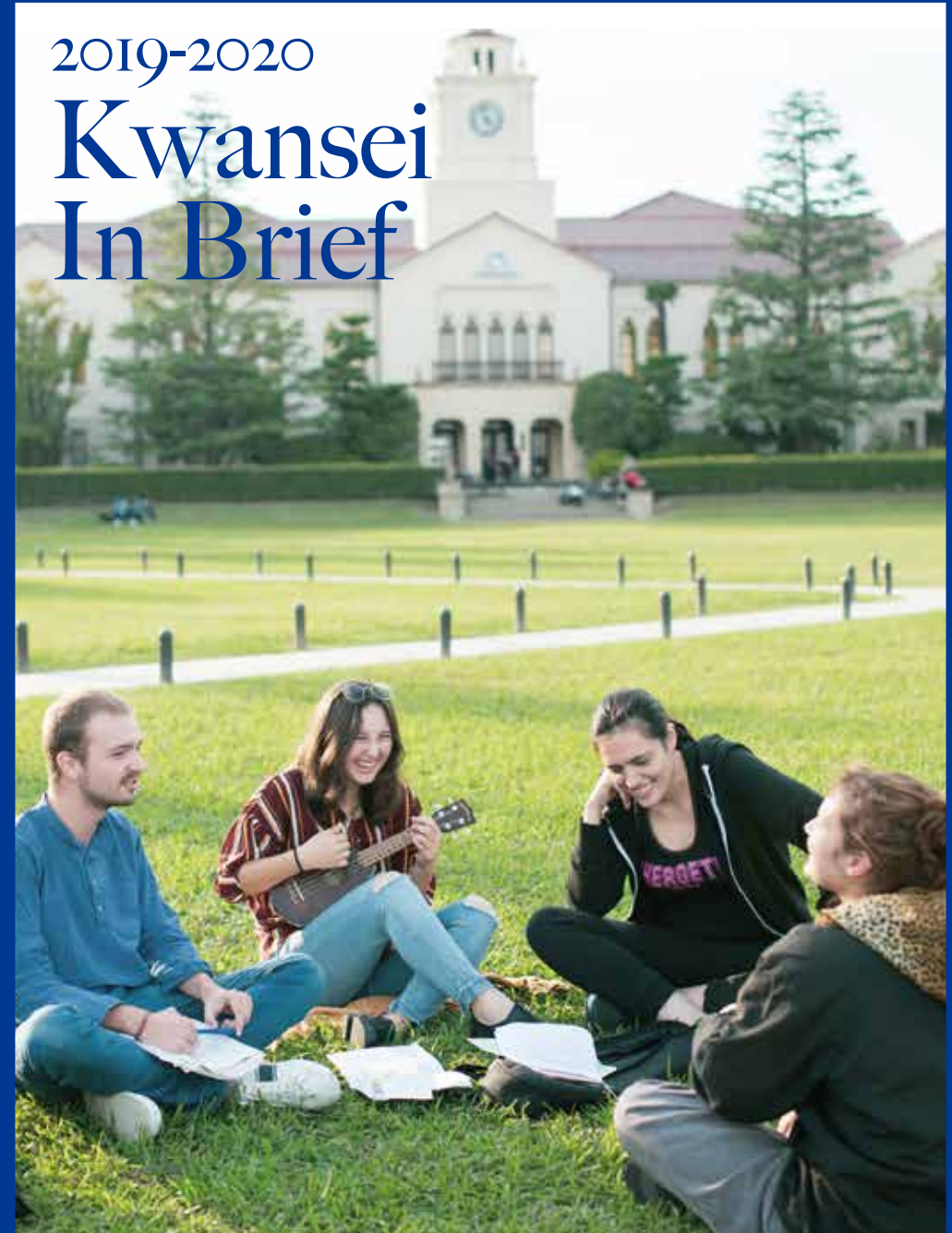


2019-2020

Kwansei In Brief



KWANSEI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY

Homepage: Search for "Kwansei Gakuin University"

Instagram: @kwanseigakuinuniversity

Twitter: @KwanseiGakuin

General inquiries:

Kwansei Gakuin Public Relations Office

TEL: +81-798-54-6017

Center for International Education and Cooperation

TEL: +81-798-54-6115

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Kwansei Gakuin Clock Tower

Originally built in 1929 as the library for the Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus, the central clock tower now stands as a key symbol for all of Kwansei Gakuin. In 2009, it was designated as a Tangible Cultural Property by the Japanese government.



