

Things to bring from home	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
bring lots of comfort foods, some kinds of snacks are hard to find here in Japan	Female	Australia	Australian National University	1semester
Fluffy pillows! The one pillow provided in my dorm was stiff and hard to sleep on. Also towels for the shower. And some hangers for the closet. And laundry pods/detergent!	Female	U.S.A	Boston University	2semesters
●deodorant (the Japanese one is different) ●medicine you are used to ●all the beauty products you are used to	Male	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
Rain coat and waterproof shoes for the rainy season, but heavy rain coats won't do because it will be hot!	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
Here you can find mostly everything you need for your life. There are convenience stores opened 24 hours and also 100 yen shops that sell a huge variety of products. Bring the essentials from home and if you want bring some food from your country that you really like and that you think you won't find in Japan. If you are staying in a Keio Dormitory, it would be useful to bring your own router since not all rooms have one. Bring also basic medicines.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
Beauty products and adaptor for electronic device	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
If you want to have some products from home (coffee) I recommend to bring them because buying them in Japan is expensive	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
Tokyo is full of stores for anything so you don't have to worry if you forget stuff. But I would recommend bringing your own pillow, because the ones in the dorm are not really comfortable. Also if you are very tall, bring enough clothes/shoes, because big sizes are difficult to find.	Male	Germany	Darmstadt University of Technology	1semester
You should take some tissues and deodorant that are hard to find	Male	France	HEC Paris	1semester
I'd recommend bringing enough skincare, shampoo, deodorant etc. from home as these things are quite expensive here compared to Europe and personally, I have found it difficult finding things fitting my skin type here.	Female	Germany	Heinrich Heine University of Duesseldorf	2semesters
If you are used to having peanut butter at breakfast, bring it from home. It is extremely expensive in Japan.	Male	Canada	McGill University	1semester
Depending on where you stay (school dormitory/other accommodation), check what is provided so you can bring or buy what you will use on a daily basis. However, disposal might be a problem depending on the prefecture thus bringing stuff from home might be better.	Male	Singapore	Singapore Management University	1semester

Most stuff can be bought here, but if you have products of specific brands you don't want to miss, bring them yourself. Dont bring too much stuff, rather leave some space in your luggage coming here. This will give you room to bring back home the goodies you will undoubtedly aquire here ;) A button-down white shirt was helpful for me, and I was thankful for not having to shop for one here.	Male	Germany	Technical University of Munich	1semester
Bring your own toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, feminine care) because Japan will not have the same brands and the typical Japanese body type might not be the same as yours. If you have space, bring it from home!	Female	U.S.A	The College of William and Mary	2semesters
Japan is really convenient that you can easily find the drugs you need for everyday purpose.	Female	United Kingdom	The University of Manchester	2semesters
Try not to bring a lot of items. If you're coming for one semester (especially during summer) you could probably fit all your things in a small suitcase. Things like clothes and shoes can be bought in Japan as well. If you need any necessities convenience stores almost have everything so make sure you pack light! I recommend bringing old coat hangers so that you can leave them behind when you return. Depending on your dorm they might have a huge haul of free things that you can get from the previous exchange students that left things behind so be sure to get on that fast. Deodorant is also a very important thing to bring - in Japan it is really different so unless you want to take the risk I would recommend bringing dodorant from home. Also it is good to bring medicine from home as you might not know for certain what you are buying in Japan. If you play games, some dormitories have communal televisions. If you bring a HDMI cord you can connect your console and play with people from the dorm - it is a great way to make friends. It is also wise to bring things from your home country that reminds you of home. Photos, snacks, decorations and souvenirs. You'll definitely make friends in Japan and it is really nice to give people something from your home country!! Japan also has this luggage service called Kuroneko which can ship your suitcases to any airport before your trip. So if you have too many suitcases to hold when you return thats an easy solution.	Female	Australia	The University of Queensland	1semester
Girls don't have to bring too much clothes from home, not only because there are many cute clothes selling on a not so high price in Japan, but also Japanese girls has their own dress code, and if you are planning to blend in them or just do as the Romans do, you will want to buy a lot of clothes after coming.	Female	China	Tsinghua Univeristy	1semester

