Tszuzuki Scholarship
Fukuoka University, College of Economics
Fukuoka, Japan
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge
&
St Anne’s College, Oxford
Information Pack for students
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1. INTRODUCTION

This information pack was originally written in 2001, but has been updated by the 2016-2017 students (and other previous scholars). If you wish to ask any questions about any of the information in this guide, please e-mail one of us – our contact details are listed at the end. We’ll happily answer questions, give advice, and share our experiences.

Tsuzuki scholarship

Every year Japan University of Economics (JUE) takes up to ten students on an academic scholarship: half from St Anne’s College, Oxford, and half from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. The scholarship runs for 11 months, from September to July. During this period you will be offered a Japanese language course as well as the opportunity to teach English through private lessons which you will be expected to organise. Everything is paid for by the university, including flights, accommodation, meals, library, computer facilities on campus and Japanese tuition. The scholarship is designed to raise the profile of the university by hosting international students from prestigious universities (i.e. you).

Every weekday you will be expected to attend language lessons (3 hours), and in the evenings you will probably do English teaching work, although you will have to organise this yourself and it’s up to you how many hours you take on. In return for the scholarship, you will have to work at Linden Hall Elementary School and Linden Hall Junior High School, English immersion schools associated with JUE. At present, each scholar has to take three ‘shifts’, roughly equivalent to 5 hours a week. Apparently this can change year to year, but for the last two groups it has been fairly stable.

Additionally, you must attend a few of the annual ceremonies that take place in the university, such as graduation, matriculation, and Linden Hall sports day (very cute indeed).

Fukuoka

Fukuoka is a city of 1.4 million people, making it the sixth largest in Japan, consisting of 1% of the total population. On the island of Kyushu, the most southern and most western of the four main islands of the Japanese archipelago, it’s the closest Japanese city to Korea (there’s a high-speed ferry service to Busan from Hakata port), and also within easy reach of China (about an hour-and-a-half flight from Shanghai). Fukuoka is in the north of Kyushu, about 150 kilometres north of Nagasaki, and 1000km south-west of Tokyo. Its excellent transport links make it a frequent stop for touring bands and exhibitions. The heart of the city is a district called Tenjin, which is the main area for shopping, restaurants and bars. The business district to the north-east of the city, called Hakata, is a good hub for catching long-distance trains or buses to the rest of Japan.

Japan University of Economics

The university you will study at is called Japan University of Economics (JUE), or 日本経済大学 “Nihon Keizai Daigaku” in Japanese. Located between Dazaifu and Futsukaichi, it is one of many educational facilities owned by the Tsuzuki family. Within your first few days you will be given a tour round the campus, but you can get a sneak preview by visiting http://www.jue.ac.jp/

Your main point of contact at JUE will (probably) be Sebastian Dakin (“Seb”), a Fitzwilliam graduate in Japanese who’s settled in Japan with his family and is director of the International Department (see the appendices for his contact details).

The Dormitories: Cambridge and Oxford House

The University has two main dormitories – one called Oxford House, on the university campus itself, and the other imaginatively called Cambridge House. While in previous years everyone has stayed in Cambridge House, from 2015, male and female applicants have been split between Cambridge House (male) and Oxford House (female).

Cambridge House is a fifteen-minute bus ride from the university (JUE provides a free shuttle bus), or a twenty-minute cycle. Oxford House is a five-minute walk from the classroom the lessons are generally taught in. The staff at Cambridge House allow us to have various luxuries that other students don’t get, but we are also expected to keep certain rules which might come as a shock after the freedom of university. It is worth clarifying that at Oxford House, the girls are allowed no visitors on their floor/rooms although they can invite people into their cafeteria.
2. PREPARING FOR JAPAN

You are unlikely to get any communication from JUE before your arrival (we didn’t) but Seb is happy enough to answer your questions. Don’t be surprised if your plane tickets don’t arrive until very close to departure (for the last two years they have arrived a week before we left!).

Get a visa
Since you will be staying in Japan for almost a year you will need a student visa. Student visas are valid for up to a year. Therefore, your visa will probably expire in December of the following year. (Some students do choose to stay in Japan, working and improving their Japanese until then.) Whilst still at St Anne’s or Fitzwilliam you will fill out a number of forms which are then sent to JUE. In return, you will receive a Certificate of Eligibility, which entitles you to apply for a student visa. You then need to head to your relevant embassy or consulate (either London or Edinburgh). The embassy you need to go to might depend on where you live, and if you go to the wrong one then you might be turned away. Hunt around on http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/ for details, especially if you live in the north of England.

