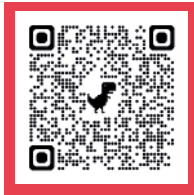
The **Writing Center (WC)** is here to help you improve your writing skills for any assignment!

Whether you're drafting an essay, refining a research paper, or simply reviewing your final draft, the WC offers friendly, expert guidance to set you on the path to success.

- **Sign up in Advance**- the last 2 weeks of each quarter are almost always full.
- We accept **walk-ins**, however, to ensure your session, we recommend reserving in advance.

Reserve your session here!

QR Code:



Note from the Coordinator, **Associate Professor Lindsay Mack** - Research shows one of the best ways to improve **academic writing skills** is through **one-on-one tutoring**. **Sign up today!** Each session is 40 minutes—come ready to learn, grow, and gain valuable feedback.

"To produce better writers, not better writing"

The **AMC** is here to support APU students looking to improve their analytics and math skills in English or Japanese.

Our trained tutors provide guidance for a range of subjects, including **Fundamental Mathematics, Business Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics, and Statistics.**

営業時間 | Operating Hours

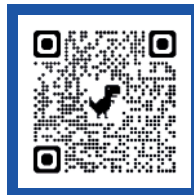
3rd -6th period | 1限~6限
Monday to Friday | 平日

Location: Library First Floor | 図書館1階



How to Book a Session
Reserve your spot here:

Walk-in sessions are also available on a first-come, first-served basis.



セッションの予約方法
こちらからご予約ください:

ウォークインセッションも先着順で受け付けております。

AMC.

DON'T LET MATH CHALLENGES HOLD YOU BACK! SEE YOU AT AMC!!!

student contribution

ANONYMOUS LETTERS



New Message

To coolpokebro69

From genga25

Dear coolpokebro69,

Just wanted to express how glad I am that we got to start talking to each other again after a couple of years of being out of contact. I truly appreciate your company and I hope we get to go on more adventures together.

Best,
Genga25

Send📎📷👍

New Message

To To the job hunting students of APU!

From Sigma Boy

Don't forget to eat, sleep, and rest! I know you're trying your best. Great things are here to come, believe, believe

Send📎📷👍



New Message

To 305

From rice cooker

Some of the greatest blessings of my university life. I'm so grateful for all the memories we've cultivated. The smiles, the meows, the pokemon, and the random gym equipment will live on forever- in our memories and pictures on line.

Send📎📷👍

New Message

To Heaven

From Duble

your kind presence, holding my trembling hands. How lucky I am to have met you.

To meet someone who loves me furiously, strongly, passionately. Someone who held me when the world would scream at me. Someone who gazed at me with soft adoring eyes. Someone who protected me, listened to me, guided me. Someone who made the impossible possible. You unknowingly tended a wounded soul and brought it back to life. You looked beyond my scars and my unstable self and still love me like no other. You, only you could make me want to try to love myself again as I question why you are able to love me so much. As such, I do not love you to death but, I love you to life.

Send📎📷👍

New Message

To halan halan

From sul

dear, halan

Thank you, my amazing friends, for making 2024 so unforgettable. Every trip, laugh, and moment we've shared means the world to me. I love you all and can't wait for more adventures together. Let's stay close and keep making memories. Here's to us, always. ❤️🌟

Send📎📷👍

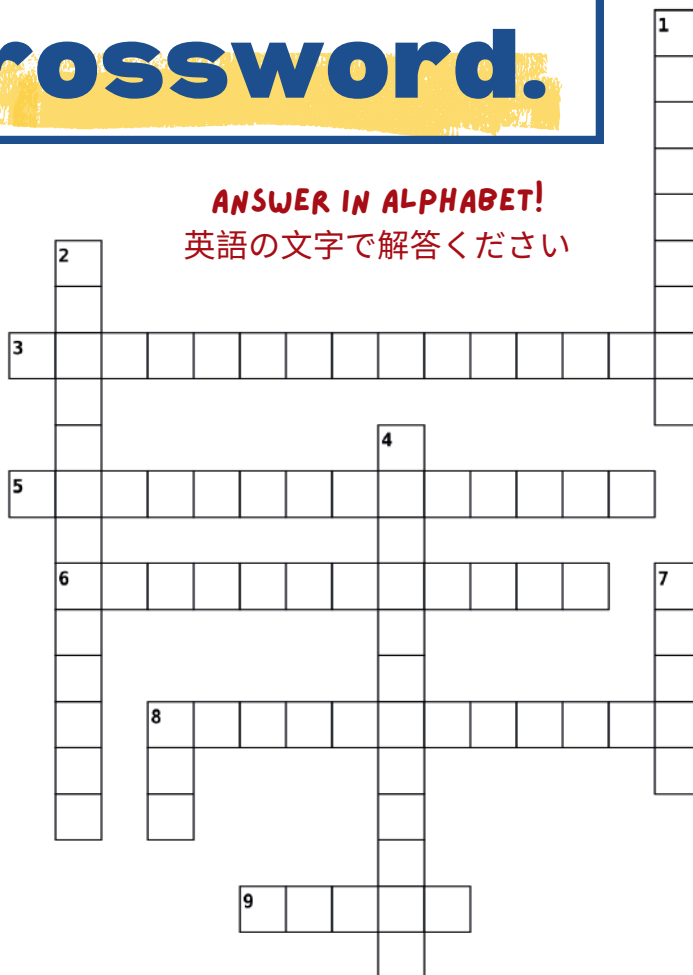


ALRCS crossword.

