



Library tour and guidance for new international students at the Main Library

At the beginning of April, the Main Library at Kawauchi campus held its usual spring library guidance and tour for new international students at Tohoku University.

In spite of the rain, a considerable number of students attended and participated in the two scheduled sessions. The event began with a brief presentation, providing essential information about the usage of the Main Library, such as details on the opening hours, the loan periods, the available facilities, and how to use the Mylibrary online service. We also introduced the library's OPAC system (Online Public Access Catalog) and explained how to search for materials. Additionally, we also presented the other libraries at Tohoku University and their unique facilities, encouraging students to explore them and find spaces that best support their academic needs and comfort.



Library Guidance

It was great to see the students engaged fully during the presentation, especially considering their busy schedule with the university orientation.

Following the presentation, students were divided into smaller groups for the library tour, which took place in two separate sessions. Since this was their first time visiting the library, this opportunity provided them observing the spaces firsthand to familiarize themselves with the services. It also allowed them to identify their preferred study spots.



Library Tour

During the tour, one student was particularly impressed by the large collection of Edo Period materials in Building 2, which includes over 100,000 items. The students were also welcomed to ask questions, and some were curious about the availability of the group study rooms and the private research rooms, already thinking about using them. We were thrilled to see their enthusiasm and eagerness to make use of the library's facilities.

We hope that the new international students will take full advantage of the library's resources and find it a valuable tool in advancing their studies while enjoying the process.

Welcome to Tohoku University, and we wish you success in your new journey in Japan!

Reported by Maria Laura Martelli Giachino

New Members!!

This section introduces new members of the International Student Concierge.

Xiong Jingwen



Hello everyone!

My name is Xiong Jingwen. I'm from Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. I graduated from the Japanese Language Department of South China University of Technology, and I'm currently a Master's student at the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies at Tohoku University.

One of my hobbies is photography. I especially enjoy taking landscape photos—preserving beautiful sceneries is one of my

greatest wishes. Although I'm still far from being an expert, I'm always trying my best to capture good shots. Besides that, I'm also very interested in reading, particularly stories related to the Cthulhu Mythos. I find the mysterious atmosphere absolutely captivating.

I'm also an animal lover! I have a very adorable American Shorthair cat at home, and his name is Bread. Please forgive me for including two photos in my introduction—it's just that I really wanted to show everyone my cat. Also, feel free to show me your pets too!

I'm really happy to meet you all! I hope we can enjoy our time studying together at the Tohoku University library.

Zhu Mengqi



My name is Zhu Mengqi and you can call me Sara. I am from Nanjing, China. Currently, I am a first-year doctoral student at the Graduate School of Economics and Management, and my major is corporate social responsibility (CSR), especially for multinational corporations (MNCs). Since I have finished my Master's course here in

Tohoku University, this is my third year in Sendai.

In my spare time, I love to watch animation, which is also an effective method for me to learn Japanese. My favorite animated movies are works from Studio Ghibli, like “Spirited Away”, “My Neighbor Totoro”, “Princess Mononoke” and so on. Those works have moved me a lot since I was a child. After coming to Japan, I went to the Ghibli park in Nagoya. There are many famous recreated scenes for you to take photos of and I recommend anyone who loves Ghibli animation to have a visit.

Another hobby of mine is reading books, both novels and other kinds of books, but my favorite book is still “The Little Prince” since my first time reading it. Works with a poetic and philosophical touch such as this one can always inspire me a lot. When I read books, I also have a habit of listening to the music. I am a fan of Yorushika.

Nice to meet you! I am glad to have the chance to join the Tohoku University Library International Student Concierge. Please feel free to ask me any questions about library!

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. It is intended to pique your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and enjoy it!

I remember a time when Japanese food was still largely unknown outside of Japan, and often met with hesitation. The idea of eating raw fish, like sushi, challenged culinary norms in cultures where food was expected to be cooked over fire. But nowadays, Japanese cuisine enjoys global acclaim, rivaling even the once-unquestioned supremacy of French gastronomy. Food tourism to Japan is booming, and with it comes a growing appetite for books that explore the origins and meanings behind the cuisine, which are often framed within a travel or cultural experience.

“Devouring Japan,” however, offers something more substantial than a culinary travelogue. This edited volume presents a rigorous, interdisciplinary analysis of the complex relationship between Japanese food and cultural identity in a globalized world. Written by food historians and Japanese experts, the book explores the social, historical, and geopolitical forces that shape both the production and perception of Japanese cuisine.

The collection opens with an examination of how Japanese food has been popularized both within Japan and globally. It then moves through a series of chapters that investigate the imaginative construction of Japan’s culinary branding and identity, including its regional and international variations. The final sections consider how food reflects and reinforces social values within contemporary Japanese society.

This volume is a valuable contribution to Japanese studies, especially for scholars focused on food, culture, or globalization. At the same time, it offers a broader appeal by challenging common assumptions and presenting diverse perspectives on Japanese food as a vehicle of regional, national, and international representation. “Devouring Japan” encourages readers to reflect not only on the food itself but also on the deeper cultural and political meanings embedded in what and how we eat.

