

NEW CURRICULUM WINNERS AND LOSERS



This year, Hokusei Gakuen University introduced a new school curriculum. Students who enrolled in the university this year will start into this new curriculum. The purpose of the change this time was to make the goal of each course clearer so that stu-

dents can learn more effectively. However, the change has also caused some unpopular problems. According to the Student Support Office, the last time the university changed its curriculum was in 2013, and before that was in 2007. The purpose

of the change this time was to make the goal of each course clearer so that students can learn more effectively. Hokusei Times reporter Aoi Nakagawa digs deeper, however, and discovers the less popular sides of this change...

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Cryptocurrencies are digital currencies built with cryptographic protocols that make transactions secure and difficult to fake. The most important feature of a cryptocurrency is that it is not controlled by any central authority.

Also, by using cryptocurrencies, people can send

money to foreign countries cheaply and quickly so it's very useful and easy to use. Another important feature of cryptocurrencies is that the value fluctuates wildly.

That is, the money value (fiat currency value) of...

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DISCOVER JAPAN THROUGH HOKUSEI'S KYUDO CLUB

Many people don't know it, but there is a Kyudo club at Hokusei university. Kyudo club can be a great opportunity to experience the Japanese traditional culture. The Hokusei Times spoke to the Kyudo Club to get insight into the club and Kyodo. Kyudo is a type of archery, which uses a Japanese bow to shoot arrows at a target. Kyudo has a long history. It was developed as a military art towards the end of the Edo era to Meiji era. After the Meiji restoration, Kyudo changed from a military art to entertainment...

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THE DAWNING OF A NEW ERA



On May 1st 2019, the Japanese era changed from Heisei to Reiwa. Usually, the name of an era changes in Japan when an emperor passes away. However, this time, the previous emperor decided to do a living succession.

This is because he believes as long as he is emperor, he should fulfill his official affairs. At the age of 82, however, it became difficult for him to do so. In addition, the empress's physical condition was not good. Therefore, the previous emperor made up his mind to do a living succession.

WHAT DOES REIWA MEAN?

Reiwa has a deep meaning: "Just like blooms of Japanese apricot flowers announce the arrival of early spring, every citizen is able to make their flowers bloom widely with tomorrow's hope, and be the Japan that is possible."

Reiwa's source is Manyōshū (万葉集) which is the oldest extant collection of Japanese style song, Waka. Manyōshū was compiled sometime after AD 759 during the Nara period and in the Volume 5, there is a

THE ERA NAME, OR *GENGO* IN JAPANESE, IS PARTICULAR TO JAPAN AND IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. THE ERA NAME USUALLY CHANGES WHEN AN EMPEROR PASSES AWAY. THERE ARE 126 PAST EMPERORS IN JAPAN OVER THE LAST 2600 YEARS. RECENTLY, THE ERA NAME CHANGED.

song called "song of Japanese apricot flower" which is origin of the era Reiwa.

The song's content is about the announcement of the arrival of early spring with blooming of Japanese apricot flowers. In this song, there is a phrase "Rei month of early spring." Rei month means a happy month to do everything.

This time around, it was first time that the *kanji* Rei (令) was used for in the name of an era. All previous names of eras originally came from Chinese classics and it is first time that a Japanese classic was chosen as reference for an era's name.

ARE THERE ANY RULES TO DECIDE AN ERA NAME?

How are era's names decided? In Japan, there are guidelines for deciding on the name of a new era, with six conditions.

First of all, the name must have good meaning to citizens. Second, the name

must be structured with two *kanji*. Third, it has to be easy to write. This is because if the name is too difficult to write in *kanji*, citizens will have a hard time to remember the *kanji*.

Forth, it has to be easy to read. Similar to the third requirement, if it is too difficult to read, it's not good for citizens. Fifth, it has to be unique, having never been used as an era name before. This is because people will be confused if it was used as a name before; can you imagine two "Heisei eras?"

Lastly, it must not be currently used in daily life. This is because if the name of era is the same word as a word that is used in daily life, it would make people confused which word they are talking about.

THE ROYAL FAMILY

There are some countries that have kings or queens and other monarchs, but there is only country which has an "Emperor" and that

is Japan. In Japan, the emperor stands as a symbol of Japan and the Japanese citizens. The emperor system is the rule which makes the emperor's position clear on important issues in the constitution and law.

In 1889, the Japanese government wrote into the constitution that only a male can become emperor. Also, after World War II, Japan introduced another law that only people from a specific family can become emperor. This is a problem for the royal family, because the royal family is running out of male heirs.

The Reiwa emperor's only child, princess Aiko, is female. However, in the past, there were eight female emperors with the last one ruling about 250 years ago.

By the middle of 2000's, there were no males in the youngest generation in the royal family. In response to this, the Japanese government started to prepare for changing the law. At that time, however, Prince Hisahito was born and now, he is the youngest heir to the throne. Unless he gets married and has a son, however, there will be no more emperors in Japan.

In a few decades, Japan may have no choice but to change the emperor system to allow female empresses to reign. ■



KOTOMI KAKUMACHI

HOKUSEI'S FINANCIAL HEALTH CHECK

WE PAY TUITION FEES AT UNIVERSITY, BUT DO YOU KNOW HOW THAT MONEY IS USED? THE HOKUSEI TIMES DIGS INTO THE UNIVERSITY'S MONEY FLOW BASED ON OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES.

First, let's take a look at Hokusei's revenues. Hokusei's total revenue for 2017 was about 54 hundred million yen (about US\$49million).

The main source of income was student fees. To put it concretely, student fees mainly consist of tuition fees, enrollment fees, and fieldwork and experimental costs. Student fees accounted for more than 80% of total revenues in 2017.

The second biggest source of income was a grant paid to the university by the government. This grant accounts for eight percent of total revenues. It is provided for the improvement and maintenance of educational and studying conditions, as well as reducing the economic burdens of students and university finances. However, government grants are not guaranteed. For example, over capacity of enrolled students can cause a deduction of grants. Also, if schools are involved in a scandal, grants can be suspended.

On the other hand, colleges that work to improve their educational environments and curriculums can get more grants from the government. At Hokusei, the ratio of grants compared to other revenues was less than ten percent of total revenues. However, the grant accounted for more than 90% of Hokusei's total profits. This means that

without the grant, Hokusei could not get enough profits.

**HOKUSEI'S
FINANCIAL
SITUATION IS
HEALTHY FOR
NOW, BUT HOW
ABOUT THE
FUTURE?**

ABOUT EXPENSES

Next, let's focus on expenses. The biggest expense at Hokusei was labor costs, accounting for 60 % of all expenses. Labor costs include faculty and staff costs and retirement allowances. The ratio of labor costs to student fees is called the "labor cost dependency rate". This refers to what percent of a college's total revenue is used on labor costs. The average labor cost dependency rate of Japanese private universities is on an increasing trend for the last couple of years. The average dependency rate across all private universities is about 90%.

However, Hokusei's dependency rate was about 70%. This is a healthy financial condition, but that is not guaranteed, due to a

decrease in the under 18 population. As a result, the numbers of students at universities will decrease, so colleges will struggle to get enough student fees. Universities may experience a deficit if they don't implement precautions to cope with this reality.

The remaining 20% of expenses was education and research costs. This is used for study support for students and extracurricular activities. The remaining expenses consist of management costs and equipment costs, used for buying books and some equipment for education and research.