When you go to the embassy you have to take various bits of information, including:

- Your passport
- Your Certificate of Eligibility
- A photocopy of the Certificate
- A passport photo
- The contact details for JUE (including the address of Cambridge/Oxford House)
- Port of entry
- Name of financial guarantor
- A prepaid special delivery envelope for up to 500g (for them to send your passport back to you)

However, you should double-check the website in case the requirements have changed. At the embassy you will fill out a student visa form, but do not mention that you intend to do any part-time English teaching (this requires a work permit which you will get once you’re in Japan). The embassy or consulate will then take your passport and certificate, and post them back to you in about three to four working days, or you can collect them in person.

Payment has to be made in cash when you apply, check the website for up-to-date prices.

Double check the website for opening times and to check if they’re closed for a holiday to make sure you allow enough time for your application, processing and delivery! Full details on the procedure can be found on the website (www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp), including what to do if you have a non-UK passport.

When you get to Japan you’ll be given an immigration card to fill out. Most of it can be done in English, however the name of the university has to be written in Japanese. You can have a go yourself if you want (日本経済大学) or simply wait until you get to passport control and say the university’s Japanese name (“Nihon Keizai Daigaku” “nee-hon kay-zai dai-ga-ku”) and somebody there will write it in for you.

Get travel/health insurance
Sorting out insurance for the year basically comes down to two choices:

a. Buy travel insurance in England

Buying in the UK consists of hunting around the internet looking for the best deal. There are a couple of important points to note whilst selecting policies:
Some travel insurance doesn’t cover you for accidents sustained while working (e.g. while teaching English) so check carefully that you’re properly covered.

If you might want to return home for Christmas, or travel outside Japan, then make sure this won’t void your policy.

Everything will have to be arranged before you set off.
b. Buy health insurance in Japan

You can get covered in Japan while you're here for around GBP80 for 12 months, paid in instalments. This covers 70% of any cost of treatment you receive, while the remainder you pay for yourself (but thankfully basic treatment is reasonably priced). It's really easy to set up, Seb will likely take you all to register within the first few days or so.

It is worth saying that sorting out your health insurance in Japan means you enter into the Japanese healthcare system database, which makes it much easier to claim, and to sort out hospital visits. For anyone who requires prescription medication (perhaps asthma inhalers, allergy tablets, etc.) you will almost certainly be required to sign up for Japanese health insurance.

If you're a girl and on the pill, it costs about JPY3000 a month with health insurance. You can get this from Dr Schlemper, who runs the International Clinic near the Tojinmachi subway stop. A word of warning about the morning after pill: it's worth being extra careful out here, as the pill used is the combined oestrogen and progestin which can make you sick.

Vaccinations

No vaccinations are needed before coming to Japan (although double-check this in case the official advice has changed), but if you are going to explore Asia you may want to update your tetanus and polio boosters and get Typhoid and Hepatitis A jabs. Country specific information for Asia can be found at the Foreign Office's website at www.fco.gov.uk

Japanese currency

When you arrive you’ll need money to hold you over, probably for the first month or so, both for one-off expenses and until you start to earn money teaching (payment is either at the end of every private lesson or at the end of the month).

About 50000 JPY is ideal. Cash alone is the best choice – Japan is a safe country, and there's little worry of having money stolen. Traveller’s cheques can be awkward to cash, as it is worth emphasising that the banks in Japan are very slow and there’s lots of red tape. If you are happy to wait until arriving to get some cash; many local stores have ATMs inside which accept foreign cards. There are slightly conflicting reports on how easy it is to withdraw money using a foreign card; past years have reported that only the Post Office or 7/11 works but this year (with a HSBC card at least) every ATM so far has yielded results. Banks often offer a much better exchange rate abroad than money exchanges back home, though you may be charged a small international transaction fee.

The initial things you will have to pay for are health insurance, Nimoca cards for easy local transport and textbooks. Although the first and last can be quite expensive before you start earning, once these bare essentials are paid for there is little else that is strictly necessary and the rest of your money can go quite a long way.

Some of the scholars find that they spend most of this early hoard quickly, whilst others found that they had a considerable portion left over. As with anything, use some common sense. Day to day food (except on weekends), accommodation and transport to the university is covered by the scholarship but be aware that travelling into Tenjin, boozing and snacking can eat away at your savings quite quickly.