What is Kwansei Gakuin?

The history of Kwansei Gakuin dates back to 1889, when it was founded in Kobe as a small private school, and it has gradually grown in size and stature since moving to Uegahara in Nishinomiya in 1929. Kwansei Gakuin is now a comprehensive educational institution which offers an integrated education from kindergarten to graduate school, with eight campuses across Japan.

What is Kwansei Gakuin University?

Kwansei Gakuin University—colloquially known as Kangaku—is a private nondenominational Christian university in the Kansai region of Japan. As one of Kansai's leading private universities, KGU offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees to around 25,000 students in 40 different disciplines across 11 undergraduate and 14 graduate programs.

Setting a Course for the Wider World



In 2014, Kwansei Gakuin University was chosen to take part in the Top Global University Project. As one of the institutions at the forefront of efforts to internationalize Japanese higher education, Kwansei Gakuin serves as a hub for academic exchange. During the 2018 academic year, the university sent almost 1,900 students to study abroad, and also took in more than 600 international students from over 160 overseas partner institutions.



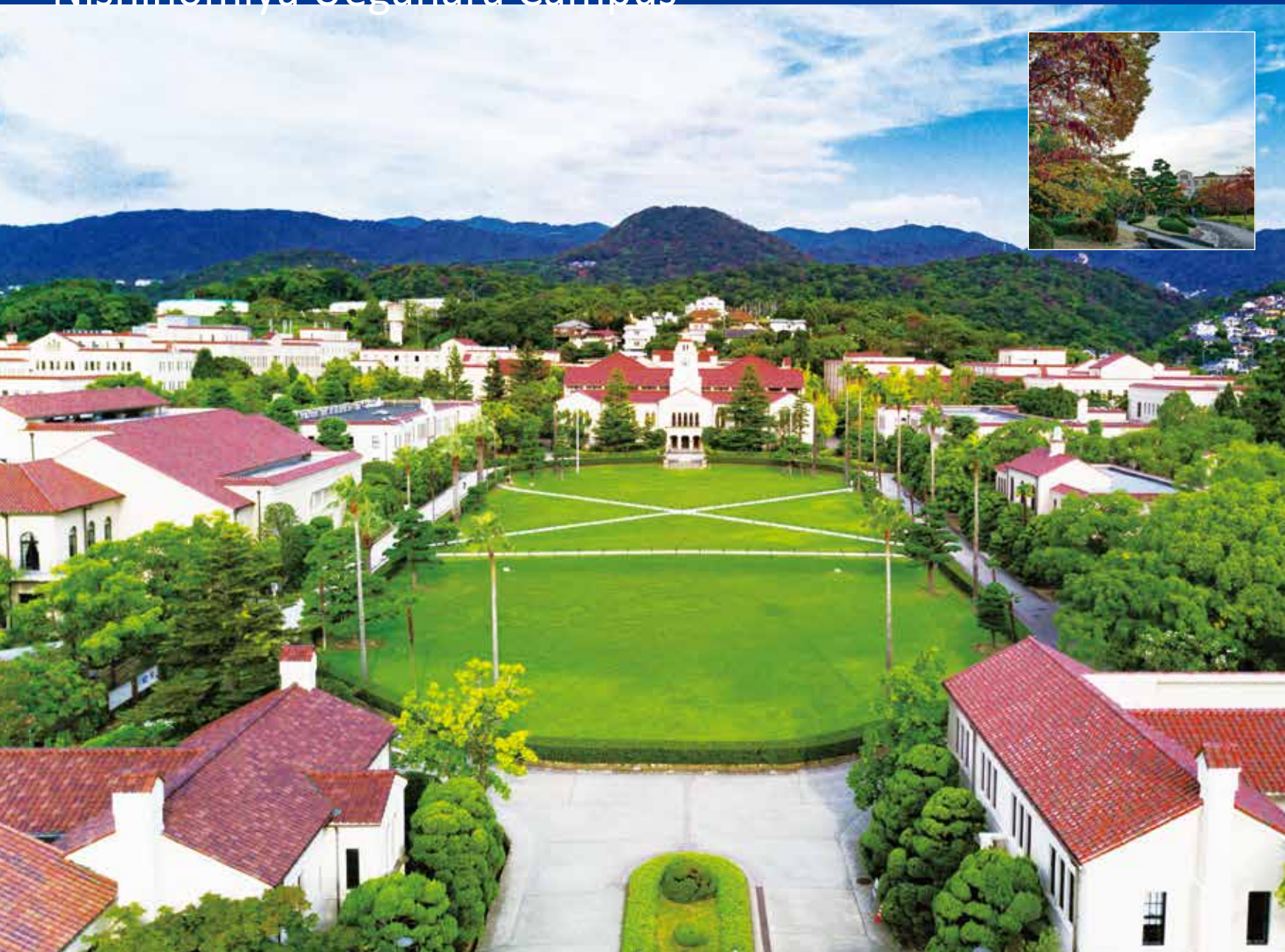
Where is Kwansei Gakuin?