CONCLUSION

Hokusei's money flow in-

formation shows us that money comes in from various kinds of routes and is used for various kinds of purposes as well. However, Hokusei's main revenues and expenses are basically the same every year. Our research suggests it is important to know how Hokusei uses our tuition fees. It also suggests we need to be aware of the financial condition of the college, because this college is our college, and money should be used for suitable purposes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

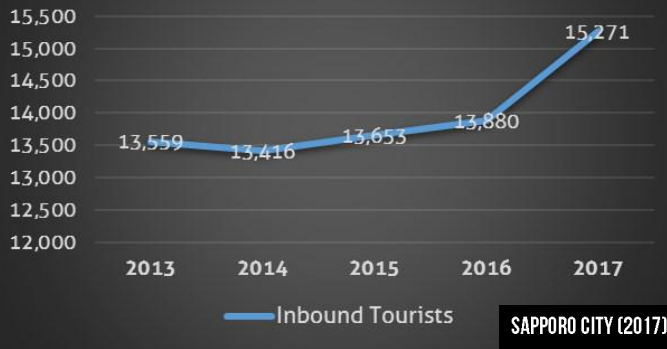
We'd like to thank the Hokusei Finance Department staff for their kind help and comments. ■

KOUHEI NARITA



“OMOTENASHI” FOR INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS IN SAPPORO

INBOUND TOURISTS IN SAPPORO



To find out how well we are catering to foreign tourists here in Sapporo, we wanted to hear from some on-the-ground experts on the matter. So, we visited the Yokoso Sapporo website, which lists tourist information centers in Sapporo and chose two to visit.

The Hokusei Times visited Odori Information Station and Hokkaido Sapporo Tourist Information Center, two of the busiest information centers and interviewed the staff working there.

First stop, Odori Information Station. Reports suggested some translation machines

were introduced there in order to give information in different languages two years ago. We were interested to know if they still use the translation machines. It turns out the machines are no longer in use. However, there are now seven staff members who can speak English and Chinese, and two of them usually work together.

The staff in Odori said that they are busy with international tourists only when Sapporo has big events like the Sapporo Snow Festival. In fact, about half of the users of the Odori Information Station are Japanese, and there are few

THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS VISITING SAPPORO IS RAPIDLY INCREASING THESE DAYS, AND THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. TOURISM IS IMPORTANT FOR SAPPORO'S ECONOMY, AND MANY SHOPS DEPEND ON SALES FROM FOREIGN CUSTOMERS. HOW CAN WE IMPROVE SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS FOR THE FUTURE?

international tourists on days outside of large events.

They mainly give international tourists directions to hotels and department stores. Staff cannot leave the office due to small numbers of staff on duty, so it is hard to guide visitors to their destinations sometimes.

Moreover, they are often asked about one-day tickets like the Donichika Ticket. Since there are many

different kinds of one-day tickets, they always have to calculate to find out the most appropriate way for people to get places. That is hard work, so they hope the number of types of one-day tickets are reduced in the future.

Next, we visited the Hokkaido Sapporo Tourist Information Center. Every staff member can speak English, and six of them can also speak other languages, such as Chinese, Korean, and Italian. Compared to Odori Sta-



DONICHIKA TICKET

Using a *Donichika* ticket, people can take the subway as much as they want for one day on weekends and holidays. Buy them at subway station ticket vending machines. Vending machines are available in foreign languages such as English and Chinese | PRICE: 520yen.



tion, there are more international tourists in Sapporo Station because they can use more various types of transportation there.

The staff talked about lack of understanding of the season and information that their customers have. Most

inbound tourists do not get enough information before they come to Hokkaido, so some of them ask, "Where can I see snow?" in the summer and "Can we see cherry blossoms somewhere?" in the winter.

In many countries, there

are not four seasons like Japan has. Therefore, they need to get information about the season before they arrive because it is time-consuming to visit information centers again and again. To solve this problem, websites which share information about tourism in Hokkaido should include some more details of which tourist attractions can be seen in which season.

In addition, surprisingly, all of the staff of the information center are in irregular employment.

Back to our original question, how can we improve services for international tourists? Through the interview, we found various

ways, such as simplifying the transportation system, increasing information about tourist attractions, and improving working environment of the staff at information centers. If we can make services for international tourists better in those ways, Sapporo will be more fascinating place to visit for people around the world. ■

ETSUKO GOTO

**INFORMATION CENTERS
= SHELTERS FOR
INTERNATIONAL
TOURISTS**

MONEY MATTERS

THE FUTURE OF CRYPTOCURRENCY IN JAPAN

DO YOU KNOW WHAT CRYPTOCURRENCIES ARE? THEY'RE DIGITAL CURRENCIES BUILT WITH PROTOCOLS THAT MAKE TRANSACTIONS SECURE AND DIFFICULT TO FAKE. THEY'RE GETTING POPULAR—JAPAN EVEN HAS ITS OWN DOMESTIC DIGITAL COIN.

Cryptocurrencies are digital currencies built with cryptographic protocols that make transactions secure and difficult to fake. The most important feature of a cryptocurrency is

that it is not controlled by any central authority.

Also, by using cryptocurrencies, people can send money to foreign countries cheaply and quickly so it's very useful and easy to use.

Another characteristic feature of cryptocurrencies is that the value fluctuates wildly. That is, the money value (fiat currency value) of cryptocurrencies fluctuates frequently. In the case of stock, the money value generally fluctuates

according to business performance, but cryptocurrencies are usually not tied to business performance, so in the case of cryptocurrency, the value fluctuates only by demand, supply, and speculation. This is the reason why the value fluctuates widely in cryptocurrency.

HISTORY

In 2008, Satoshi Nakamoto posted a monograph about cryptocurrency on the Internet. In 2009, to realize the theory of cryptocurrency, a piece of

software was developed.

In 2010, a first cryptocurrency exchange started in America and payments using bitcoins started in real society. Between 2011 to 2015, the money value of cryptocurrencies increased dramatically and they became more and more popular. In 2015, the money value decreased significantly due to hacking. In 2017, the value increased again.

IN JAPAN

In 2014, the first cryptocurrency exchanges started in

**JAPANESE USE CASH
MORE OFTEN COMPARED
WITH PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES**



MONA COIN

Have you heard of Monacoin? It was the first cryptocurrency in Japan and driven by software developed on 2channel, a big online bulletin board in Japan. The key feature of Monacoin was that Japanese Yen could be used to buy Monacoin directly through Zaif ATMs in Japan. Zaif is a cryptocurrency exchange in Osaka. In 2014 at Coindesk, Monacoin received the name "cat meme cryptocurrency" for using as a logo the image of a cat. The Monacoin Foundation group of enthusiasts, who are not related to the developers, is responsible for the marketing component of the project. Monacoin can be bought on several cryptocurrency exchanges nowadays.

Japan. For example, bit Flyer, bit bank, and Coin Check. The American Personal Computer Company

started using cryptocurrency for trading items. Microsoft also introduced cryptocurrency

payments.

From this time onwards news about cryptocur-

rencies has increased. In 2017, cryptocurrencies were regulated by law for the first time in Japan.