Basically everything can be bought in Japan, although some things will be more expensive or hard to get. Things to consider: - western deodorant - Cheese! Watch out for import restrictions - sunscreen is very expensive in Japan - Tooth brushes etc - Medication - if you're vegan, bring yourself stuff to support yourself! Japan is very vegan-unfriendly	Male	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
The most useful thing i brought from home are an adapter and distributor for my electronic gadgets. This saves you a lot of time early on and i never found a distributor with the right plugs for my devices. As other mentioned pack lightly, but not too light. Spring semester starts end of March where it really is still cold.	Male	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
Even if this sounds like simple advice: Bring the appropriate adapters for your devices and remember to check if your device needs a voltage protection and therefore you need an appropriate adapter, which is hard to find in Japan. For my laptop (Lenovo) I needed a different adapter than for my ipad, because the plugs have different connection systems. I couldn't use my hairdryer despite the voltage regulator. I heard something similar about razors. In addition, towels and sun cream are more expensive than in Germany. Furthermore, I would take a sufficient supply of deodorant with me, as many people did not impatient with the local deodorant, as it supposedly closes the pores too much. If you have to buy one on the spot, I recommend 8x4.	Female	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
Prepare for the unpredictable weather in Tokyo as summer can get really hot	Female	Singapore	University of Birmingham	1semester
I believe you can buy everything you need here. If you have some comfort foods from home you want to bring, then you should because its very hard to find those here. Everything else can be bought here at local marts and department stores (they are huge here).	Female	United Kingdom	University of Birmingham	
If you happen to go to Motosumiyoshi Dormitory, do not bring your own bed sheets!	Male	Germany	University of Bonn	2semesters
Japan does not have a lot of imported food so I would recommend bringing your favourite snacks and spices with you!	Female	Germany	University of Bonn	2semesters
Medicine. Bring your own medicine that you are used to taking back at home because it is super different!	Female	U.S.A	University of California	2semesters
Nothing really. Should you miss something from home you could always ask your friends or parents to post it to you.	Male	Sweden	University of Gothenburg	1semester

Don't overpack, I brought too many clothes and you end up buying stuff here	Male	U.S.A	University of Maryland at College Park	1semester
In my case bringing attire for the whole year was very useful. Because of the humidity, the weathers tend to feel more extreme in both hot and cold conditions. So be sure you bring or buy enough clothes. If you live in a dorm, try not to bring too much stuff as housing here is way smaller than anywhere in the world so filling it up with useless things is not a thing I recommend as it can get crowded soon.	Male	Spain	University of Navarra	2semesters
your own medications. other than that, if you're staying at dormitories, especially plume IS, don't bother worrying!! there's soooo many things left by previous users that you can just freely take!!	Female	New Zealand	University of Otago	1semester
Do not bring too much from back home! You can usually get everything from here, except perhaps for very potent deodorant, which you can only order from Amazon.jp.	Male	United Kingdom	University of Southampton	2semesters
Make sure to bring a bit of money as you will need it from the first moment. If you want to use a credit card, make sure to bring VISA, Master Card doesn't work sometimes. Make sure to bring enough Deo, as they are apparently not strong enough here. Bring some small souvenirs that you could give to your friends and Japanese people if you are invited.	Female	Switzerland	University of St.Gallen	1semester
Depending on your preferences, I would definitely bring the favorite cosmetic items, since here they might not be sold or significantly more expensive (like in the case of natural products). Also for ladies: if you have pale skin, bring a supply of your favorite foundation because most of the ones sold in Japanese drugstores come only in darker and warmer shades :)	Female	Poland	University of Warsaw	1semester
Deodorant	Male	U.S.A	Western Michigan University	1semester
You really don't need to bring a lot of clothes from your country. You're gonna buy a lot in Japan. And if you have sensitive skin, I recommend you to bring some of your cosmetics like toner, lotion and cream.	Female	Korea	Yonsei University	1semester
Almost anything is accessible here, so if you are not sure whether you should bring something, don't bring it.	Female	China	Zhejiang University	1semester

Finding an apartment (excluding Keio dormitory)	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
I suggest the share houses of Borderless house! Great people, good structures and a lot of possibilities to practice the Japanese language!	Male	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester

I used Oakhouse and Tokyosharehouse.com but if you can, come to Japan first, maybe stay in a hostel for a bit and make sure you check the room first! There's plenty of availability but sometimes the photos don't really match the truth ;)	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
I decided to live in a share house in Omori: it was really close, so convenient but I didn't have a pleasant experience living there. We were 29 people and it was really dirt and not optimal for a student. I'd recommend to choose a smaller share house, with a maximum of 10 people or to live in one of the dormitory provided by the university.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
It's very difficult to find an apartment, but if you don't want to stay in a dormitory I think the best solution is searching a share house.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
Fontana company was very helpful, they have accommodations you can rent with a couple of other friends at a convenient price.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
websites made for foreigners looking for apartments in Japan have very high rent (much higher than average). instead of going to these websites, consider looking for a sharehouse or ask a friend to help you look at a website made for Japanese people looking for an apartment (ex. Suumo)	Female	U.S.A	Dartmouth College	1semester
You can go on Oakhouse the website is easy and you can trust them, nice apartments, a bit expensive but easy to rent, no deposit and you can be in the heart of the city.	Male	France	HEC Paris	1semester
Look for "Shinkoiwa DK House". Closer to Tokyo and less expensive than Keio dormitories	Female	Italy	Italian Institute of Culture	2semesters
Though it may not be the cheapest option, I strongly recommend living in one of the dormitories provided by Keio. It is safer, easier and you can get help from people around you.	Female	Korea	Seoul National University	1semester
The dormitories are all located around Hiyoshi Campus, but as Keio International Program Student you will most likely go to Mita Campus for lectures. Knowing this I decided to go for a Sharehouse (by the company Oakhouse) and lived in Ueno. For the same price I got a very small room but was "inside" Tokyo and even had really useful trains nearby to get around. Their site is very intuitive and they have nice English speaking support. It takes a bit of luck though, to get lively flatmates. The only downside is, that if you want to attend sports circles they are mostly all in Hiyoshi.	Male	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
Find apartments within walking distance of the campus so expensive transport fees can be saved	Female	Singapore	University of Birmingham	1semester

It is not easy at all finding a self-accommodation by yourself here in Japan and the costs are very high as well so if you do prefer getting a place by yourself it would be much better start preparing earlier.	Male	United Kingdom	University of Birmingham	2semesters
If you stay for a longer period, consider looking for your own flat, since rules in some Keio dormitories prohibit bringing visitors, and there is cheaper accommodation available in central locations	Male	Germany	University of Bonn	2semesters
Find a share house online or via friend in Japan. It is cheaper and more convenient location wise.	Female	U.S.A	University of California	2semesters
try Social appartement groupe, they have good appartement with nice sharing spaces .You can meet a lot of japanese and also foreigners people.	Female	Switzerland	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	2semesters
Finding your own place will be the best option since the dorms are expensive for what you get. Note that the dorms also lies 40-55 min from Mita campus and travel fare will be quite high.	Male	Sweden	University of Gothenburg	1semester
Finding an apartment could seem very difficult. I asked Sakura House. It is a very good and easy realtor. The staff is foreigners friendly and speaks english and several other languages. It is a bit expensive but if you take a flat with a friend, you could low the rent to the price of a dorm for each.	Female	France	University of Paris 1 - Pantheon-Sorbonne	1semester
Tokyo offers a huge variety of share houses. Check out the Tokyosharehouse.com.	Male	Switzerland	University of St.Gallen	1semester

Visa	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
出来るだけ早めに申し込んでください。	Female	China	Beijing Normal University	2semesters
It is easy to have a Visa when you are French, you only have to go twice to the Japan Embassy and with the papers of Keio University it is very simple. Then you will receive a resident card at the ward office that you must have with you at any time, especially when you are travelling outside of Japan.	Female	France	HEC Paris	1semester

Insurance	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
You have to get NHI when you register your residence.	Female	U.S.A	American University	1semester
You can pay the NHI at the end of your trip at the konbini with no supplement.	Female	France	HEC Paris	1semester

For those who exchange from fall semester to spring semester, you're gonna cross their fiscal year. Therefore you have to file your income in March to get cheaper insurance fee as you would pay in fall semester.	Female	Taiwan	National Taiwan University	2semesters
The health insurance here is very easy to use so I do recommend using medical services both at small clinics and hospitals during your stay here.	Male	United Kingdom	University of Birmingham	2semesters
Abuse the internship and go see dentists, optometrists, doctors, anything as much as possible. Even chiropractic appointments get deducted with insurance.	Male	U.S.A	University of California	2semesters
If you don't speak Japanese, it's better to go to the ward with Japanese speaker so the whole process would go more smoothly. Also, don't forget to mention that you are an exchange student (I showed only my visa and passport, student ID wasn't necessary) and didn't have any previous income in Japan, so you'll get a significant discount.	Female	Poland	University of Warsaw	1semester

Obtaining/using mobile phone	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
GTN mobile in ShinOkubo has great deals for people who are staying short term!	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
During my period of staying in Japan I didn't buy a Japanese sim card nor a pocket wi-fi. In doing so I saved a lot of money and I had no problem without internet on my phone: you can easily find free wi-fi at conbini and train station. I travelled to Hiroshima, Kyoto and Kobe and still I had no problem moving around: you just have to search for the train information that you need prior leaving your house.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
I booked online a Japanese Sim Card before coming here and I picked it up at the airport. It was very convenient since I could activate it and use it from the first day. Otherwise there are many shops where you can purchase a Sim Card (ex: BIC Camera) Before coming, make sure that your Sim is not locked and that you can use a Japanese one.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
If you can read a little bit of Japanese and don't need internet every second of your life, you can survive with the wifis that around Tokyo... At the conbinis, in the train (most of them have it), at uni, in your dorm, at cafes. So you wouldn't need to buy any mobile sim.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
GTN mobile offers convenient plans for a short stay. I would recommend it .	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester

You can have a Japanese mobile subscription if you speak Japanese (or if you have a friend who speaks Japanese), it is much cheaper and on the long run (tourists subscriptions are only for one month and are limited and expensive).	Female	France	HEC Paris	1semester
Take a sim card at docomo it will not cost you a lot.	Female	France	HEC Paris	1semester
I have used the M package by YMobile. It is a bit expensive being abt 3000 Yen/month but it works really well, I never had problems with mobile internet. And you can always downgrade to package S which is around 2000 yen.	Female	Germany	Heinrich Heine University of Duesseldorf	2semesters
Many of my colleagues survived only with data. But trust me, you will need to call someone eventually and will need a telephone number. So go to Bic Camera and sign a contract. If you don't speak Japanese go to Shinjuku or Shibuya, there will be someone who can speak english	Female	Italy	Italian Institute of Culture	2semesters
If you are staying only for one semester, it might be better to get prepaid SIM for 6 months or less because most of Japanese telecom companies require one-year contract and you have to pay penalty if you use it less than 12 months. But if you are staying one year, I highly prefer to get "Kakuyasu SIM" which is cheap. You can get mobile phone number which is needed for many different occasions.	Female	Korea	Korea University	2semesters
I recommend getting a Sim card with data and phone number. Will be useful if you want a bank account or will be ordering stuff to your place of residence. If you are not home when they deliver you will have to call to schedule a new delivery time.	Male	Canada	McGill University	1semester
I recommend line mobile, because plans offered free data when using social media apps. In additon, you can get it at Bic camera easily.	Female	Taiwan	National Taiwan University	2semesters
I got my SIM card after one month in Japan. At the time, iijMio had a promotion going on which essentially waived the setup fee (usually around 3000 yen) and the monthly fee was only 980 yen, which is the cheapest contract I have heard of in my time here. Be sure to bring your credit card, as you won't be able to make a contract without it!	Male	Germany	Technical University of Munich	1semester
You really only need the phone for wifi in Japan so choose whichever is cheapest (pocket wifi or sim card). You can still makes calls through Apps on pocket wifi so if that is cheaper go with it.	Female	U.S.A	The College of William and Mary	2semesters

If you only want to use data on mobile phone, and if you just stay in Japan for one semester, I think you can rent a mobile WiFi on rakuten in a rather low price, at least lower than joining in a plan in softbank or something. I rented one on rakuten for 20, 000Yen for 4 months' use. I used online site because there was no 4 months plan for rental mobile WiFi in companies such as softbank and docomo. They have just plans for 6 months or more .	Female	China	Tsinghua Univeristy	1semester
Mobile phone contracts be acquired at stores like BIC Camera or online. You can also get Travel-Sim-Cards there, but they are about twice as expensive. Watch out for high cancellation or contract fees! I used JPSmart. Japan has great network coverage, you will hardly encounter issues in Tokyo.	Male	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
I didn't have any trouble using my cell phone. Many American students had to buy a new mobile phone. I just went to a Big Camera Store. There they tried out which card worked in my device and made me a cheap, always cancelable offer, which I was very happy with throughout my stay. Many fellow students did the same as me and reported similar things.	Female	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
Arrange getting a mobile phone in your home country before you arrive in Japan, it is such a big hassle in Japan (if you don't speak Japanese), like everything involving paperwork.	Female	Netherlands	University of Amsterdam	1semester
Get a SIM-card at either BicCamera or Yodobashi in Shibuya or Shinjuku. Their shops have staff who can speak English. They also have data-only sim-cards without a phone number which is more than enough to get around when relying on SNS. Unless you want to get a job while you are in Japan. Then you need a Japanese phone number.	Male	Switzerland	University of Bern	1semester
A lot of people will tell you that you can get a SIM card from Bic camera. I advise against it. For me, personally, I felt safer with an actual phone number that can be used to call/receive texts (esp when buying things online with my credit card, needing the confirmation text). Hence, I found this company, Mobal, that lets you get a SIM card with a number, which I still found affordable. Sakura mobile works too. You can pick up the Mobal SIM card at a lot of locations including airports and Shibuya. I would also advise buying a data SIM card at your home airport before you arrive (my home country does offer it), so you don't have to find your way to the mobile booths at the airports.	Female	United Kingdom	University of Birmingham	
Get a simcard with phone number, because you need phone numbers to register for anything in Japan.	Male	U.S.A	University of California	2semesters

