



## Keio Business School- Tokyo, fall semester 2015



A unique combination between east and west ,Japan is an amazing country and spending 3 months in Tokyo is a once in a life time experience. The food, the culture and also, surprising as it may sound, the fact that English is not always the answer to get what you need. The Japanese people are super friendly and will literally get out of way to try and help you find what you are looking for, which compensate on lack on language. At one case one lady took off her train and rode one station to other direction just to help.

The exchange program in Keio business school is relatively short, fall semester has started in early September and ended by the end of November.



**Visa:** Unlike when visiting the country as a tourist, exchange requires to issue a student visa. Once you get acceptance letter from Keio, you will need to set an appointment in the [Japanese embassy](#) in Tel Aviv. The process takes about a week and this student visa will grant you a temporary resident status in Japan, which means you will need to be a member of the Japanese national health insurance (Our Kupat Holim). There is a min cost which you will need to pay: around 1200Yen/mo. Another implication is that the first few days requires some bureaucracy, as you need to register in your local ward (Similar to Misrad Hapnim).

**Housing:** Tokyo is one of the world's largest cities. And the most amazing one in my opinion. The Business school is located in a suburb called Hiyoshi, which is half way between Tokyo and Yokohama, and about 15 min train ride from Shibuya. I lived in a school housing facility in Hiyoshi. The KBS building, which is only for the MBA exchange has 13 single rooms and one shared apartment. Each room has its own toilet, shower, and small kitchen. There is a laundry room and a shared kitchen and even some kind of a movie room. Rent is 60,000 yen per month. Of course you can also choose to rent your own apartment or share it in town. Pricing vary based on neighbourhood and distance from station.



**Transportation:** Tokyo has super advance transportation systems with 3 different companies connecting the city, which is a bit challenging at first. Transportation is not cheap and costs are based on distance. There is no monthly pass, however, if you live away from the campus you can discount on this specific route.

**Courses:** The program only offers 6 English speaking courses when 4 is the minimum requirement for the exchange program in Keio, so there are not a lot of options. In my case I had 3 courses on Friday and another one on Tuesday so I had a lot of free time to learn Japanese, get to know the city and travel. Almost all the courses requires at least one presentation during the semester and of course, group work. Unlike what we are used to, during classes at Keio students sit with name tags, so you need to be prepared to have teachers approach you by name. English classes are very small and in many cases will be mostly with exchange students from the business school and other Keio programs.

**Scholarship:** in some cases the Japanese are offering the [JASSO scholarship](#), for 80,000yen/months for 4 months period. in order to get the scholarship you need to open a Japanese bank account, which was a funny experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email:  
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