HORIZONTAL

3. Current president of APU
 5. Honor Society accredited by AACSB for business students
 6. Famous tourist spot in Beppu
 8. Honor prize and award in APU awarded to 5th and 8th semester students
 9. Student organization that supports students with academic learning resources
3. APU現学長
 5. AACSB認定の経営学部学生優等生協会
 6. 別府の有名観光スポット
 8. APUの5年生と8年生に授与される優等賞と賞
 9. 学生に学習リソースを提供する学生組織

ANSWER IN ALPHABET!
英語の文字で解答ください



VERTICAL

1. Country with the largest amount of international students in APU (2024)
2. APU CSM professor who enjoys jazz
4. APU Office that supports students with job hunting and internships
7. Name of the Library's magazine
8. Support desk that helps students with mathematics and analytics

1. APUに最も多くの留学生が在籍する国 (2024)
2. ジャズ好きのAPU CSM教授
4. 就職活動やインターンシップをサポートするAPUオフィス
7. 図書館の雑誌名
8. 数学や分析について学生を支援するサポートデスク



ALRCS quiz.

APS, APM or ST?

How much do you match each college? Find out in this quiz.

The answer may surprise you!

各学部とどのぐらいは合う? 今すぐ見つけましょう。

答えはびっくりされるようです!

Answer the following questions and count how many answers you get per category.

以下の質問に答え、カテゴリーごとに回答数を数えてください。

1. You think that Beppu is...

別府市とは...

- Rich in nature and tourist spots
豊かな自然と観光スポット
- A place with lots of potential for business growth
ビジネス成長の可能性に満ちた場所 ☺
- Great place to meet people from other countries
他国のの人々と出会う素晴らしい場所 ☆

2. You read the news and your first concern is:

ニュースを読んで、まず心配になることがある:

- The devaluation of the yen
円の切り下げ ☺
- Global warming
地球温暖化
- Corruption in politics
政治の腐敗 ☆

3. What do you think is most important to do after graduation?

卒業後に最も重要なことは何だと思いますか?

- Follow your passions!
情熱に従え! ☆
- Build up wealth and experience
富と経験を築く ☺
- Try to make a change in the world
世界に変化を起こそうとする

4. If all your travel expenses were paid, which Field Study would you like to join?

旅費が全額支給されるとしたら、どのフィールドスタディに参加したいですか?

- Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SOLVE)
- Bangkok, Thailand
ソーシャル・イノベーションと起業家精神 (SOLVE) - タイ、バンコク ☺
- Change sin Religion and Culture - Jeju, South Korea
罪の変化 宗教と文化 - 韓国・済州島 ☆
- Heritage Tourism in Rural and Urban environments - Spain, Portugal, Italy
農村と都市環境におけるヘリテージ・ツーリズム - スペイン、ポルトガル、イタリア

5. If you could have any superpower, which one would you like to have?

もしどんな超能力を持つことができるとしたら、どれを持ちたいですか?

- You are able to convince anyone
誰をも納得させることができる ☺
- You are able to heal any dead organism, and heal most illnesses
死んだ生物を癒し、ほとんどの病気を治すことができる
- You can travel in time and observe every major historical moment
タイムトラベルができ、あらゆる歴史的瞬間を観察することができる ☆

Each answer equals to 20% for one college.

Count how many answers you have per college, and calculate your final percentage!

それぞれの答えは、1つの大学の20%に相当します。

大学ごとに答えの数を数え、最終的なパーセンテージを計算する!

= ST / ☺ = APM / ☆ = APS

"After preparing 2 months for Tenkusai performance, we became closer to each other and created wonderful memories together."



"Christmas in Japan."

THIS IS OUR YEAR



*"Late night out, Beppuwan vibes 🌌
✨—an escape from reality."*



"こんにちは、剣道部です。私たちは剣を通じて国際交流も発展させています。入部をお待ちしています。Hello, we are Kendo Club. We are also developing international exchange through swords. We are waiting for you to join the club!"



“Fireworks at Beppu 夏祭り.”

We made it! Another year, another chapter closed. 🎆

Great job on making it through—whether it was smooth sailing or a wild rollercoaster, you did it. This year came with its challenges, victories, and everything in between, but through it all, we kept going.

A huge THANK YOU to this amazing community for the energy, creativity, and support that made this year what it was. You showed up, worked hard, and made an impact in ways big and small. That’s something to be proud of.

So here’s to us—surviving, thriving, and making it through another year. Wishing you all rest, joy, and new adventures ahead! 🍀

See you in the next one!

お疲れ様です



SHINN.
DESIGNER



CLAUDIA
DESIGNER



TRISHA.
JOURNALIST



SOFI.
JOURNALIST

Activity	Level
Watercolor	High
Drawing	Medium-High
Creative Writing	Medium
Baking	Medium-Low

MOE.
DESIGNER

Activity	Level
Listening	High
Singing	Medium-High
Sketching	Medium
Motivation	Medium-Low
Cleaning	Low

FOCUS TEAM
フォーカスチーム

SHUNSUKE
JOURNALIST

Activity	Level
Talking	High
Singing	Medium-High
Cleaning	Medium
Wasting time	Medium-Low

MARIA.
DESIGNER

Activity	Level
Design	High
Cleaning	Medium-High
Nihongo	Medium
Petting dogs	Medium-Low

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