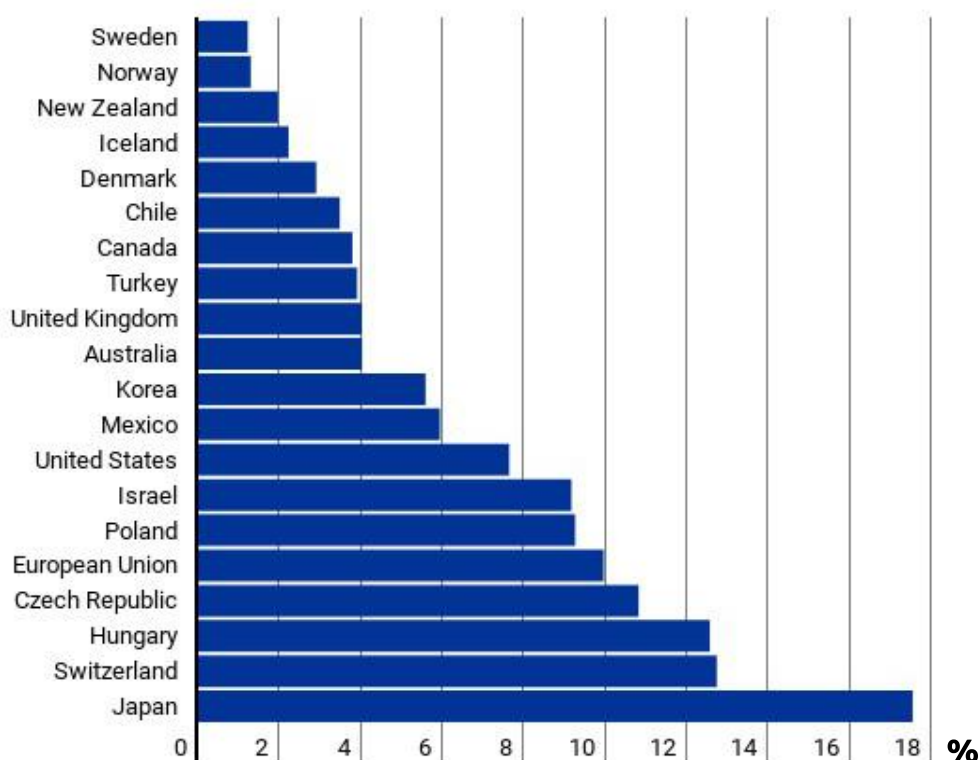
BECOMING POPULAR IN JAPAN?

What do you think of the future of cryptocurrency in Japan? Will it become popular or not?

We think there is a chance it won't. Japanese tend to believe in Japanese cash (yen) and they don't hold good impressions about cryptocurrency compared with people who live in other countries. This may be just due to Japanese culture. Culture does not change easily so it may be difficult for cryptocurrency to become very popular in Japan.

However, in other countries, most people don't use cash. They usually use electronic money, so it is very different from Japan. The graph on this page shows this clearly.

THE RATIO OF CASH IN CIRCULATION TO GDP PER COUNTRY



Source: National central banks.

In this way, cryptocurrency has a lot of interesting history and it is becoming more and more popular all over the world. However, Japanese are not as familiar with it compared with people living in other countries. It may take a long time for Japanese to accept cryptocurrency and electronic money. ■

KOUHEI NAKATANI

WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL BE IN JAPAN IN THE FUTURE BUT WE SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO IT!

BIG GAPS BETWEEN CASHLESS WORLDS

THESE DAYS, WE OFTEN HEAR THE WORDS “CASHLESS SOCIETY”. WITH THIS TREND OF A CASHLESS SOCIETY SPREADING, WE WERE INTERESTED IN HOW MUCH MONEY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE USUALLY CARRYING IN THEIR WALLETS. ALSO, HAS THE TREND SPREAD IN JAPAN OR IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

We asked 20 Hokusei students about their cash-using habits, and then talked to someone from an advanced cash-free society, China.

First, we discovered that most people carry about 4,500yen. Ten people in our survey answered they carry 5,000yen (about US \$46) and only one student answered 10,000yen. From this, it seems that most Hokusei Gakuen University students carry less than 10,000 yen in their wallets

MOST HOKUSEI STUDENTS USE CASH

Surprisingly, when asked what form of payment they usually used, all of the respondents answered “cash,” and no one answered “card” or “smartphone.”

But do students think a cashless society is occurring in Japan? We asked if people thought cashless payments have spread in Japan or not. Fourteen out of the twenty people said they thought that it is. This seems like a paradox: even though all respondents said they do not use cards or smartphones very often for payments, most people think a cashless society in Japan has spread.

One student told us that she is afraid of losing her card. She was also concerned about credit card fraud.

PAYMENTS AND CONVENIENCE

We asked students if the current situation regarding payment methods in Japan is inconvenient or whether they are satisfied.

Only three people answered it is inconvenient and the rest answered they are satisfied.

One student said “In Japan, the number of elderly people is increasing and most of them don’t know how to pay with a smartphone or cards. So, I think Japan does not have to change into cashless methods.”

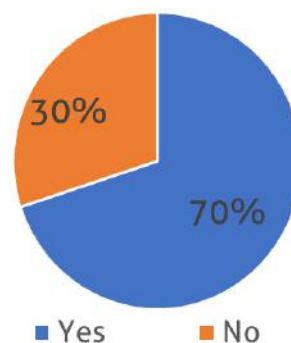
We found many people do not trust smartphone payments and people sense a particular problem in regards to the aging society.

OVERSEAS SITUATION

So far, we’ve learned about how Hokusei domestic students feel about the cashless society.

But how do exchange students feel about the current payment situation in Japan? Are there any differences between their country and Japan? To

Cashless has spread in Japan?



find out, we interviewed Zhang-Lei, one of the Chinese exchange students at Hokusei.

NO CASH IN CHINA

“In China, I do not carry cash at all because we can pay just with our smartphones. We just have a smartphone and that’s fine when we go shopping. But in Japan, I do not use my smartphone or cards to pay and I always carry around 20,000yen, because QR codes are not available at most shops in Japan. Also, credit cards from China cannot be used,” said Zhang-Lei. She said she gets anxious if she carries less than 10,000yen.

And then we asked “Do you feel that payment methods in Japan are inconvenient?”

She answered “Sometimes it’s inconvenient. Too many coins in my purse is a hassle, so I have

“USING CASH MAKES ME REALIZE I’M PAYING ACTUAL MONEY”

to adjust the amount of coins I am carrying. But it’s enjoyable to realize that I am paying actual money. In China, we don’t use cash, so I don’t get that feeling.”

Through our interviews, we discovered there are some big differences between Japan and other countries in the way people make payments.

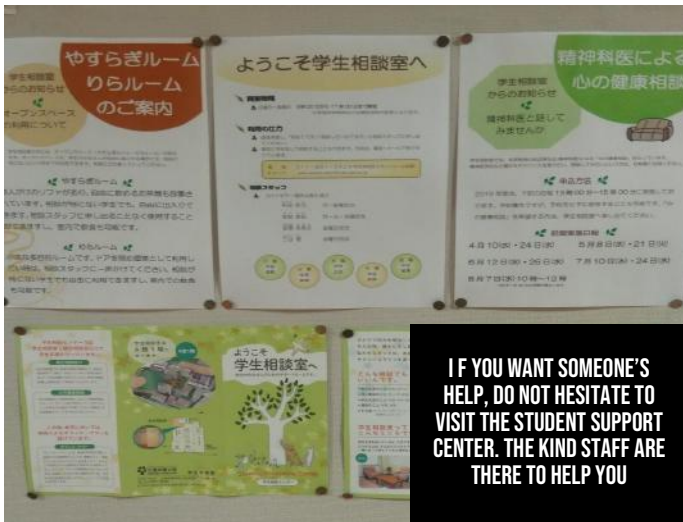
These different points of view, can make us notice for the first time that such a familiar thing is different depending on the country.

IBUKI UENO

IN CHINA PEOPLE USE ONLY SMARTPHONES

DIVING DEEP INTO CULTS

MOST PEOPLE THINK THEY'LL NEVER HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH CULTS. HOWEVER, THEY MIGHT BE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK TO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. IF YOU GET INVOLVED IN THESE SITUATIONS, WOULD YOU NOTICE?



IF YOU WANT SOMEONE'S HELP, DO NOT HESITATE TO VISIT THE STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER. THE KIND STAFF ARE THERE TO HELP YOU

In Japan, there are many positive, worthwhile religious and social groups that have historically helped people grow spiritually and socially. Even though there are positive religious and social groups like this, in Japan, there are also dangerous cults that we need to be careful of.

Probably most people in Japan have heard the name "Aum Shinrikiyo (Aum Supreme Truth)". This is the most famous example of a cult in Japan.