I can recommend to purchase a SIM Card of the phone company MOBAL since their service is very foreigner-friendly, it has flexible ways for payment and there is no fee to end the contract.	Female	Germany	University of Cologne	2semesters
go to BIC CAMERA, easiest and quickest way to get a SIM card and good phones'prices	Female	Switzerland	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	2semesters
Simcards are great but I got a pocket wifi and that has worked great	Male	U.S.A	University of Maryland at College Park	1semester
A company called sakura mobile has easy english service to get access to a mobile plan!	Male	Canada	University of Montreal	2semesters
It is completely possible to live in japan for a few months without buying a japanese phone or paying data for internet or telephone plan. There is free wifi in lot of places. In the university, at your dorm or flat and in all convenient stores. You will need internet access mainly for maps. You can also save your trip on maps before you leave a place. You won't need any telephone plan because you can join your family and friends with internet : Hang Out (Gmail), Skype, Whatsapp, Line... Line is the japanese style for chat !	Female	France	University of Paris 1 - Pantheon-Sorbonne	1semester
If all you need is to access to internet with your phone, you should check out the prepaid SIM cards at any electronic shops (e.g. Big Camera).	Male	Switzerland	University of St.Gallen	1semester
You can get some kind of a contract at BIC CAMERA (BIC SIM), you have to register online and can cancel within one month. It's quite cheap compared to other SIM cards, make sure not to buy a travel SIM card.I paid around 3200 Yen for the first month, afterwards I paid 900 Yen for 3GB.	Female	Switzerland	University of St.Gallen	1semester

Managing money	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
7/11 convenience store does not charge for withdrawals.	Female	U.S.A	American University	1semester
keep in mind that your first few days are going to be overwhelming but do get the commuters pass for the subway, it will save you a lot of money. buying groceries is best if you are going to cook in large batches, and buying pre-made dinners from the supermarket as opposed to the convenience stores will save you money because the convenience stores, although eponymously convenient, are a little more expensive on average. also shopping doesn't need to be expensive, often there is a thrift store nearby the station and this can be a goldmine for good clothes for a way more competitive price.	Female	Australia	Australian National University	1semester

set and follow reasonable budget each week (for groceries/eating out/shopping/etc.) to ensure that you don't run out of money before the term ends!	Female	U.S.A	Dartmouth College	1semester
Try to pay the residence in cash because international payments are super complicated	Female	France	HEC Paris	1semester
Be sure to ensure you have enough money when planning for an exchange Transport: If you stay far, it would be useful to obtain a commuter pass. Especially useful when staying at a school dormitory. Meals: Usually around 600-1200yen	Male	Singapore	Singapore Management University	1semester
Make sure to plan out how much money you intend to spend per week for leisure purposes. Transportation costs are high in Tokyo, so make sure to allot extra cash for it.	Female	Canada	The University of British Columbia	1semester
The app Spendee was super useful for me to keep track of my finances, as well as see what areas I was spending the most money on. You can fix the exchange rate and set yourself budgets, amongst other things.	Female	Australia	The University of Queensland	1semester
Tokyo is really expensive and there are a lot of hidden expenses such as the subway. Therefore, if you don't want to spend too much you should have the best organization.	Male	France	Toulouse 1 University of Social Sciences	2semesters
Cash is key! Bring enough money in yen for the first few days at least!	Male	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
I would really advice to get some app to track your spendings and set a monthly limit for yourself. There are so many things you want to try out and buy. Also you will mostly want to travel around. There is almost no budget upper bound.	Male	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester
In the first month, I prepared an overview of what I spent on what. The cost of living is not cheaper than in Germany, but also not much more expensive. It all depends on how you want to live. The costs for the trains are extremely high, which is why I would always recommend to choose the accommodation according to the railway line.	Female	Germany	TU Dresden	1semester