Note that if you are going to purchase plane tickets for travelling at Christmas (be it home or elsewhere) you will need to do this quite soon after your arrival and you may need cash for this. Prices fluctuate every year and rise quickly towards Christmas: if you book in October prices tend to be around £600 return, but this year rose to over £1000 return nearer Christmas. Instead, get Seb to move your flight (i.e. the return paid for by the university) to Xmas and get a return from Britain (i.e. fly out in Jan, return in July) which can be £400 odd cheaper. If you are sure that you want to go home at Xmas, mention this to Seb before he confirms flight details, as the airline will charge you around £120 to change the flight date after it has been confirmed. This year some
people had problems arranging their return flights, so make sure you arrange everything well in advance, and double check to make sure you will definitely be leaving on your desired date.

You will be helped to set up a Japanese bank account when you get here. This is useful for jobs where your employer insists on paying you into a bank account, but some of us haven’t used ours at all. Bank opening hours are extremely inconvenient however, and you are often charged a small fee for withdrawing from cash machines that aren’t run by your bank, or even if you use a bank machine, but outside of office hours.

As a general point, note that in most places the Japanese refer to as “credit card” only, they do in fact accept debit cards. This doesn’t mean you shouldn’t be prepared with getting a credit card - they can come in useful!

**Student Loan Company**

Even though you might think that you don’t have to tell the student loan company anything yet, it might be a good idea to get in touch with them anyway. Loan payments are due to begin in April of the year you are in Japan, so a call to their office to let them know can help you steer clear of any issues.

Often they will require you to fill in an “Overseas Financial form” towards January/February. You also may well have to send back a certificate from Oxford/Cambridge around January, certifying your status. Although some past years have advocated doing all these before leaving, the latest advice from SLC has been that this is too early for things to enter into their system and they’ll hound you anyway.

**Driving**

If you want to drive in Japan, you will need to get an International Driving Permit (IDP) in the UK before you come to Japan. You can get them from most major post offices, and you will need your licence, a passport photo, another form of ID (e.g. credit card or passport, exact details can be found on the Post Office website). The administration fee is £5.50, and it is issued on the spot. It is valid for a whole year. When you come out to Japan make sure you bring your UK driving licence as well since the IDP is not valid without it. Worth remembering that they drive on the same side of the road as the UK.
3. WHAT TO PACK

The Weather
In early September, the weather is quite hot and quite humid. It stays like this for most of October before getting sharply colder by November. The winter is (almost) as cold as it is at home, and it actually snowed in Fukuoka in 2014. This means that you'll have to squeeze in as much warm stuff as possible to survive the winter. The summer is hotter than in the UK, and slightly more humid.

Smart(ish) clothes
In return for the scholarship, you are required to attend graduation and matriculation ceremonies, as well as other formal events that may crop up. Therefore, you will need some formal clothes to wear – a suit and tie for gents and a shirt/skirt combo for the ladies is fine. It is not necessary or expected that you dress formally for teaching so a single suit or formal dress would suffice. Worth noting that you can get people to post a parcel to you with things you can't fit in your luggage. The Post Office is quite straightforward as you can post things from any branch, but other companies may be cheaper, so shop around.

Shoulders are considered sexy in Japan. 20 years ago it was supposedly a bit scandalous to have them on display, so girls might want to think about packing plenty of things that won't leave them exposed. You still don’t see shoulders very often though, indicating they're still probably out of fashion. Be warned though that you may still be requested to wear clothing that covers your shoulders whilst teaching, although this varies on employer.

Legs are exposed to ridiculous heights by many Japanese girls/women on an everyday basis. Usually tights are worn. However, be warned that if you are not of Japanese shape, smaller than a size 10, or taller than 160cm, buying trousers can be problematic. There is a Zara in Tenjin which can be a lifesaver.

British tourist gifts
Japan’s gift-oriented society means that it is a very good idea to bring some nice, quaint British gifts with you. Souvenirs of Oxford or Cambridge or of where you live often go down well. Note though that Fukuoka has its own branches of Harrods, Fortnum & Mason and Whittard (though of course they’re considerably more expensive), they do have the rock that is so common in seaside towns (though they don’t have writing down the middle, and they quite like that), and a bookmark is really only a subsidiary present, you cheapskate. Posh jams, teas and fudge seem to have gone down well - try National Trust shops, or Tourist Information Centres in Cambridge or Oxford if you’re stuck for ideas. Some of us were pretty worried about this before we arrived, but then discovered we didn't have that many occasions where gift-giving was necessary - so don’t go mad, think of the weight limit. Usually good to plan at least two or three as that is realistically the number of employers you could end up having.