Kwansei Gakuin University's main campus is located in the city of Nishinomiya in Hyogo Prefecture, which is under an hour away from the metropolitan areas of Kobe, Osaka and Kyoto. In addition, the university has campuses in the cities of Nishinomiya, Osaka, Sanda and Tokyo. As a comprehensive educational institution, Kwansei Gakuin also operates a kindergarten, an elementary school, a junior high school, a high school, two international schools and a junior college in the Kansai region.



Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus



Kwansei Gakuin University's main campus, the Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus, is located about halfway between Kobe and Osaka in the city of Nishinomiya. Inspired by Spanish Mission Style architecture, all of the campus buildings share the same distinct color scheme, with cream-colored walls and red roofs, and the Clock Tower stands at the center of one's view when entering through the main gate.

Renowned as one of the most beautiful university campuses in the entire country, the campus has maintained the idea behind its original design layout since 1929. The Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus won a Total Design achievement award from the Architectural Institute of Japan in 2017 for successfully preserving its fundamental architecture while simultaneously modernizing and upgrading its facilities.



School and Graduate School of *Theology*



School and Graduate School of *Humanities*



School and Graduate School of *Sociology*



School and Graduate School of *Law and Politics*



School and Graduate School of *Economics*



School and Graduate School of *Business Administration*



School and Graduate School of *Human Welfare Studies*



School and Graduate School of *International Studies*



Graduate School of *Language, Communication and Culture*



Institute of *Business and Accounting*





The environmentally friendly Kobe-Sanda Campus (KSC) is located in the idyllic city of Sanda, about an hour to 70 minutes from the Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus via shuttle bus. As the home of the School of Policy Studies and the School of Science and Technology, KSC is equipped

with excellent facilities for advanced research activities, making it a hotbed for innovation. The KSC buildings share the same architectural style as the Nishinomiya Uegahara campus buildings, and their red roofs form a pleasant contrast with the lush green surroundings.

Nishinomiya Seiwa Campus



The Nishinomiya Seiwa Campus houses the School of Education, Seiwa Junior College, and the Kwansei Gakuin Kindergarten. The air at this campus is constantly filled with the laughter of children, as students train to become childcare professionals, kindergarten teachers, school teachers, and graduate students in pedagogy.

Nishinomiya-Kitaguchi Campus



The Nishinomiya-Kitaguchi Campus, which opened in April 2019, is home to the Kwansei Gakuin University Law School. Conveniently located directly next to Hankyu Nishinomiya-Kitaguchi Station, the campus also houses the Crescent School, an facility that provides after-school learning support for elementary school students.