If you are here for only one semester, it doesn't make sense to open up a bank account. It's such a long and complicated process. I opened one, so I could do automatic transfers to pay my rent. However, it took so long to open up the account (I already paid two months by cash by that time), that I ended up not using the automatic transfer since I would only use it for one month (since the last month that you move out has to be paid by cash). The single advantage of opening a bank account was that I didn't have to pay many transaction costs, only one time when transferring money to my home bank account to my Japanese bank account. But definitely don't open up the account for easy automatic transfers for your dorm, only open it up if you want to work here and you're really obligated to do it. If you decide to work in Japan, be careful about websites like hello-sensei, as they are more entertainment/dating oriented instead of really teaching a new language. Moreover, don't forget your working permit at the airport!	Female	Netherlands	University of Amsterdam	1semester
Bring more money than you think you will need. Especially at the beginning, you will spend more on things you need in either the dorm or the apartment you are staying at and also for the rent. Tokyo is expensive in general, but you can also find tasty and pricey food everywhere, you can use student discounts and buy stuff at a 100-yen store.	Male	Switzerland	University of Bern	1semester
As there is a huge variety of goods available here as shopping options, it could be very costly if you don't keep track of what you purchase.	Male	United Kingdom	University of Birmingham	2semesters
you do NOT need a bank account. I got an account at SMBC and I didnt use it. They only give you an ATM card not a debit so unless you really don't feel safe with keeping your cash in your room (in a locked drawer or suitcase), then you do not need a bank account. It is too much of a hassle (you have to go back to close it too).	Female	United Kingdom	University of Birmingham	
I have found it rather complicated to transfer the rent from my home bank, so if possible, try to have enought liquidity on your bank account to withdraw and pay the rent by cash (at least I found it easier)	Female	Switzerland	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	1semester
Withdrawing from 7-eleven ATMs was the best option for me.	Male	Sweden	University of Gothenburg	1semester
Save your money for trips and nights out	Male	U.S.A	University of Maryland at College Park	1semester
Save money by finding local easy to prepare meals, like tofu, nato or kimchi. The grocery store I was near gave a 50% discount on meals prepared in store everyday at 20h00h.	Male	Canada	University of Montreal	2semesters

Money is better exchanged in home country, be careful not to change it at the airports. This also applies if you travel from Japan to another nearby country.	Male	Spain	University of Navarra	2semesters
To have a bank account is a bit complicated and not very useful if you do not earn a scholarship. If you need to open one, go to the bank with a friend who talks fully Japanese. Otherwise, it is very easy to get money out of cash points in ATM in every 7eleven convenient stores. These ATM do not take any fee. So my advice is to see with your own bank if there is fees for changes of currencies and to adapt to that.	Female	France	University of Paris 1 - Pantheon-Sorbonne	1semester
I found that using budgeting apps on my phone works well - it helps to segment money into categories and prioritise what to spend it on. This being said, do not fret too much if you spend a lot early on; it's hard to get things going for a while.	Male	United Kingdom	University of Southampton	2semesters

Travel arrangements	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
Haneda is an easier airport if you live in a dorm in Yokohama.	Female	U.S.A	American University	1semester
Travelling in Japan is easy and the public transportation system is efficient. Taking the bullet train (shinkansen) may be expensive but I think that if you plan to travel to Hiroshima is necessary. Thought there are many more cheaper way to travel, so if you want to save money you'll be able to do it.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
When you arrive get an IC Card (Suica or Pasma): it is very convenient since you can upload money on it and it is cheaper than buying the ticket. I would also recommend to save some free time to travel around Japan or in the other Asian countries. The cheapest option to travel is night bus, but consider also flying since there are many low cost companies. Keio University also offers the possibility to purchase a student discount (called Gakuwari) to use for trains if you travel more than 100 km distance.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
I recommend taking a flight to Haneda instead of Narita. The flight itself is usually a bit more expensive, but you will save money in getting from the airport to your dorm/apartment. Also most flights to Haneda are faster.	Male	Germany	Darmstadt University of Technology	1semester
Travelling in Japan is quite expensive. Be careful to make your reservations well in advance to benefit from reductions notably on flights. For the golden week, try to go outside Japan, otherwise it is very expensive. Travel to South Korea or Vietnam is great !	Female	France	HEC Paris	1semester
For travelling to Osaka/Kyoto, I would take the highway bus as it is the cheapest option. However, it is important to book several weeks in advance or else, it will get very expensive/no seats will be left.	Female	Germany	Heinrich Heine University of Duesseldorf	2semesters