They were behind big and terrible incidents that killed and injured a large number of people. Recently, Shoukou Asahara, who was a guru of Aum Shinrikiyo, was executed.

This might suggest that the memory of him and his Aum Shinrikiyo might have completely disappeared. However, that is not the case. This controversial group

still exists, and has simply changed their name from Aum Shinrikiyo to "Aleph". The group has branches in areas such as Fukuoka, Nagoya, and also in Hokkaido. Aleph is not the only cult that exists in Japan - there are other kinds of cults that we need to be careful of.

They approach people while hiding their true intent, and it is difficult to notice who they really are. The Hokusei Times talked to Professor Yoshihide Sakurai at Hokkaido University, an expert in cults in Japan, about how cults reach us and how we can protect ourselves from those cults.

PEOPLE CAN BECOME INVOLVED WITH CULTS WITHOUT REALIZING IT

HOW DO CULTS APPROACH POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS?

Professor Sakurai told us that the method of solicitation that cults use when they recruit new members has changed compared with few years ago. They used to directly talk to students at university or to people on the street, and tried to persuade them to join their group. However, now they use SNS. They make connections with students using SNS, and gain trust through online conversations.

Once they succeed in striking up a conversation online, they invite the target to a club or group which is not directly related to the cult, camouflaged in order to deepen the target's trust. Finally, they invite the target to the cult. It takes a lot of work but is an efficient method to gain members. The target may hesitate to join the cult, but finally

they decide to join because the target thinks the person who is inviting them to that cult is friend. They don't want to break that relationship.

Using this psychology, cults gain numbers in their membership.

WHAT CAN WE DO AGAINST THOSE SOLICITATIONS?

The reality is that a fool-proof way to protect ourselves from cults doesn't exist. That said, one of the best things is to know what a cult is. If a person has information about cults and their methods of solicitation, they may notice sooner that they are being solicited to join something dangerous.

Also, if a person is solicited, it is important for them to say "NO" clearly. This is because cults want to recruit someone who they can easily take control of. So cults may give up if a person shows their confidence

WHAT IS A CULT?

According to Yoshiro Fuzikura, in order to call a group a "cult", there are some conditions that need to be met. A cult means a group of people which do something illegal and violate human rights. They differ from so-called 'new religions' and we cannot say all cults stem from religions. Based on strong beliefs, cults often steal members' wealth, impose forced labor, damage the mental and physical health of followers, along with their freedom, and dignity as humans. However, often it is hard to determine if a group is a cult or not because such groups are good at hiding their true face.

PEOPLE WANT SOMETHING THEY CAN LEAN ON WHEN THEY ARE IN TROUBLE OR GOING THROUGH A HARD TIME

and strength.

Having friends who you can talk to about anything and maintaining good relationships between you and your family are also very important points.

Cults take advantage of

your psychological vulnerability, pretending to be a good friend. For this reason it is important to have someone who you can ask advice from and help you see things objectively.

When a person finds them-

selves in trouble or going through a hard time, they want something they can lean on. People like this are easy targets for cults, and easily controlled. If you want some help, do not hesitate to talk to your family, friends and counsellor at Hokusei. ■

HIYORI UEHARA

AROUND HOKUSEI

HOKUSEI'S FLOWER THERAPY SECRETS

ARE YOU TIRED THESE DAYS? IF YOU ARE TIRED, YOU SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME WITH FLOWERS AND RELAX. LET'S LEARN THE SECRET OF FLOWERS IN HOKUSEI AND MAKE DAILY LIFE MORE FULFILLING.

At Hokusei, colorful flowers welcome us every morning as we arrive. However, unfortunately most people do not take much notice of them. Do you know the fact that flowers have a large effect on our mental wellbeing and health? So let's learn a bit more about Hokusei's floral plants.

LILAC

Lilac has been grown in Britain since the early 17th century. According to the Oxford Dictionary, the name "lilac" comes from Persian, and it means "blue" or "bluish" in English. It is not too much to say that there is hardly any other flower that is so bright in spring than the lilac. The lilac flower has

been loved since Victorian times, and people plant lilacs in English gardens at home.

Also, Sapporo is famous for lilacs; the Sapporo lilac festival is annually held in Odori. One of the features of this flower is its beautiful smell, so the lilac flower is used for perfume.

The next time you see a lilac, try smelling it. Usually the lilac has four petals, but some have five. It is said that if you find a lilac flower with five petals, you will live with your lover forever.

HYMENANTHES

When *hymenanthes* (*shakunage* in Japanese) were brought from China to Europe, people fell in love with its brilliant color. They are a type of rhododendron. There are many *hymenanthes* in the Hokusei Gakuen University campus.

Some of these are blooming behind the center tower and Kirari. Those be-



hind the center tower were donated by Lewis-Clark State College in the US.

Hymenanthus is a beautiful flower, so many people love them. However, *hymenanthus* leaves are poisonous. If they are consumed, they cause vomiting.

HYDRANGEA MACROPHYLLA

Hydrangeas (*ajisai* in Japanese) are originally from Japan, and they are loved by people all over the world. Hydrangeas *macrophylla* bloom from early spring to late autumn. There are many colors of hydrangeas *macrophylla*, because soil acidity affects the flower color. Blue flowers are caused by soil that contains a lot of acidity. On the other hand, the blooms will turn red if soil is weak in alkalinity. The hydrangea mac-

rophylla behind Kirari will bloom soon, why don't you take a look and enjoy them?

There will be a lot of flowers blooming everywhere as the days grow warmer. Let's keep our eyes open to discover small blooms of happiness. ■

YUI KOMANO



NEW CURRICULUM WINNERS AND LOSERS

THIS YEAR, HOKUSEI GAKUEN UNIVERSITY INTRODUCED A NEW SCHOOL CURRICULUM. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHANGE THIS TIME WAS TO MAKE THE GOAL OF EACH COURSE CLEARER SO THAT STUDENTS CAN LEARN MORE EFFECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE CHANGE HAS ALSO CAUSED SOME UNPOPULAR PROBLEMS.



OLD CURRICULUM (BELOW) AND NEW CURRICULUM (ABOVE)

In 2019, Hokusei Gakuen University introduced a new school curriculum. New students who enter into the university this year and later will follow this new curriculum.

According to the Student Support Office, the last time the university changed its curriculum was in 2013, and before that was in 2007. The purpose of the change this time was to make the goal of each course clearer so that students can learn more effectively.

There were some specific changes from the old curriculum, including changing the name of each class so the names would convey the content of the class better in order for students to more easily visualize the

content.

Furthermore, new courses for the English department were provided, the names of some classes for students who major in English were changed from katakana to English, and the study abroad system was adjusted in order to allow freshmen to study abroad and get credits.

Overall, it seems like the school curriculum was improved for the better, but there is one big challenge that the change has made.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE COURSE SYSTEM

In this curriculum change, the International Exchange Course system was changed as well. According to the Hokusei Gakuen

University website, "International exchange courses are international communication-related subjects in which Hokusei Gakuen University students and overseas students have the opportunity to study together. They are designed for both Hokusei Gakuen University students and overseas students to study subjects in fields ranging from Japanese culture, literature and economy to comparative culture and mass communication in English or other

languages."

HOW MANY CREDITS?

Until last year, the curriculum was organized in such a way that International Exchange Courses were worth three credits and they were held two times a week, for a total of 12 weeks (a total of 24 classes).

Most courses at Hokusei, however, are worth two credits and held only once a week for 15 weeks, so the International Exchange Courses were kind of special in a way.

This characteristic of the old system made it difficult for students to take International Exchange Courses because students had to attend two classes per week, which was difficult.

