



Full name: Ofer Stern

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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: Keio Business School (KBS)

Exchange term: Fall 2018 (September – December)

Exchange Experience

I'm not gonna repeat the regular info you receive elsewhere. It hasn't changed much. Half of the summary can be useful for students going to Nagoya as well (starting from transport)

Visa CoE:

Embassy - You can set a date by Email or Phone a few days before.

If you want to travel **before school starts** (school starts around early sept.)

Note that there might be a delay in the CoE Visa, and for me for instance, it was sent from Japan on August 6th. It got to TA on 13.8, you need minimum 3 working days in the embassy. About details for completing the Embassy form: (they don't send it if you won't request for it, but it's him for years)

Guarantor and inviter: For me it was:

Professor Hirokazu Kono

Dean, Graduate School of Business Administration, Keio University

DOB: 22 April 1957

Nationality: Japan

4-1-1 Hiyoshi Kohoku-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 223-8526 JAPAN

Tel : +81-45-564-2441

School:

You have to take 4 courses minimum (up to 6). Each equals 1.5-2 points in TA, so you need exactly 4. You can choose from 7-8. There's not much of HW. there are class presentations (group or individual). Usually no exams. The last day of school (in the daily schedule) is usually the last day

you need to be in Tokyo, Although one of my classes was cancelled, and they postponed it after that day (so I missed that class) you can miss up to 3 classes. Half of the teachers are Japanese who doesn't speak much English (yes it's gonna be funny) .The other half are brought from outside so they kinda do what they want (you'll understand when you see it)

Dorms:

The building is old, really neglected. Don't expect much, Or Wi-Fi. There's LAN. You can buy a router and make your own hotspot. (around 20\$),or bring one from home. There's a small kitchen at the room, small refrigerator. Bigger one at the kitchen, and no one uses it. Out of 15 students in the program, 12 used the dorms. Its 12 mins walk from the campus.

Tip: bring or buy speakers for your room.

The dorms are empty. There are bed sheets, but no towel, TP, soap. you need to buy.

Campus:

there's a small kitchen there, with microwave. You'll be studying in 2-3 halls, all on the 4th floor.

Hiyoshi station (and mall): There's a Supermarket, and department stores. You can buy electronics (Sim Card, speakers) clothes.. there's a DAISO (everything in 1\$ = 100yen) shop at the end of the mall 2nd floor (beyond the electronics shop and the cafe shop)

Transport:

They give you a 20% discount vouchers. you can use for JR trains only if the destination is more than 100KM (yes they check it everywhere, its automatic). You can't use JR **pass** because you are a resident, nor can you fly cheap as tourist. I used [Willer Bus](#) - cheap overnight busses. Checkout the [japan bus pass](#) they got. Its super cheap. You can use busses 5-7 times (!) in 3 months whenever you want for 100-150\$ only (depends if weekends inc.) 1 shinkansen from Tokyo to Kyoto cost about the same. It also saves accommodation costs.

Time to Travel:

I used hostelworld and booking.com. Join the FB group 'יפן למטיילים'. Lots of great tips there. Check out festival dates and book the accommodation in advance (2 months in advance for Takayama festival) you can always cancel the booking later for free. Himeji festival is crazy go there! Most grand festivals will be in October - because that's after typhoon season, and best time to see the amazing autumn leaf colors as well. Check out the autumn leaf forecast - this is most important when visiting Nikko.

Overall:

August - Hokkaido and north part. Elsewhere will be humid and hot.

September I would suggest being flexible with travel plans. Typhoons may ruin them.

October is best for visiting Alps, Kyoto area, Nikko, Hiroshima, Shikoku

November - Kyoto Area, Hiroshima, Kyushu, Shikoku.

December - Beginning of Ski season

Japanese:

It's really helpful to read [Katakana and Hiragana](#). Try Duolingo or youtube.

I started around 6 weeks prior to departure and got around 50-60% of them. Its gone up to 90% now. Katakana is more useful for Japanglish. Katakana is used for names, and words that comes from English. And there are lots of them! It's a bit tricky at first but after a while you get used to it and it's Sugoi*. It's also fun like solving a riddle, and funny.

Here's one: コインローカー . KO I N Ro- KA- .

Ro = Lo [R and L sounds the same for Japanese]

So we got Coin Loka (locker) got it?

You can use coin lockers for your traveling bag in every station. Very useful!

2 other words you have to know in Japanese: Sugoi (awesome) and Kawaii (cute)

If it's your first time in Japan:

Anything you heard about Japan and the Japanese people are true! It's awesome and weird, Amazing and beautiful. Have fun!

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