Since we are KEIO students, don't forget to get a "gakuwarisho" to buy discount shinkansen ticket.	Female	Taiwan	National Taiwan University	2semesters
CLASSES TO TAKE FOR OPTIMAL TRAVEL It would be more beneficial to try take classes on the same day - having a 3 or 4 day weekend is optimal if you want to travel Japan. Also consider taking first half/second half subjects. Classes that do not have final exams are ideal because you would not have to stay at uni during the exam week - you can travel then as well. SHINKANSENS Shinkansens are really expensive but you can get a student discount (Gakuwari) on the first floor of the South School building at Mita campus. Keep in mind that there are cheaper options such as night buses - but some might be the same price as a shinkansen. Make sure you compare prices!! If you have family visiting as well they can purchase a JR pass so that they can travel without fee through any JR line including some shinkansen. SUICA/PASMO + COMMUTER PASSES You can purchase a Suica while you are in Narita airport. They are excellent for travel purposes!	Female	Australia	The University of Queensland	1semester
It is expensive traveling on shinkansen in Japan, but rather cheap on subways. So I think you can first go to some places not so far from Tokyo. You can search on Yahoo or other sites to see where the Japanese like to travel to, there are many little but interesting scenery spots where the tourists choose not to go to because of their tense schedule. I think it is just right to go and see for us exchange students.	Female	China	Tsinghua Univeristy	1semester
Attention: check-out from Keio dorms are only during office hours, so do not plan to check out on week-ends! Try to organize your return flight accordingly (preferably when booking first flight so you dont have to change)	Female	Switzerland	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	1semester
If you plan on booking flights from Japan remember that there are two airports Haneda and Narita. Both incoming flights are usually more expensive than the outbound ones. If you live in Hiyoshi Haneda is about an hour away, but Narita, if you take the long inexpensive route can take up to 3 hours, so if you are incoming late at night be sure to prioritize Haneda.	Male	Spain	University of Navarra	2semesters
So as an exchange student you can't get the JR pass because you are considered to be a resident in Japan. during golden week, the prices for bus will be highly inflated and the shinkansen is just too expensive! so, please remember to apply for the Seishun 18 Ticket but it has to be applied for in advance! it's really helpful	Female	New Zealand	University of Otago	1semester

Internship/part-time job	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
Just forget to do part-time if you have less than an N2 level (true, not just the piece of paper). Even if you have don't give fore sure you will find one.	Male	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
If you want to find a part time job and you speak/read a bit of japanese, I would suggest you the website "baitoru.com"... there are so many options, especially for working in kitchen or as a waitress (if you can speak at least some Japanese). If you are considering on getting a part time job, you should start looking since the beginning, go to do some interview and it's done. It is necessary to open a Jpanese bank account, to get paid.	Female	Italy	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1semester
try finding an internship before you come to Japan to be proactive about job hunting! many companies like to see that you have had internship experience, especially if you want to work in Japan later. there are many online that you can apply for, and be sure that the timing of the internship lines up with your time in Japan. you can work up to 28hrs/week with a student visa.	Female	U.S.A	Dartmouth College	1semester
Get an easy part-time job. Some people chose jobs with bad hours that made life kind of difficult. Make sure to pick one that will fit with your classes and give you time to be with friends. In particular, English teaching jobs are always a good option.	Female	U.S.A	The College of William and Mary	2semesters
Find a Part-time job that helps you learn Japanese. In the normal student environment at Keio, you will have little exposure to Japanese.	Male	Germany	University of Bonn	2semesters
Only do this if you are in dire need of money. If not just enjoy Japan and don't waste time, unless the internship is paid	Male	U.S.A	University of California	2semesters
Internships are usually unpaid and very short in Japan so it is better to find a part time job if you want to make money. A lot of my friends including myself worked as an English tutor. It's easy and fun, and a lot of the times, they pay better than other part time jobs.	Female	U.S.A	University of California	2semesters
It is a good idea to fill in the required papers to get a permission to work before you get to the airport, because you can receive your permission to work straight away.	Male	Canada	University of Montreal	2semesters
You should check out the CareerForum.Net (CFN) if you plan on working in Japan.	Male	Switzerland	University of St.Gallen	1semester

If you don't speak good Japanese the best option for looking for part-time job would be craigslist. Despite its reputation, there are also real offers there for arbitro in e.g. restaurants. That's how I found my English speaking working place as well!	Female	Poland	University of Warsaw	1semester
You can teach English through flamingo	Male	U.S.A	Western Michigan University	1semester
If you want to find a job, start job-hunting as early as possible, especially when you only stay for one semester. Employers may turn you down if you are not able to work on a long-run.	Female	China	Zhejiang University	1semester