English books, magazines, teaching aids
You probably won’t have much space for books, but thankfully Fukuoka does have a free city library (although it’s a bit out-of-the-way), with a selection of English language titles, and there are a fair few books drifting around Cambridge House from previous years (including a few travel guides, which are only a few years old). There is a brand new library at the University, which has weekly deliveries of Time, Newsweek, The Economist etc. You can also borrow books from a rather eccentric collection of English ‘classics’, as well as a rather eclectic selection of non-fiction. Rainbow Plaza (more on that later) also allows you to borrow up to 2 books for 2 weeks, free of charge once you’re a member.

Amazon.co.jp also offers a pretty good book service, with free delivery on anything over about 8 pounds. On a similar note, many CD and DVD websites offer free worldwide delivery – be sure to check it out! Maruzen is a good bookshop in town, which will have some English titles of books and magazines. Junkudo is an EXCELLENT bookshop in Tenjin, behind “Tenjin Core”, and above Starbucks. Eng. Books are on 4th floor. A newspaper/magazine/journal subscription of your favourite newspaper etc. for a year would make a great going away present, by the way. If you have transcended paper and now an e-reader, you will be able to access your home stores and download eBooks (and music) from these.
Copies of CV, degree certificate, business cards, etc.
These are all fairly useful items to have in case somebody asks to see them. Keep an electronic copy of your CV handy for updates and perhaps a scanned version of your degree certificate just in case. Contacting your old college when you’re here is easy enough for letters to the Student Loans Company or such like. Although, the Japanese attach a great deal of importance to the exchange of business cards - and it’s important to get it right - you won’t have many opportunities to use them at all. But worth knowing about.

Laptop
Everybody brought laptops with them this year. Although there is WIFI in Cambridge House, it is not particularly strong so having Ethernet capable laptops was a plus. There are also two desktops in the common room. In Oxford house the situation is much the same.

Japanese plug adaptor
Japanese sockets and voltage are different to the UK. You should buy an adaptor before you come to Japan – don’t expect to find one here. Look for an adaptor with two flat parallel prongs rated at 100/110V – or the same as the plugs used in USA. Because of the lower voltage, any UK-bought products will be fine to use in Japan, but will run at a much lower power/speed/heat. So although laptops will be fine (they’re designed to work on different voltages), hairdryers don’t work very well - you’d be best off buying a new one here or using one of the ones left in Cambridge House. Another option is to buy a transformer, which will cost around GBP22 if you buy it here. And if you want to use any electrical goods you buy in Japan once you get back to the UK, you will need to be sure your adaptor acts as a transformer as well, otherwise you could blow it.

Miscellaneous Stuff
It is obviously possible to get hold of deodorant, sanitary towels, contact lenses, contraceptives, medicines, etc. in Japan. However, you may find it a little perplexing trying to decipher the kanji/hiragana at first so it would be a good idea to bring a month’s supply to get you started. Tampons are difficult to find, and sanitary towels are rather hard to distinguish from incontinence pads. Although deodorant is easy to buy, antiperspirant is harder (read – impossible) to find and more expensive, so it’s worth investing in some sticks of Sure before you come out.

Considering that shoes have to be taken off in many indoor areas, it’s a good idea to bring slippers or flip flops (only to be worn inside), or face wearing through numerous pairs of socks (you can even leave them in your very own slipper-locker!). This advice is particularly important if your feet are size 9 or above (girls: 6 or above), as the free Japanese slippers provided will not be big enough, and aren’t very comfortable or durable anyway.

You will be provided with some towels, but since these are quite small I would strongly recommend bringing a large bath towel (although you can of course buy one here if you’re struggling for luggage space).

Finally, there is little to no blu-tack in Japan. There is great fun to be had in trying to describe the concept to baffled Japanese people. Pack some if you think it will come in useful. More recently, it’s been spotted in stock at The Loft (a wonderful shop in Tenjin) but is rather expensive so best to bring some with you. White blu-tack however, can make a fantastic novelty present.
4. ACCOMMODATION

**Cambridge House**

Guys will be living in Cambridge House, a dormitory designed to house about 600, mainly male students (although it won’t escape your notice that it’s severely under-occupied). It has eight floors, and the eighth floor is reserved for Oxbridge scholarship students. Dormitory facilities on the first (ground) floor include three pool tables, three karaoke rooms, and an onsen (public bath), open 5:30pm–10:30pm. All of these are free. Also on the first floor are a small shop (currently closed, we don’t know if it will re-open), a rarely-used Japanese tea ceremony room, numerous vending machines and the canteen.