Also, students would get three credits from the course, but the upper limit for annual subject registration for domestic students as well as the necessary total credits to graduate are even-numbered, so the odd

INTERNATIONAL COURSES CLASSES PER CREDIT

ENROLLMENT YEAR	OLD CURRICULUM	NEW CURRICULUM
Pre-2019	8	10
2019	-	7.5

credit numbers didn't fit with this system.

BAD DEAL FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

On the face of it, the change from three credits to two credits seems like a positive thing. However, students who entered university in 2018 or before still cannot take advantage of the benefits of the new system, because they have to follow the curriculum from the year they entered university.

That means if pre-2019 students want to register for International Exchange Courses, they have to register for two International Exchange Courses—and therefore take part in two classes per week—for three credits.

At this point, things might seem just the same as the old system. However, those

students actually have it even worse than their predecessors in terms of classes-to-credit ratio.

In the old system, students had to attend 24 classes for three credits (8 classes per credit). Now, pre-2019 students have to attend a total of 30 classes for 3 credits (10 classes per credit). Compare this to 2019 students—under the current rules, they attend 15 classes for two credits, which is 7.5 classes per credit (see the table on the previous page).

WHERE'S MY COURSE?

Furthermore, on their transcripts, pre-2019 students won't be able to be credited with some courses under current rules.

That is, if a student entered Hokusei Gakuen University before 2019 because they wanted to take, for example, the *Language and Gender in Japanese Society* course, they could still take that course. But that course name will not appear on their transcript.

This is because they would have to take both *Gender*

in Japanese Society and *Introduction to Japanese Society and Language* as a set, with only the latter appearing on their transcript.

AGAINST THE RULES?

According to university rules, this change appears to be against regulation. There is one important rule at Hokusei; when any curriculum changes will mean a student will not be able to take a course for any reason, the university has to let them know at least two years in advance.

However, this curriculum change happened very suddenly, without any prior notice. This appears to be against the rules. Yes, a student can still take any course, but this might not be reflected on their official transcripts.

"DOING THEIR BEST TO CHANGE"

The university should give students the opportunity to be credited with classes they want to be credited with, especially ones which are displayed in the syllabus as possible to be credited with when stu-

THE RECENT CURRICULUM CHANGES MAY GO AGAINST UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

dents enter university.

The Hokusei Times approached the Student Support Office and English Department for their comment on this matter, and asked if the system could be adjusted in some way.

Mr. Sasaki from the Student Support Office and Professor Takahashi who is the head of the English Department promised to "do their best" to make changes, but no concrete answers were offered.

Hopefully, all students from the first year to the fourth year will have the opportunity as impartially as possible to study international communication-related subjects with overseas students someday, with full transparent credit for their hard work. ■

AOI NAKAGAWA

"WE'LL STRIVE TO MAKE CHANGES" BUT NO SOLUTIONS OFFERED

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

HOKUSEI EVENTS FOR FINDING FOREIGN FRIENDS

DO YOU HAVE ANY FOREIGN FRIENDS? SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR, HOKUSEI PROVIDES STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS WITH PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD. HERE, WE INTRODUCE EXAMPLE EVENTS WHICH WERE HELD IN THE PAST YEAR.

Perhaps the biggest international event at Hokusei is the Hokusei Multi-Cultural Festival. This event was held in the end of June. At

this event, you can experience the cultures of a number of countries.

First, some exchange stu-

dents from overseas do presentations about something else they recommend in their home countries. You can also

enjoy some dishes from overseas. Some exchange students and HUIT members make dishes from their home countries for this



**INTERNATIONAL
EVENTS ARE HELD
EVERY FEW MONTHS**

event serve. Participants can take their time to enjoy the food with friends and enjoy talking.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

This event was held in around late October. For this event, participants prepare special costumes for Halloween in advance and dress up. During the event, participants play a little game related to Halloween. Last year, they played the 'Mummy Wrap Game' where they transformed a person into a mummy using toilet paper.

After the game, they enjoyed eating snacks and talking freely. Finally, a costume contest is held. Participants walk down a runway and show off their own cos-

tume. Three winners who are selected by vote, and receive prizes.

OSHOGATSU FAREWELL PARTY

This event was held in the middle of December. In this event, participants experience the part of Japanese New Year's Day culture. They play Fukuwarai, a game of make a face and write their wishes of New Year in Ema boards, a small wooden plaques.

And then, they eat ozoni, a traditional Japanese soup in New Year's Day which is prepared by HUIT members. At last, exchange students get Fukubukuro, a grab bags filled with unknown random contents. All of those things are Jap-

anese traditional culture. Exchange students can experience and enjoy it with Japanese students.

INTERNATIONAL CAMP

International Camp is a program which is conducted in spring and fall every year. Exchange students, Hokusei students who applied for this program, and officers in the International Education and Language Center go on a two day one night trip together. They gather in the afternoon on Saturday and go to popular sightseeing places in Sapporo such as Mt. Okura.

After freely enjoying those places, they go to Niseko by bus and stay the night there. Exchange students

and Japanese students stay in several rooms together. They can enjoy a good dinner, hot spring and a party which is held in the evening.

In the morning of the second day, they leave Niseko and go to the next sightseeing location. Last fall, it was Noboribetsu. Participants went to the Date Historical Village which is home to a life-size replica of a traditional Edo town and experience Japanese history by watching things such as a Ninja show.

CLOSING REMARK

There are not only these events, but also other events which we didn't have space to introduce in this article. If you are a Hokusei student or an exchange student and want to connect with foreign friends, these events would be good chance for you to do so. ■

RIO YOKOI

EDITORIAL STAFF

HOKUSEI TIMES EDITORIAL STAFF FOR SPRING 2019

This summer 2019 edition of the Hokusei Times brings together both hard-hitting current affairs as well as events and happenings here on campus.

Reporters for the Hokusei Times this semester didn't hold back in uncovering the ebbs and flows of

campus life and what it means for students. Aoi's investigative piece digs deep into the winners and losers of the new curriculum, for example. Further, Kohei Narita scours the Hokusei financial reports to find out where we stand as an institution financially. But we've still got all the campus info

students need, with articles like Ryo's on the campus *kyudo* club, and Mayu's on café food fairs.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Etsuko Goto
Kotomi Kakumichi
Yui Komano
Ryo Kushibiki
Aoi Nakagawa
Kohei Nakatani

Kohei Narita
Mizuki Saito
Rie Saito
Yoshie Sannomiya
Hiyori Uehara
Ibuki Ueno
Arisa Watanabe
Rio Yokoi
Mayu Yoshida
Robert Thomson (Editor in Chief)

POPULAR CAFETERIA DISHES FOR SEASON'S VIBES

HOKUSEI'S SCHOOL CAFETERIA TRIES MANY UNIQUE THINGS FOR CUSTOMERS, AND ONE OF THEIR EFFORTS INCLUDES PROVIDING A SEASONABLE MENU. IT IS A MENU THAT MATCHES THE SEASON, AND WE CAN EAT DISHES OFFERED FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME. HERE, THE HOKUSEI TIMES INTRODUCES SOME POPULAR SEASONABLE DISHES OFFERED AT HOKUSEI'S SCHOOL CAFETERIA.



SPRING DISHES

In spring, many special dishes are provided, and Spring Chicken-Salt Ramen is especially delicious. This dish uses canola flowers which bloom in spring, so we can feel the freshness of spring after eating it. Besides ramen, canola flower is also used a lot in other spring dishes in the cafeteria. For example, Canola Flower Stir Fry and Canola Flower Spring Roll.

Strawberry Mont Blanc is also well known as something offered in spring. The strawberry cream on the outside is sour, and the fresh cream on the inside is sweet. It has a taste you'll never tire of.