Others	Gender	Country of the home university	Home university	Period of study at Keio
中国の学生たちは辛い食べ物が好きな方が多いから、できるだけ辛い調味料を持って来るのは絶対正解です。	Female	China	Beijing Normal University	2semesters
What you don't need to bring from home: a fan, there's air conditioning in the dorms! Sheets: bedding sheets are provided.	Female	U.S.A	Boston University	2semesters
Advice on JLP: You might not get into the level you want to or expect to, but don't panic. It's a good program to work on your skills, so despite wanting to take certain classes don't worry about being in a lower level then you thought you might be in. In the end, I think it's the best for you, both developing skills and managing the workload, to be in the slightly lower level. You will probably thank yourself for not forcing yourself to be in a higher level.	Female	U.S.A	Bryn Mawr College	1semester
Trains: For getting a student commuter pass, make sure to know the best route from dorm/apartment to Keio before you actually get it. It's not easy to decide the best route while choosing classes, but consider the possibility of taking a class or working in another campus other than Mita. I ended up changing my route, and although you can change it, it is a bit of a hassle to do so. Yes, the trains are super crowded in the morning and evening. Just prepare yourself to go through it because you will have to definitely go through it during the evening hours. If you really cannot stand crowded trains, I suggest that you get an apartment that is walking distance from campus.	Female	U.S.A	Bryn Mawr College	1semester

If you want to speak Japanese and make some Japanese friends, go to Global Lounge in Mita campus. Although the events are not always well known, there are various kinds of activities happening there and the people are really nice.	Female	Korea	Seoul National University	1semester
Japan is relatively safe, but not always. I was pick-pocketed on a train full of people and lost important cards as well as cash, including my residence card, student ID and credit cards. Therefore you had better not put every important card or cash in one wallet and be careful at all times.	Female	Korea	Seoul National University	1semester
If you need to bring in any medication, even if it's supplements that you take, I would start the yakkan shoumei process as soon as you possibly can. Japan is very strict on what you can/can't bring, and you often need to provide a lot of reasoning as to why you need to bring certain things with you.	Female	Australia	The University of Queensland	1semester
If you are vegetarian/vegan/low fodmap/follow a special diet, and you heavily rely upon Western foods, I would recommend bringing them with you. For example, chia and quinoa seeds are super expensive here and sites like iHerb don't ship them to Japan. The same goes for things like natural nut butters.	Female	Australia	The University of Queensland	1semester
DORMITORY LIFE Keep in mind that if you are purchasing a return flight that it would be more beneficial to have a late flight on a weekday. Move out dates for dorms are only on weekdays so if your flight is on a weekend you have to find alternative accommodation. The morning can be spent in the move out process. Try to make friends fast in the dorm - you can buy things in bulk and share materials that you probably won't be able to finish by the time you leave. Things such as laundry detergent, ingredients for cooking (oil/soy sauce), toilet paper, toilet cleaners, brooms etc. Also some dorms do not have an oven so if you like baking you might have to reconsider staying at those dorms.	Female	Australia	The University of Queensland	1semester
Bycicle: The bycicles are awfull in tokyo cause they ride on the sidewalk.	Male	France	Toulouse 1 University of Social Sciences	2semesters
Learn some Japanese before coming to Tokyo if you haven't yet. It is easier to get around if you can at least speak some basic Japanese. You are fine with English at the University but everywhere else people will normally just talk in Japanse and maybe some basic English.	Male	Switzerland	University of Bern	1semester

To have more opportunities to make friends with Japanese students or practice your Japanese friends I would recommend joining one of the student clubs.	Female	Germany	University of Bonn	2semesters
For vegetarians and vegans it can be quite tricky to eat at a restaurant or buy food but there is a lot out there! Food at the supermarket usually has a label with the allergens it contains so I would recommend getting familiar with the names/kanji for those. Also be aware that none of the cafeterias at Keio (neither campus nor dorm) serve vegetarian/vegan options.	Female	Germany	University of Bonn	2semesters
BANK ACCOUNT: You'll receive a lot of information about how to open a bank account here but if you stay for just 1 semester, you really don't need to go through the hassle of opening and closing a bank account for only 4 months... So if you don't intend to work or receive a Japanese scholarship, don't do it! It's unnecessary, you can pay the rent by cash at the dorm office and it saves you a lot of time.	Female	Switzerland	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	1semester
Category: life in Japan Don't be surprised if everything at your local ward (I was in Kawasaki) is only Japanese, do not despair and count in enough time. Things will get done and even if they don't speak English, they are always very friendly :)	Female	Switzerland	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	1semester
If possible, try to study a bit of Japanese before as it makes it easier to communicate. But be prepared for a lot of communication difficulties in the beginning. But somehow it always works out as Japanese always try to help.	Female	Switzerland	University of St.Gallen	1semester
If you want to make many Japanese friends, you must join the club in Keio University!	Female	Korea	Yonsei University	1semester
Keep all the files and documents with extra care. If you are not sure whether some document should be kept, you'd better keep it.	Female	China	Zhejiang University	1semester