Other University Campuses



Osaka Umeda Campus



The Osaka Umeda Campus is on the 10th and 14th floors of the Applause Tower, a short walk from the central stations of Osaka City, such as Hankyu Umeda Station, the Umeda subway station, and JR Osaka Station. In addition to holding Institute of Business and Accounting courses, as well as numerous graduate school classes for working people, the Osaka Umeda Campus offers support services for lifelong learning and student job placement.

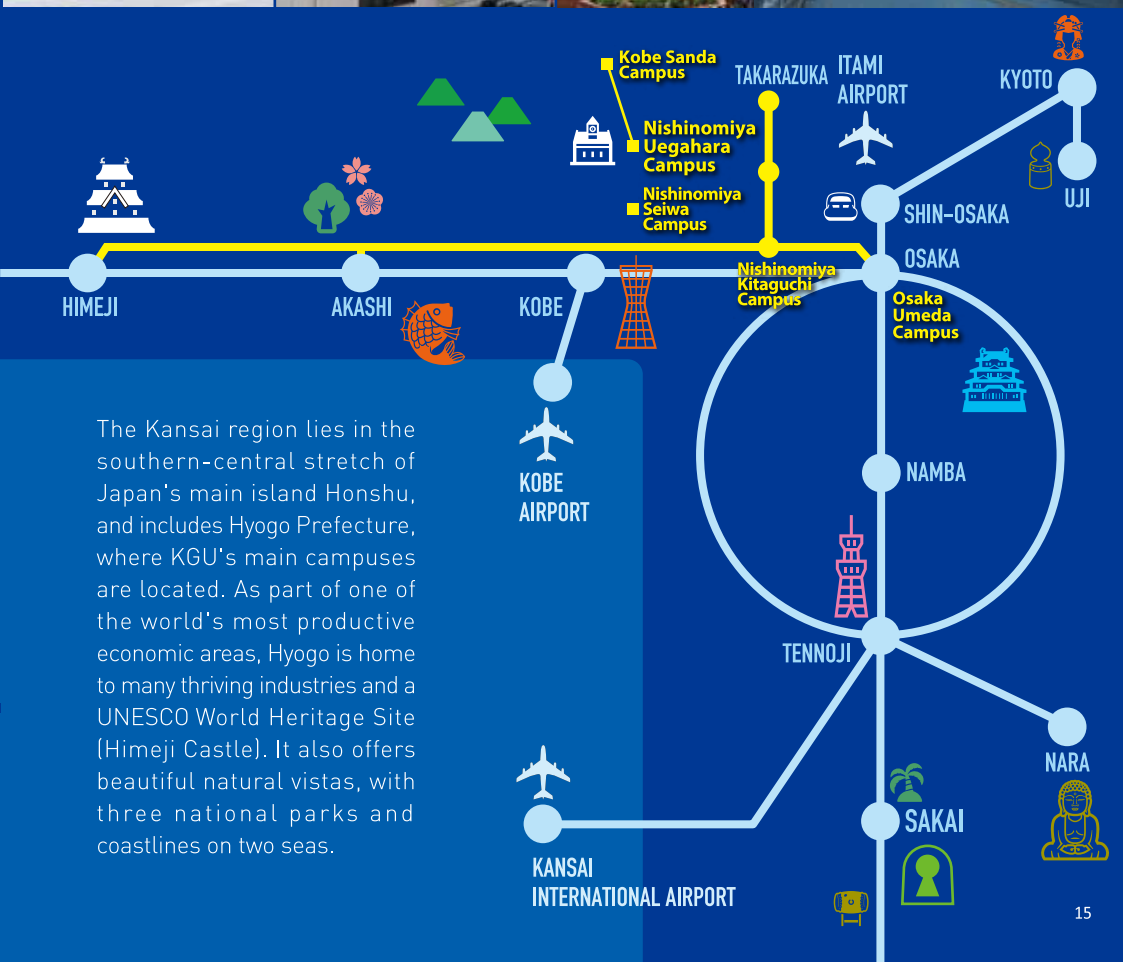
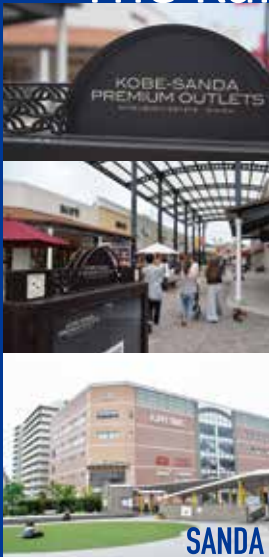