SUMMER DISHES

In summer, chilled noodles are popular. Highly recommended is Toriten Oroshi Kankitsu Udon and

Toriten Oroshi Kankitsu Soba. These are udon and soba that uses chicken tempura, daikon radish and citrus soup. These ingredients might seem as though they don't match, but they go well with each other. The dish has a very fresh taste and is perfect for summer.

Also, Butakaba Don is a popular menu item in summer. It is a bowl of rice that has glaze-grilled pork on top. It is offered for a week in July. Finally, the 'Spicy Fair' is held every summer. During this fair, we can eat many kinds of spicy foods like a Keema Curry, Black Pepper Chicken and Black Pepper Tsukemen. These spicy dishes help customers power through the fatigue that comes with those hot summer days.

AUTUMN DISHES

There are a lot of dishes offered in autumn that provide sustenance for the shorter, colder days. Chinese Chive And Egg Stir Fry is especially popular. It helps to overcome end-of-summer fatigue. Mushroom spring roll is also popular as an autumn dish. It uses many kinds of mushrooms which are gathered in autumn. These foods are really autumnal.

WINTER DISHES

In winter, the cafeteria holds an 'Onkatsu Fair'. 'On' means warm, and 'katsu' means activity. Therefore, 'Onkatsu' means an activity to warm oneself in the cold winter season. During this fair many hot, hearty dishes are provided. Among them, we recommend Tantanmen and a White Mapo Tofu. Tantanmen is a spicy Chinese noodle, which uses red peppers, so it makes people feel

warm and it improves metabolism. White Mapo Tofu uses ginger, so it also makes people warm and improves blood circulation.

At the end of the December, the cafeteria also holds a 'Christmas Fair'. At the Christmas Fair, we can eat special Western foods. We especially recommend the Cheese Stuffed Hamburg Plate, which consists of a plate of cheese-stuffed hamburger patty and some French fries. It is a really gorgeous dish, and very 'Christmassy'.

Many cafeteria customers look forward to the seasonable dishes every new season. Seasonable menus are made with consideration for customers' demand for the foods they want to eat each season, and are really delicious. Surely, these menus are the secret of the school cafeteria's popularity. ■

MAYU YOSHIDA



WEEKEND CLASSES? 83% OF STUDENTS SAY NO

AT HOKUSEI GAKUEN UNIVERSITY, WE HAVE MAKE UP CLASSES ON SATURDAYS WHENEVER CLASSES ARE CANCELLED. MOST OF THE STAFF AT THE HOKUSEI TIMES DISLIKE COMING TO SCHOOL ON SATURDAYS, AS IT UPSETS WEEKEND PLANS AND FORCES US TO GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNING AS WELL. SO WE ASKED SOME OF THE STUDENTS HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT WEEKEND MAKE UP CLASSES.

We asked 76 students about what they think about make-up classes.

First, we asked the question "would you prefer a make up class on a weekday or on a weekend." 63 students (83%) answered they'd prefer having a make up class on a weekday rather than a weekend.

WHY NO FOR WEEKENDS?

The main reason why people prefer to have a make up class on weekdays in the 15th or 16th week of the semester is because they will be at school during this time anyway.

Some people said they experienced class cancellations because the professor forgot about the class. This made students disappointed because they got up early in the morning, and yet they ended up not having a class when they arrive at school. Also, getting up early in the morning on weekends are more likely to be harder for people.

WEEKEND MAKEUP CLASSES KEEP SEMESTERS SHORT

WHY YES FOR WEEKENDS?

On the other hand, 13 students (17%) said they'd prefer to have make up classes on weekends. The reason why they prefer to have make up classes on weekends is because they have to go to their part time jobs after school usually from 6pm. If the make up classes are scheduled for after all the classes are done, they will have no chance to go to their part time job.

Some students really spend most of their time after school on their part time jobs. This helps them earn some money to buy things they want.

WHY DO WE NEED MAKE UP CLASSES?

Do you know why we need a make up class when our classes are cancelled? The Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has regulated that all universities in Japan must have 15 classes and an additional week for exams per semester. This is the reason why we need a make up class whenever classes are cancelled.

WHAT CAUSES MAKE-UP CLASSES?

We interviewed a staff member from the university about why we have a make-up class on weekends. Their response was

that first, if we don't have our make-up classes on weekends, the semester will be longer and summer break for the students will be shorter.

Also, the more public holidays we have, the more we need to have make-up classes to make up for them. This year (2019) has the most days off of any year so far. Some universities have classes on public holidays so we are considered to be lucky.

HOW ARE MAKE-UP CLASS DAYS DECIDED?

Our staff informant told us that the university looks at the school schedule and figures out when will be the most convenient day for both students and professors. On some of the Saturdays, professors are engaged with parents meetings all over Hokkaido.

WHAT IS BEST FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS?

In conclusion, many students have different kinds of reasons why they want make up classes to be on weekends or weekdays.

The school doesn't have any actual strict rules for professors when make-up classes should be held, so the decision as to when to have make-up classes should be discussed be-

TOO MANY PUBLIC HOLIDAYS COULD EFFECT OUR SCHOOL BREAK?

tween students and professors. This could make both students' and professors' schedules easier. ■

YOSHIE SANNO MIYA

HOKUSEI MAKE UP CLASS SCHEDULE

www2.hokusei.ac.jp

C

休講/補講/教室変更情報

休講

補講

教室変更

金
07/26

土
07/27

日
07/28

補講

ヨーロッパ経済論

08:50-
12:00
大学

原島 正樹
A607教室

I 講目

補講

フランス語Ⅰ(経部)

I 講目
セドリック ヤサワイ
大学 C705教室

補講

韓国語Ⅰ(文部A)

I 講目
松田 由紀
大学 B403教室

補講

韓国語Ⅰ(経部A)

I 講目
井上 敦子
大学 B503教室

DISCOVER JAPAN THROUGH HOKUSEI'S KYUDO CLUB

MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THERE IS A KYUDO CLUB AT HOKUSEI UNIVERSITY. THE KYUDO CLUB CAN BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE JAPANESE TRADITIONAL CULTURE. THE HOKUSEI TIMES SPOKE TO THE KYUDO CLUB TO GET INSIGHT INTO THE CLUB AND KYUDO.

Kyudo is a type of archery, which uses a Japanese bow to shoot arrows at a target. Kyudo has a long history. It was developed as a military art towards the end of the Edo era to Meiji era.

After the Meiji restoration, Kyudo changed from a military art to entertainment. After this change, the number of people doing Kyudo in Japan increased.

Kyudo is now becoming popular outside of Japan. Germany has the largest number of Kyudo players; there are about 1100 people who practice Kyudo in Germany. In other countries there are a few hundred people. Also in France, there is an official Kyudo stadium.

In Japan, there are about 141,000 practitioners of Kyudo. There are also schools called Ryuha in Japan.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARCHERY AND KYUDO

Many people misunder-

stand Kyudo as archery and do not know the difference between them. But there are a lot of differences.

Firstly, the bows are different. In archery, bows have auxiliary tools, such as "stabilizers" and "clickers". But bows in Kyudo only have the body and the string. Also, while bows for archery are available in both left and right handed versions, Kyudo only has bows for left handed use.

Secondly, the style and form of the two sports are different. Archery focuses on accuracy, and it allows players to wear any style of clothes and use their own form. However, Kyudo has a focus on martial arts, and only allows players to wear "hakama" which is traditional clothing in Japan. Kyudo has a very specific stylized form also.

INTERVIEW WITH HOKUSEI'S KYUDO CLUB

We interviewed the Ho-



kusei Kyudo club leader Yumeno Tanaka, to hear her experiences with Kyudo.

We asked first asked about the difference between Kyudo and other sports. She told us that during practice you are mainly training one's mental state. Another difference is the length of one's career. That is, she told us it doesn't matter how old you are, because each time a person shoots the arrow, their form will always be slightly different regardless of one's experience.