Book: Devouring Japan - Global Perspectives on Japanese Culinary Identity

Editor: Nancy K. Stalker

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Call No.: GD51/5

Location: Main Library 2F-Global-for-International Student

Language: English

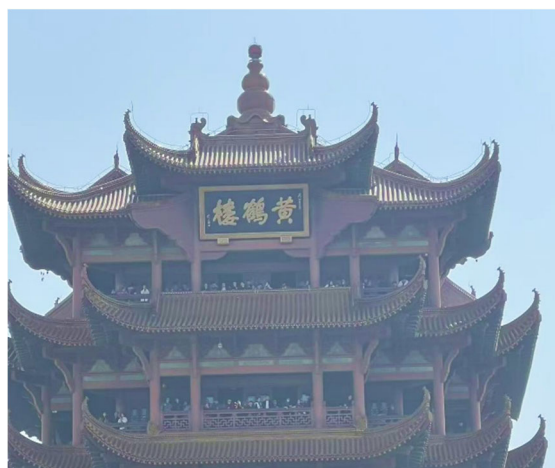
Written by **Andhika Wijaya**

My Hometown: Wuhan (China)

In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you a glimpse into their culture and some traveling tips from locals!

If you ever find yourself in central China, there's one city you shouldn't miss — Wuhan, my hometown. Sitting at the meeting point of the Yangtze and Han rivers, Wuhan has long been known as the “City of Rivers” and a crossroads of the country. It's the kind of place where you'll find cargo ships gliding past ancient pagodas, and high-speed trains whooshing through a skyline of glass towers.

One of Wuhan's most iconic landmarks is the **Yellow Crane Tower**, a historic pavilion that has inspired poets for over a thousand years. Perched on a hill overlooking the Yangtze, it's not just beautiful — it's legendary.



Yellow Crane Tower taken by Author

But if you really want to understand Wuhan, you have to start with breakfast. Forget cereal — we eat **Hot Dry Noodles**. Tossed in sesame paste, vinegar, and chili oil, it's the soul of the city in one bowl. Add some **Doupi** (a crispy rice-and-meat

snack) or spicy duck neck if you're brave, and you're eating like a local.



Hot Dry Noodles
from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hot_Dry_Noodles.jpg

Wuhan is loud, busy, and full of heart. It's a city that keeps moving forward while holding tight to its traditions. The streets smell like garlic and soy sauce, the rivers reflect neon lights at night, and the people — well, they're always ready to invite you in.

If you ever come to China, don't skip Wuhan. I promise, it's worth the stop.

Written by Xiong Jingwen

Quote of the Month

This section introduces famous quotes from a recommended book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. The quotes have been meticulously chosen by our Concierge members with the intention of promoting interest in books and providing motivation to our readers. We hope that you will enjoy our selection!

“You are not living to satisfy other people's expectations, and neither am I. It is not necessary to satisfy other people's expectations.”



Book: The Courage to be Disliked

Author: Ichiro Kishimi & Fumitake Koga

Publisher: New York : Atria Books

Call No.: SB35/340

Location: LIB-2F-Global
-forInternationalStudent

Written by Yin May Zin Han

Editors

Petrovikj Hristina [Editor-in-Chief]



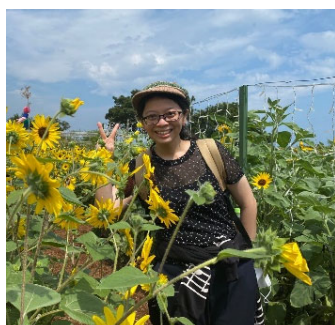
A graduate student from North Macedonia enrolled in the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She has many hobbies, some of which include: singing, journaling, travelling, reading, watching movies, and photography. She has lived in 3 different countries so far, travelled across Europe, and is hoping to embark on an Asian tour in the near future. Her secret dream is to be a member of a rock band, but since that has not come true yet, you can often find her in a karaoke booth instead!

Martelli Giachino Maria Laura

Originally from Argentina, she earned her undergraduate degree in Journalism before packing her bags and heading to Japan to pursue her Master's and Doctoral studies in Information Sciences. It's her first time living abroad, so every day brings a mix of exciting discoveries, cultural adventures, and—yes—occasional deadlines-induced little panic attacks. When she's not buried in her research, you'll probably find her soaking in an onsen, singing her heart out at karaoke, or obsessing over cats. She's also a huge fan of drawing, binge-worthy TV shows and movies, NBA games—and she hasn't lost hope of receiving her Hogwarts letter.



Andhika Wijaya



A graduate student from Innovative Japanese Studies Major, who was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. She never had seen snow before she came to Japan, so she's always going 'wakuwaku' when the snow is falling down even though she has to struggle a lot with the cold temperature. She loves drawing, reading comics, travelling to scenic places, enjoying nice music, singing at karaoke, and playing with cute animals. Please don't mind her if she makes strange noises when she saw a photo of cute animals. Aside of those, one of her major passion is enjoying food and making review notes about it.

How to reach us?

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