



## Kiya Okhlopkova Four Years of Working as an International Student Concierge Member

I joined Tohoku University in April 2015 as a research student with the support of the MEXT scholarship and spent the next two years having fun, engaging in many intercultural activities, and preparing for my Master's entrance exam at the Department of Japanese Literature.

With the help of my friends, I found two part-time jobs from the very first month in Sendai – teaching Russian language in one of the city's learning centers and organizing monthly debates and discussions in English at the TU International Oasis. That is where I met Yoshiue san (former librarian) and Nishimura san (librarian) for the first time. They came to the International Oasis to recruit participants for one of the library's recurring events – Bibliobattle. I took part in it by presenting Lafcadio Hearn's *Kwaidan* book and accidentally I won the contest. I received some library merchandises and *tenugui*, the Japanese traditional towel as the prize. Since then, I really wanted to join the International Concierge team as I loved the atmosphere of the library events and many of my friends had been working there already.

In 2017, when I finally became a Master student, I was officially hired by the library. It was such a pleasure to work under the kind guidance of Yoshiue san,

Nishimura san, Ueno san and the others, and to be surrounded by the awesome library team throughout these years! I was able to help out inquiries of many international students, such as how to find a certain book, how to connect to the Eduroam campus Wi-Fi service and how to print out documents using library computers. Among these help I have offered, my favorite is giving a guidance tour for the newcomers and TU visitors from different countries. In those occasions, I could take them around the library, show them various areas such as the basement stack room and the global learning room, and share useful information about the library services like self-checkout machines, lockers and the laptop lending corner.



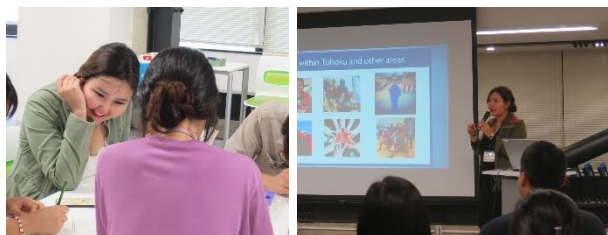
**Library Guidance and Tour (2019, 2017)**

It was also fun to participate in the Welcome week, the Global session and the Open campus events. I got an opportunity to make presentations about my home place quite a few times and now many Japanese students know about the existence of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).



**Open Campus Ceremony (2019)**

I also had a chance to share my survival tips to newly enrolled international students at the “Vivi Sendai!” events held by the library. It was fun learning more about the countries of my fellow team members too and to get to participate in their events, for example to draw comics at the Manga Day or attend the presentation about Myanmar.



**Global Session (2019,2018)**

While working in the library, I got an opportunity to introduce the job to my friends and labmates so they could also join the team, bringing their unique input and fresh energy. I think that this is the essence of this job – you help the others in need, share your experience, learn something new by yourself and make a lot of new friends!



**International Student Concierge Members (2019)**

*Written by **Evdokiia Okhlopkova***

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## **The University Libraries Around the World**

*This section introduces university libraries around the world, mainly from the alma mater of our International Student Concierge members.*

### **The Library of University Malaya**

#### **The Central Library of University of Malaya**

*Source: <https://isc.um.edu.my/facilities>*

The library of University Malaya, the university with the longest history in Malaysia, is founded in 1959. It consists of the Central Library and some art museums. It also has a network of branches such as special libraries located in certain faculties to meet the needs of these faculties. The library has more than a million of updated titles. The library system is managed by the chief Librarian and other professional librarians and staffs.

The Central Library is located in the middle of the campus of University Malaya and opposite of the Varsity Lakes. It is a four-stored building with facilities such as service counters, Self-Charging Machines for laptops and smartphones, Reference Desks, Free Range Readings and satellite TV (ASTRO) on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, theses and dissertation collections, library online database system (called “Pendeta Discovery”)

terminals and study areas on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, bound journal collections and reference hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and media collections and some other bound journals on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Books and journal collections are mainly found on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and above. The library provides a collection of materials not limited to books and journals, but also including audio videos, microform, theses and dissertations, e-journals, databases, citation indexes, and bibliography management software. There is a total of 1608 seating capacity in the Central Library.

The wonderful fact about the Central Library of the University of Malaya is that there is a 24-hour Study Area in it. This reading corner allows students to do revision or self-study out of the library office hour. The study corner is equipped with not only free university WiFi service but also vending machines and free drinking water machine. In addition to that, the washrooms are also equipped with shower rooms and there are sofas in the Study Area. These facilities enable students to stay at the Study Area for a long time for study. Most of the students who burn midnight oil for their examinations or for their theses and reports, and who need a free WiFi service for long hours will make use of this area until late night or the next day.