Tokyo Marunouchi Campus



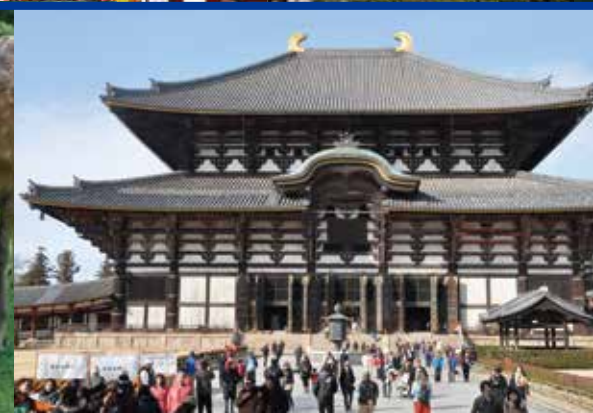
The Tokyo Marunouchi Campus is on the 10th floor of the Sapia Tower, located directly beside Tokyo Station, and serves as a base for job placement support services in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The Campus also provides various opportunities for learning and growth that utilize the intellectual resources of the university, and is used as a venue for a wide array of activities, including academic conferences and research group functions.

The Kansai Region



The Kansai region lies in the southern-central stretch of Japan's main island Honshu, and includes Hyogo Prefecture, where KGU's main campuses are located. As part of one of the world's most productive economic areas, Hyogo is home to many thriving industries and a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Himeji Castle). It also offers beautiful natural vistas, with three national parks and coastlines on two seas.

The Kansai Region



Campus Calendar

The Japanese school calendar begins in April and ends in March.



4 April

Cherry blossom trees are planted on the road to the Clock Tower



7 July

The Uegahara Campus is notable for its vibrant scenery in the summer



10 October

In the fall, the trees on campus turn brilliant shades of red and gold



1 January

The KGU Fighters have won 29 national titles in American football



5 May

School of Education students decorate the campus paths in the spring



8 August

Local animals often make appearances in the Japanese garden



11 November

Shingetsusai, the annual school festival, is a fall highlight



2 February

International students studying for a full year at KGU can take intensive courses in February



6 June

Various cultural events are held during International Student Week



9 September

The Fujita Global Lounge is a hub for language learning and making friends



12 December

Christmas tree lighting ceremonies are held in December



3 March

New graduates have a stellar employment rate of over 99%

Two Study Tracks and a Wide Variety of Elective Courses



The Contemporary Japan Program is specially designed for incoming exchange students. Exchange students are offered a choice between two study tracks, the "Japanese Language Track" and the "Modern Japan Track" that will define the main focus of their time at KGU.

Exchange students can also select elective courses to learn more about contemporary Japan from a variety of perspectives, such as language, culture, society, economics and politics.

Homestay and Dormitory Options



KGU offers two accommodation options for exchange students: homestay and dormitory, and will do its best to place each student in an accommodation of their preference.

Classes Offered Over the Winter Intensive Period (February to March)



Exchange students who study for a full year from the Fall Semester to the Spring Semester will be enrolled in classes during the Winter Intensive Period, which takes place for approximately four weeks from February to March.



CHA ZHI WEI (VANESSA)
University of Canterbury, New Zealand
Japanese Language Track



Why did you choose to study at KGU?

I came here on vacation with my family five years ago, and when I chose my exchange destination, KGU was my first choice because I really wanted to come back and experience life in Kansai. There are also a lot of programs that Kangaku offers, and when I heard from my other friends who did their study abroad at KGU, it sounded really fun.