You will be entitled to remain in the accommodation until the end of the July (you should be provided with a precise date nearer the time), and will have plenty of time to arrange extended accommodation if you want to stay longer.

Note that you will have a lot of the 8th floor to yourself. This means having access to a lounge with a wide-screen TV, a few HDMI cables, two computers, wireless Internet connection (variable coverage, many of us resorted to Ethernet), a collection of books bequeathed by past Oxbridge students, and a largish kitchen with a toaster, a big microwave oven (that can grill and bake stuff too - chocolate brownies are possible), coffee machine, and a large fridge. There is also a printer for printing teaching materials etc. in the study area, but be careful, if you’re planning to print documents with fine detail make sure to print in high quality (use the ‘きれい(F)’ setting if it appears in Japanese). You can print in the campus library for free but you will have to buy paper. You can also print at the 7/11 for 10yen so bring a memory stick if you’re planning for that.

In return for all this, you should make sure you keep the lounge area fairly tidy to stay on the good side of the cleaners. There is recycling so rubbish should be sorted - the cleaners are known to still sift through the remaining rubbish to retrieve things that can be recycled so it would help them if you separate your rubbish yourself. The cleaners won’t clean your rooms, so you have to do that yourself, but roughly every fortnight they will wash your bedding if you leave it in the provided bag.

**Oxford House**

The girls live together at Oxford House, one of the university dormitories that is right on the university campus (5 mins walk to the classroom). You live on a corridor with other Japanese and international students. Unlike the guys, there is no communal area.

Much like in the Cambridge House set-up, for visiting guests you can book a guest room (none of us has actually done so this year). If the guest is male, he will be in a different block and you will not be able to visit one another’s rooms.

The food at Oxford house is better than the guys’ food. Especially the fact you have a salad bar at dinner. The chef has been super accommodating about eating requirements this year (vegetarians and late-dinners up to 9:30pm are not a problem). There is also a small shop for snacks in the dining hall and loads of convenience stores a few minutes’ walk away.

In terms of cooking for yourself, the Aeon seems to be the best value for money. It’s super convenient: open till 10pm and located right in front of the station. Also lots of reductions from about 4pm mean you can pick up a cheap meal. Fruit and veg are particularly expensive but you can find some better deals at fruit and veg vendors. (We found various ones but there is a trusty one just across the tracks of the Nishitetsu Futsukaichi station.)

In terms of missing English foods/ bringing some with you most of us missed tea and coffee the most. The post seems pretty reliable and there is always the option of the import store Kaldi. There is one at the Chikishino Aeon or a few in Fukuoka city.

**House rules**
Though they may often feel restrictive, Cambridge House rules are relaxed considerably for the Oxbridge students living in their eighth-floor ghetto. Other JUE students are generally not allowed to come up to the eighth floor, though we have made friends with a few, and the porters have been lenient in allowing them to come up. You are allowed guests, but you have to sign them in at the lobby and they have to leave by 11pm. Since the legal drinking age in Japan is 20, alcohol is banned everywhere except the eighth floor. Therefore, if you’re bringing alcohol up to the eighth floor, please be discreet. You can arrange very small parties if everyone signs in one or two people, but if the party hasn’t finished and everyone left by 11pm, the porters will come and kick people out.

That said, the rules at Oxford House are strict - and remain strict. No guys are allowed into the house which de facto means that it is impossible to visit the girls in their rooms; although it is possible to meet/sit with them in the lounge area in their canteen.

The official rule is no teaching on the premises, but this particular rule gets ignored as long as you’re reasonably discreet about it (i.e. they don’t see money changing hands and no JUE students go to the 8th floor). I personally have taught in my room, and have had no problems doing so. You can also use the Counselling Room, located on the 8th floor near the elevator (ask for the key at reception).

**Rooms**
Rooms are the same in Cambridge and Oxford House. Every room has an en-suite bathroom with bath/shower and toilet, wardrobe, lamp, television, alarm clock, air-conditioning, and a mini-kitchen with small fridge/freezer, a single hob and a sink. Plates, cutlery, saucepans, etc., will be provided, and there is a kettle in every room. Japanese kettles, once turned on, heat the water initially and then keep it at a constant 98 degrees, so there’s no need to re-boil.