We then asked what she has personally gained from doing Kyudo. She told us "we can increase in concentration power, as well as the opportunity to learn manners and the right attitude when talking to older

people."

She also gave us insight into the difference between the Hokusei Kyudo club and other schools' clubs. "In our club age doesn't matter to us and we are good friends. So we can share the same goals for competitions," she said.

With all sports, there are good points and not so good points. Tanaka said that the bad point about kyudo is that one's form can easily change and get messy. One good point that she told us was that gender doesn't matter when competing, so men and women can compete equally.

On that note, we wanted to know what was required for people to join the club. She replied that so long as a person has an interest in

WHAT IS SHAHOUHASETU?

Shahouhasetu is the basic movement to shoot an arrow. It is a chain of movements with eight parts. The eight parts are footing (*ashibumi*), forming the torso (*douzukuri*), readying the bow (*yugamae*), raising the bow (*uchiokoshi*), intermediate draw (*daisan*), draw apart (*hikiwake*), full draw (*kai*), release (*hanare*), and remaining form (*zanshin*). These are all very important when you are doing Kyudo.

Kyudo, has ambition, and a strong motivation, they'd be welcome. Finally, we asked "What can foreigners can gain by doing Kyudo?" Tanaka believes that foreigners can learn Japanese culture and manners, as well as gaining team work skills. ■

RYO KUSHIBIKI



IN KYUDO, THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF ARROWS CALLED "HAYA" AND "OTOYA"

STUDENT LIFE

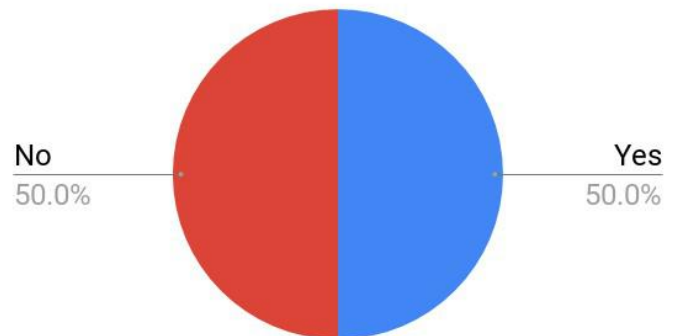
SLEEPY? STUDENT JOB-STUDY BALANCE

HOW MANY STUDENTS HAVE PART TIME JOBS? DO STUDENTS WHO HAVE PART TIME JOBS HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO STUDY? IN THIS ARTICLE, WE SHOW YOU THE RESULT OF OUR INVESTIGATION INTO JOB AND STUDY BALANCE.

Many university students do part time jobs. This is a positive thing for university students because they can earn money and can experience professional workplaces before they enter into the workforce. However, some people spend too much time in their part time jobs.

82% of students said they had a part time job, almost all students have a part time job. They do a variety types of jobs, such as cram school teachers, restaurant waiters, sales staff and so on. Cram school teacher is the most popular part time job, with 39% of them engaged in cram school work.

Do you feel sleepy in class the day after your part time job?



Some students cannot concentrate on their classes because they are too tired due to their part time job. The Hokusei Times asked 22 students about the part time jobs and their study work balance.

HOW MUCH TIME DO THEY SPEND AT WORK?

We also asked about monthly income. The lowest monthly income was 10,000 yen and the highest was 150,000 yen, but the average monthly income from part time jobs is about 20,000 to 30,000 yen. How much time someone spends on their part time jobs each week is

very different depending on the person. The shortest was five hours, and the longest one is 40 hours.

INFLUENCE OF PART TIME JOBS

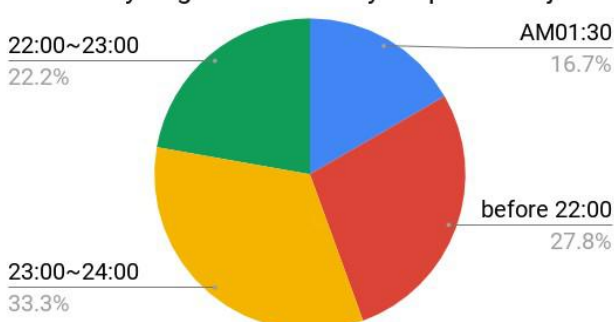
Next, we asked about the influence of part time jobs on students' lifestyle and study. We asked if their jobs went late, and when their jobs usually finished. 39% of our respondents said they finish before 10pm, and another 45% finish before midnight, so almost students seem to finish their work on the same day. However, another few people said they work until midnight or even early morning. Overall, 33% of people get

home between 11pm and midnight, and the other 50% of them got home before 11pm. However, another few people don't get home till much later.

DO STUDENTS DO PART TIME JOBS?

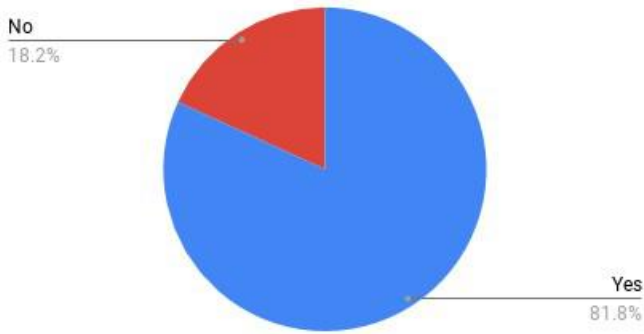
First, we asked students about their part time jobs.

When do you get home after your part time job?

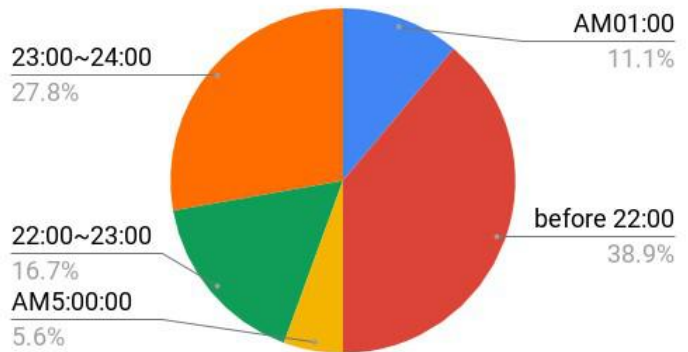


FEW PEOPLE SAID THEY WORK UNTIL MIDNIGHT OR EVEN EARLY MORNING

Do you have a part time job?



What is the latest you'd finish your job?

SOME STUDENTS
MAY NEED TO
CHANGE THEIR
LIFESTYLES

sleepy in class when they had a part time job the day before. The result was very interesting. Half of them answered yes, they felt sleepy at school, and half of them answered no. In general, the people who get home after 24:00 tend to feel the most sleepy in class. Even if they get home before 22:00, they often feel sleepy in class.

EXPLOITATION IN PART
TIME JOBS

Next, I asked about exploitation in part time jobs. 22% of them answered that they feel their part time jobs are exploitative. Those who said this were all working in restaurants, including Izakaya (Japanese style of pub). Finally, we asked "Do you think part time jobs cause bad effects on class study?" 33% of them answered yes.

CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE

In our investigation, we

found there are not many students who work extremely long hours, but still some do. Perhaps it is more important for students to study and attend classes positively than doing part time jobs. If you're one of those who spends a lot of time at your part time job, you may need to change your lifestyle and think of the job and study balance.

RIE SAITO

AROUND SAPPORO

PICTOGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNICATION

THESE DAYS MANY FOREIGNERS COME TO JAPAN. WHEN THEY STAY IN JAPAN, THEY TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO MOVE AROUND. IN THESE SPACES, THERE ARE OFTEN SYMBOLS TO INDICATE REST ROOMS AND EMERGENCY EXITS. THESE SYMBOLS ARE CALLED PICTOGRAMS.