Where are you living now?

I'm staying with a host family in Itami City. My host family is really kind and I like them a lot. They helped me with adapting to Japan, and they're understanding of my situation, and very open-minded. We always speak in Japanese too.

Did you study Japanese before you came?

I studied Japanese for two years, but I realized when I came that my level was not as proficient as other people who have studied for less time. I'm in the level 3 of the Japanese Language Track, and I think it's an appropriate level for me.

What's your favorite Japanese phrase?

"Naru hodo." ("I see.") If you get what someone's saying, you can say "naru hodo," and even if you don't get it, you can just say "naru hodo" anyway. (laughs)



Advice for you

As a KGU student, I would say to always check information so you don't miss out on things. Be as open as you can. Coming to a new country, it might be hard to make friends, and there might be cultural differences, but come with an open mind and share your experiences. Also, talk to the Japanese students, even if your Japanese isn't very good, because they will help you improve a lot. When I was in NZ, I think I wasn't proficient enough, but Japanese students at KGU have helped me so much.



[Daily schedule on class days]

6:30 Wake up and get ready for school
7:40-8:40 Commute to KGU from Itami City
9:00-12:40 Attend morning classes
12:40-13:30 Eat lunch at Big Mama/Big Papa with Nihongo Partners
13:30-18:20 Attend afternoon classes
18:20-19:30 Hang out with friends
19:30-21:30 Head back to host family's house, have dinner
21:30-23:30 Do homework, relax, get ready for bed



Big Mama

How will you take what you've learned here and apply it towards your future goals?

Since I'm doing a double degree for Law and Cultural Studies/Japanese, I've always wanted to be an immigration officer in an embassy. When I go back to NZ, I want to either work in the immigration sector or in the embassy helping NZ-Japan relations. In my city, Christchurch, we used to have a lot of Japanese people living there, but after the earthquake, many people left. Now Christchurch is rebuilding, so I want to help promote New Zealand and get Japanese people to come and visit.

Why did you choose KGU?

I wanted to escape the crowds of Surabaya, the second largest city in Indonesia, and enjoy daily peaceful life. That's why I chose to go to Nishinomiya. Also, when I looked for KGU on the Internet, I was surprised to see that it was quite high on the university rankings in Japan, even compared to universities in Tokyo.

How are classes in the Modern Japan Track?

At my home university, I'm taking International Business Management, so I'm taking classes like international economics and management, but here we do more about analyzing business-government relationships, how history affects culture, stuff like that. It's more about increasing knowledge, rather than skills.

How will you take what you've learned here at KGU and apply it towards your future goals?

Here at KGU, most of the things I learned were about Japan in terms of politics and government relations. As someone studying business management, it was really useful because we didn't learn much about Japan specifically back in Indonesia, it was more of a global focus. Integrating all of this knowledge will be useful, not just for implementing them in a management sense, but for innovating with businesses in Indonesia, and continuing to improve myself.



When I'm not doing my assignments in the library, I hang out in the Global Lounge with my friends.



I'm Catholic, so on Sundays I go to church.



I go around the city by myself or with friends.

Advice for you

Learn some of the language. Life here is really short, so work to make friends. You want to maximize your time here in Japan, not just to have people to talk to, but to form strong relationships even after your time here is over.



[Daily schedule on class days]

9:00 Get up
9:00-10:30 Take a bath, do laundry, eat breakfast, get ready for school, head to campus
11:10-12:40 Go to morning class
12:40-13:30 Eat lunch at Big Papa
13:30-18:20 Go to afternoon classes, hang out with friends on campus
18:20-20:30 Do homework in the library, attend GS events if there are any happening
20:30-22:30 Eat dinner, head back to the dorm
22:30-00:30 Relax at the dorm, get ready for bed



Big Papa has really great food. The menu is different every day, so there's always this mysterious feeling, like, "Oh, there's something new!"

VINCENZIO EVAN SIEMON
Petra Christian University, Indonesia
Modern Japan Track