The room is fairly well-equipped with wall sockets, but you will likely need two adaptors. There is a phone in each room, and whilst it will accept any incoming calls (domestic or international, from fixed or mobile phones), you cannot make any external calls. Each telephone has an extension number. If you have friends or family phoning you, tell them your extension number. When they phone, they will reach the reception desk. Ask your caller to say your extension number, and the porters will put the call through. Whilst they will often put through calls if they recognize your name, it’s better to use the extension number. One more thing to watch out for: the porters are reluctant to put calls through after 11pm, which will be 2 or 3pm UK time, making it awkward for people at home to call. This is not up for discussion, but you can get round it by getting people to call your mobiles or calling you early in the morning, which is UK night-time. However, most people just use Skype.

If you have family coming to visit you, you can arrange a room for them on the eighth floor provided you reserve well in advance. At about ¥1,000 a day excluding meals, it’s considerably cheaper than staying in a hotel if it is for more than one night. Whilst friends (and boyfriends/girlfriends) aren’t included in this deal, it was amazing quite how many ‘cousins’ etc came to visit. Thus said, Japanese nationals cannot use the guest bedrooms - some contract with the local government - so they will need to seek alternative accommodation.

**Laundry**
Across both Cambridge and Oxford House laundry costs 150yen which you pay by buying 1000yen worth of credit (which actually gives you 1050yen of credit) at a time.

At Cambridge House you can buy this from a machine opposite the front desk. There will be some washing-up liquid and cleaning materials lying around the kitchen area, but you will have to buy washing powder and new supplies of toilet roll. There are also two irons and ironing boards. Please don’t leave shoes outside your room, at least put them behind your door. The cleaners haven’t directly complained to us, but we’ve been told they find it offensive and annoying, so bear this in mind.
5. FOOD

Provided Meals
From Monday to Saturday, meals are provided by JUE; breakfast and dinner in the dormitory canteen, and lunch on campus. For Sundays and National Holidays, you will be given money instead, at ¥500 per meal. However, we found this year that occasionally at times during the vacations there is no lunch available on campus, and no ¥500 either. The food is of varying quality but usually high and unless you choose a noodle dish (and even sometimes if you do), you will have to get used to a bowl of plain rice with everything.

Breakfast is from 7:30-8:30am. The food on offer does not resemble breakfast in any sense you will recognize. Like with every other meal, there will be rice, there may be fish, there could be egg and cold ‘vegetables’. Two days a week (this year it was Tuesday and Thursday), there is ‘Western day’ – toast, scrambled eggs/omelette, salad and sometimes cheesy pasta.

Lunch is served in the two cafeterias on campus. There are a number of staples like curry-rice, ramen, katsudon etc, and a teishoku (daily special). There’s also ice cream. You pay using shokken (tokens), which are available in unlimited supply from the International Office. Until you work out what the dishes are called, choose from the wax models of dishes inside the door, line up at the till with your shokken, point and smile and then take your ticket over to the section of the counter serving what you want. Make friends with the staff – they’re nice people really. Campus food is of much higher quality than dorm food, so if you’re feeling peckish you can also use your tokens to buy bento boxes from the Green Cafe before class each morning.

Dinner is served between 5:30pm and 9:30pm in the dormitory canteen, and consists of a set selection of dishes; you will almost always get some cold vegetables, soup, some breaded/fried fish or meat, a bowl of plain rice and a small dessert (usually a piece of fruit). You have no say in what you are given and may find things that you don’t like, but it’s cost and hassle-free and often enjoyable nonetheless. For vegetarians or those with special dietary requirements let the dorm staff know at the start of the year and they will prepare special meals for you - often nicer than those everyone else gets!

If, like many of us, there are days you cannot make it back in time for the canteen, there is the option to have them hold back food for you. If you speak to the porters or look for a sign-up sheet at the counter in the dining hall, then that would be the best bet. Even if you forget to sign up in advance, then if you ask nicely, you’ll still get fed, but it’d good practice to sign up before hand and keep everyone happy.