A pictogram is a symbol to represent information by pictures instead of using words. People can use these pictograms to find places such as an elevator or a parking area. The purpose of using them is to convey meaning directly.

Therefore, pictogram design is very simple; almost all pictograms have two colours and the shape is usually a circle, a triangle or a

square.

Pictograms are mainly used in public institutions because many people use trains, subways and buses every day. Now they are indispensable for human life.

THE HISTORY OF PICTOGRAMS

Pictograms are used all over the world and each country has their own style



WHAT KIND OF PICTOGRAMS DO YOU KNOW AND DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING CORRECTLY?

of pictogram. In Japan pictograms were created in 1964 at the Tokyo Olympics and became famous.

At that time, it was very difficult for Japanese to communicate with foreign people. Furthermore, signs were only written in Japanese.

However, it was impossible to show all these signs in all languages, so the Tokyo Olympic organizers decided to express the meaning of

the signs through pictures. About 39 pictograms were created at first, now there are more than 100 pictograms.

EXAMPLES OF PICTOGRAMS

One example of pictograms used in Japan is the International Symbol of Access (ISA). This pictogram is common around the world, so many people must have seen it before.

However, some people misunderstand the meaning of it. Most of them think that it is indicating facilities for a person in a wheelchair.

However, it actually indicates facilities for people with disabilities in general. ISA is used in many places like parking areas, rest rooms, route maps and buttons on automatic doors.

Another example is the help mark. People can see this pictogram when they are taking the subway in Sapporo. It is used for people who have some form of disability, including those people for whom it is difficult to judge their needs from their outward appearance.

People around them can realize that they are in need for help because they can see the mark on the person. Sapporo City started to use it in 2017.

Besides these pictograms there are many others in Japan. People should learn the correct meaning of them.

FOR THE UPCOMING OLYMPICS

In 2020, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be held. This will cause the number of tourists to increase more than there are

now.

Therefore, the Japan Industrial Standards Committee changed seven pictograms; the parking mark, luggage office mark, first-aid post mark, baby care room mark, connecting flight mark, information office mark and the hot spring mark.

These new pictograms were revised and have been used since 2017. Thanks to these changes, it has become easier to understand not only for Japanese but also for foreigners. ■

ARISA WATANABE



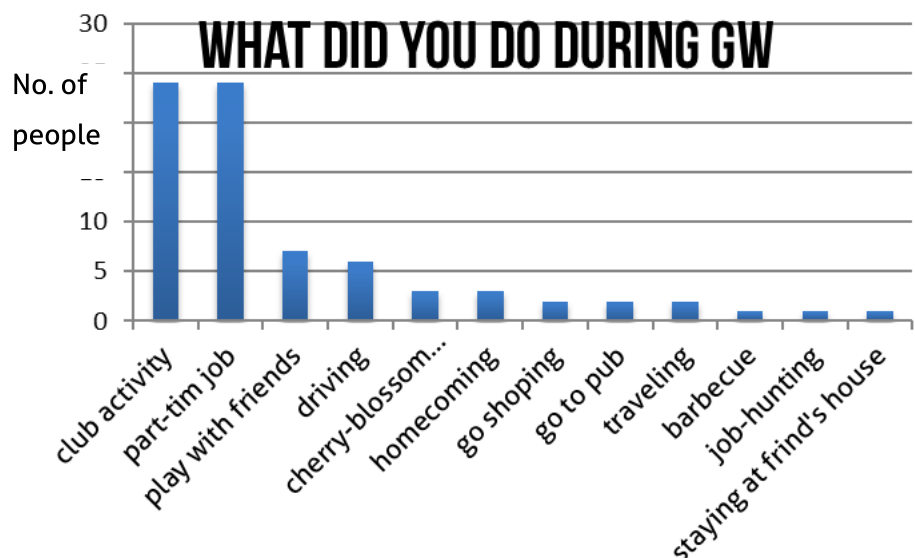
JAPAN LIFE

THE LONGEST GOLDEN WEEK EVER

IN 2019, PEOPLE IN JAPAN FACED AN HISTORICAL MOMENT. THE ERA WAS CHANGED FROM 'HEISEI' TO 'REIWA' ON MAY 1ST. THIS MEANT THE LONGEST GOLDEN WEEK EVER. PEOPLE IN JAPAN WERE UNSURE WHAT TO DO WITH THIS NEW-FOUND FREEDOM. HOW ABOUT HOKUSEI STUDENTS?

Like every year, this year we had a long holiday called Golden Week. As usual, we had Showa Day (the name of the era before Heisei) on April 29th, Constitution Memorial Day on May 3rd, Greenery Day on May 4th, and Children's Day on May 5th.

However, this year had a total of 8 days as national holidays. To be exact most people had holidays from April 27th to May 6th because of the change of Japanese emperor and era.



As a result, this year's Golden Week was the longest one ever. People could do anything they wanted to because Golden Week was so long.

How did people use these precious days off? We asked 50 Hokusei students to find out.

Most people we asked said they had part-time jobs and club activities. Some people said they couldn't travel because people who belong to university clubs had to practice longer than usual. We were expecting many to travel during Golden Week, but this wasn't the case.

Many spent time with their friends but didn't travel very far. People living in Hokkaido go cherry blossom viewing in May, so this was a common response.

NOT MANY BIG TRAVELLERS

Next we asked which place they went during Golden Week. Not many people travelled very far, and those that did said they travelled in Hokkaido because plane tickets were expensive.

For example, some went to Asahikawa, Furano—which is famous for lavender—and East Kagura Town, all of which are in the middle of Hokkaido. Others went to Shiraoi for the hot springs, Obihiro in southern Hokkai-

THIS YEAR'S GOLDEN WEEK WAS 10 DAYS LONG IN TOTAL

do, and Otaru near Sapporo. However some people went to Tokyo Disney Land.

LONG ENOUGH

Next we asked whether the Golden Week was short, long or enough. The majority of people in our survey said Golden Week in this year was long enough. 30% of people said it was short, and they wanted more holidays. Interestingly, almost 1/3 of people complained that it was too long.

According to a survey by Intage, a research company, 70% of people in Japan said the holidays were too long. This was because they spent great amounts of money, their

pace of the life was disturbed, and transportation was too crowded. Most people, however, said the Golden Week allowed enough time to become refreshed, so they enjoyed their Golden Week.

The last question we asked to Hokusei students was what they would want to do if they have holidays like a Golden Week this year again. Most people said they

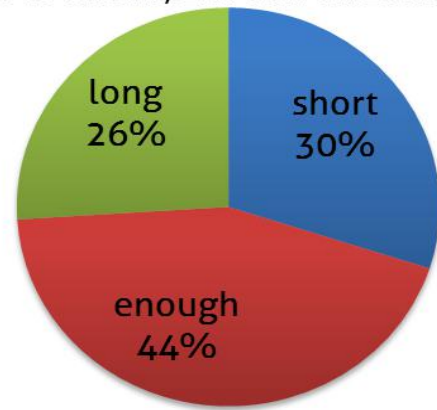
want to travel. Fourteen people said they want to go abroad, for example to Singapore, New York, Korea and Germany.

People who said they'd travel in Japan mentioned Miyako Island which is south of Japan, and also Tokyo Disney Land. Disney Land is a popular place among Japanese.

Our survey suggests that most university students wanted to travel abroad or further afield in Japan. However, most didn't have the money to do so, even though they had the time. They had enough time to become refreshed so they enjoyed their Golden Week in 2019. ■

MIZUKI SAITO

WAS IT SHORT, ENOUGH OR LONG?



EVERYONE HAD PLANS DURING THE GOLDEN WEEK

MOST PEOPLE WOULD TRAVEL MORE IF THEY HAD THE CHANCE AGAIN