Written by **GAN WEN SHUOH**

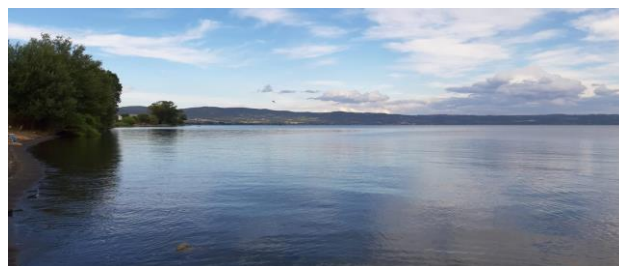
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## My hometown: Gradoli

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

To impress your attention, I would have presented a big city with millions of inhabitants, the highest skyscrapers and the most technological railway systems. But I am sorry to betray your expectations, for today what I come out with is a truly small village in the heart of Italy: Gradoli.

Gradoli is my lovely and sunny hometown, which sleeps on the sweet hills above the Lake Bolsena and the town is inhabited by about 1300 Gradolesi.



*Lake Bolsena (Captured by the Author)*



**The Author at the Lake Bolsena**

Its history began during the Etruscan civilization, whose tombs are still lingering on the hills. During the Middle Ages, it is said that a castle was built around there, but little of it remains today. What left a mark on my hometown history was the Renaissance period. In fact, in 1517, Pope

Paolo III, born Alessandro Farnese, ordered Antonio da Sangallo the Younger, one of the most influential architects of the period, to replace the old castle with a majestic Farnese palace. The Palazzo Farnese is Gradoli's skyscraper, overlooks the entire village and moreover provides an enviable view all over the lake! It also represented a refuge for Gradolesi under the World Wars and now it hosts the city hall, the city library, and a recommended Museum of Renaissance Garments.

***Museum of Farnese Garments in Gradoli***  
<https://bit.ly/3g3tPwE>

<https://bit.ly/3i9N3n3>

Let me show also Gradoli's best railway system: foot. Is there any moment better than a stroll along traditional Italian landscape while eating a hot slice of pizza or a fresh and tasty gelato on summer days? You can also just sit down in one of the cafeterias along the way to taste a glass of sweet Aleatico, the typical red wine of the village.

And again, I can say for sure that Gradolesi knows the true meaning of enjoying

food and *sharing* it! Please come to Pranzo del Purgatorio! Literally *Purgatorio Lunch* is once a year special event when 1700 persons are sitting under the same roof while *sharing* same tables and same food. Since it is a very popular and traditional event, only males from Fratellanza del Purgatorio, a non-profit association, are allowed to cook food following secret recipes. Since Purgatorio Lunch takes place on Ash Wednesday, the menu is a poor one, based mainly on little white Purgatorio beans and fish cuisine.

An important recommendation should be done: do not forget to bring your own plates, forks, cups and wine! In fact, according to tradition, big plates are provided for each group of four people who should equally share the food. And last but not least, throw away your clock, make new friends and enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime experience!

***Purgatorio Lunch***  
<https://bit.ly/2SMlaGZ>

<https://bit.ly/3fLq5aT>  
As reported by ***Elena Fabbretti***



## Manga Corner

This corner is about things that happen in the library, especially when you are a new student at Tohoku University.

Hello! I am Marina from Brazil! I like drawing for fun, so I hope you will have fun reading them too!



## Editors



### **Thiri Soe [Editor-in-Chief]**

A language science student from the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She is from Myanmar, a land of Golden Pagodas, in South East Asia. Thiri is studying applied linguistics, seeking knowledge to benefit her teaching profession. Her hobby is cooking and writing. She believes that things happen for a reason and the reason is to be good.

### **Gan Wen Shuoh**

A graduate student of Cultural Anthropology from Malaysia, a country with multiple ethnics and cultures. He likes Japanese culture and especially loves Japanese chess (*Shogi*) and watching Japanese dramas. By setting "Choose what you like and like what you choose" as his life motto, he believes life can be difficult but when you try to accept it, it gives you rewards.



### **Marina Nascimento**

A Brazilian graduate student from the Innovative Japanese Studies department. She enjoys drawing and reading comics as well as traveling around the world. Mari has been to 13 different countries and loves to talk about new places she would like to discover. If you want to become her friend just show her cat pictures, she will automatically love you!

**If you feel unwell, even just a little, please do not come to the campus or to the library. Rest at home and get well soon.**

## How to reach us?

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