Feeding Yourself
It is rather difficult to recreate western food in Japan without considerable expense, but it’s not too hard to cook meals approaching what you’re used to, with a Japanese twist. We rant about this more in the sections on kitchen facilities and shopping, so we’ll leave it be for now. If you would rather not cook, you can buy instant noodles for just over ¥100 at any supermarket or from the dormitory shop or vending machines. You can also get bento boxes from most convenience stores and supermarkets; these usually contain rice, fish, cold veg etc and will set you back up to ¥500. Hotto Motto sells warm bento, and is easily reached by coming out of Cambridge House, turning left and walking for approx 5 mins. Cooking simple Japanese dishes is very easy – try to get a Japanese friend to show you how to make them some time. Onigiri, Japanese curry, and nabe are all eminently cookable.

Timing your return to the dorms with discount time at the Nishitetsu Supermarket (next to Asakuragaido Station) or the Aeon (near Futsukaichi) is a particularly good way of avoiding the canteen at limited cost. Pre-packed fruit and bento boxes have been known to sell at half price as early as six o’clock.
Eating Out
Restaurants are consistently very cheap for meals out. You can usually get a tray of food containing (surprise!) rice, meat or fish, soup, cold veg, pickles, and noodles for less than ¥1,000, and a bowl of soup and noodles with meat for ¥600. There is a selection of places near Cambridge House that you can try for yourself. You-Me town is a 10-minute walk away, complete with McDonald’s, Mister Donut, Baskin Robbins ice cream, Chinese and Italian. If you cycle toward Futsukaichi (turn right outside Cambridge House and continue in a forwardly fashion), you’ll come across ‘Big Boy’, cafes, and ramen (look for red lanterns with ラーメン). A few years ago, the opening of a giant AEON mall ten minutes’ walk away (by JR Tenpaizan Station) has massively increased the options for eating and generally spending money. There’s also a cinema (showing many films in English), a major supermarket, a lot of fashion shops and a large 100 Yen shop (think Wilkinsons but with a much larger selection). It’s really best just to explore and find what you like. One favourite was Four Seasons, which is a 2-minute walk max left out of Cambridge House. AA stalwart for Sunday evening dinners, they do an excellent curry (Indian, not Japanese) set for around 1200 yen. We made great friends with these guys, so they are very used to serving the foreign students.

Another top restaurant is the 100yen sushi in Aeon Mall where you can well and truly fill yourself on sushi for about 900yen (£6). The Fukuoka Now website has a good range of restaurant reviews in Tenjin. http://www.fukuoka-now.com/en/directory

Handy Food Guide
- Champon Noodles, vegetables and some meat/seafood in broth. The healthy option, we’re told.
- Chaahan (think fried rice with various vegetables through it) – rather nice, actually.
- Curry-raisu Surprisingly common in Japan, and a JUE classic. Rice with a thick (almost tasteless) curry sauce, with option of breaded pork (katsu-kary) or battered chicken bits (karage-kary). The ultimate comfort food.
- Domburi Mostly-fried egg with breaded pork and greenery on top of rice.
- Katsudon Instant-fried breaded cutlets and egg on top of rice.
- Sarada A rare chance to grab some fruit and veg (mainly shredded cabbage).
- Ramen Thin noodles in broth. JUE version includes two strips of varying quality meat, a wodge of bean sprouts, and a sprinkle of spring onions.
- Skidon Pork strips, noodles, and a thin soy-based sauce on top of rice.
- Teishoku The daily special – varies from wonderful to horrendous, but always worth checking out before resorting to an old favourite.
- Udon and soba Thick white wheat noodles or thin grey noodles in clear soy sauce based broth. There are six variations. Thin grey noodles and seaweed is another healthy option.
- Kake udon: The safe option, topped only with the standard chopped spring onions and small kamaboko (half-moon shaped bits of fish-paste).
- Kitsune udon: Topped with sweet tasting fried tofu triangles.
- Kakiage udon: Topped with deep fried tempura crisp that will soon gloopify and reveal tiny shrimp like things, complete with eyes and whatever other organs the shrimps had at the time of death. Be warned.
- Wakame udon: Topped with a lot of pungent dark green seaweed. Is nice.
- Tsukimi udon: A raw egg is dropped into your bowl of noodles and broth. Surprisingly tasty.

Being a vegetarian in Japan
Being a vegetarian in Japan is considerably more difficult than in the UK, but possible. There were four vegetarians among us this year and we coped fine. Here’s a breakdown of what to expect:
- Cambridge/Oxford House canteens: When you get here tell Seb you’re a vegetarian and he’ll ask the kitchen staff to cook you vegetarian meals. They did a good job this year, and oftentimes the vegetarian dish looked more appetising than what everybody else was getting. If you have any other special food requirements (one student couldn’t eat meat or dairy this year) they don’t always get it right at first but are very accommodating once they understand what you need, and will cook you special meals.
- **University canteens:** There are, technically, no vegetarian options in the canteens on campus (with the exception of plain rice and some noodle dishes). However, by asking for things “without meat/fish please” (“niku/sakana nashi de kudasai”) you can get a good-enough choice. If in doubt, ALWAYS say this; meat and fish get everywhere; write it down and put it in every pocket you have. There are two canteens on campus: Green Square and the main canteen in the Tsuzuki Memorial Hall.

- **Main canteen (Tsuzuki Memorial Hall):** Vegetarian choices limited to kitsune udon/soba and goboten udon/soba (and rice). Both are noodle dishes (udon noodles are thick and white, soba noodles are thin and grey). Kitsune gets you some sweet deep-fried tofu on top while goboten gets you some tempura vegetables. They both come with a couple of slices of pink and white fish paste. You can ask for the dish “without fish please” (“sakana nashi de kudasai”) although you might have to physically point out what you mean otherwise the server might not get what you’re on about. When you first arrive, this will probably be the only canteen open for a while and the udon/soba, although nice for a bit, will get depressing. Solution: buy a lunch box from the 100yen shop, buy veg and boil it up a bit before school, order soba/udon, tip veg into soup. The soup warms the veg up again and you are left with an infinitely more appetising meal. The main choice among last year’s students however was one of the Nepalese curry sets at the large cafeteria on campus. Being one of the few dishes that doesn’t contain meat made it a natural choice, but I’ve been told eating it on a daily basis can get repetitive after a time.

- **Green Cafe:** Much more vegetarian choice. You can get goboten udon/soba (see above), pizza set “piza setto” (ask for it “niku nashi de kudasai” to avoid it coming with meat on top, comes with salad), karagedon (rice with fried egg on top plus a couple of side dishes, usually potato/pasta and soup, ask for the dish “niku nashi de kudasai” to avoid the chicken that otherwise gets cooked in with the egg). Occasionally there will be other dishes available that have limited amounts of meat/fish in, so you can simply ask for them without meat/fish. During the university holidays (which don’t completely align with your holidays) Green Square is closed, so you’ll have to make do with noodles every day in the main canteen.

- **Eating out:** Japanese don’t really get the concept of a vegetarian, so this is where it gets difficult. The easiest option is to go to an Indian restaurant (of which there are quite a lot) as these are usually run by Indians/Nepalis who understand what a vegetarian is. At Japanese restaurants you will have to be extremely specific about what you do and don’t eat - simply saying “I don’t eat meat/fish” sometimes isn’t sufficient. With limited Japanese this is obviously not very easy, so oftentimes I’ve resigned myself to picking round the meat or swapping out the meaty bits of my dish with my omnivorous friends in exchange for their vegetables. Good vegetarian restaurants in town are “Vege garden” in Hirao and “Evah sweets” in Daimyo.

- **“Grench”:** in Akasaka has a great salad bar and doesn’t mind if you ask for your meal to be served without meat.

- **Supermarkets and convenience stores:** Again, difficult, as with limited Japanese you won’t be able to read the ingredients. You can try asking “does this contain meat/fish?” (“kore wa niku/sakana ga haittemasu ka”) but it’s easier just to go by sight, although you’ll probably end up accidentally buying a few things that aren’t vegetarian. As I mentioned above, it’s always worth asking. You’ll be tempted by little triangles of rice in Family Mart. The safe ones: plain rice, one with green stuff in, one with purple stuff is (no, I still don’t know what the ingredients actually are). Bento boxes always have fish in but sometimes it’s easy to take out.
6. THE COURSE AND THE UNIVERSITY

The Lessons
JUE offers a comprehensive Japanese language course, taking you from the most basic of greetings to the heady heights of advanced conditionals with added honorifics. Or so we’re told. But there’s a huge difference between being able to get by, and actually being able to CHAT. Still, we have faith.

For the whole year, our lessons have been as follows:

10.40–12.10pm
Lunch
12.50–2.20pm

The schedule seems to be fairly consistent year on year. This year the Wednesday morning lesson was a Japanese history, taught by Seb (in English) which proved to be quite interesting. Many days you will have to do some sort of homework, which usually consists of preparing for vocabulary or kanji tests. The amount of time this takes depends on the amount of learning that you want to do for yourself. You will be tested every few days on something or other (sometimes twice in one day), and a record is kept of everything you do. From almost the first day, classes are held in Japanese, though all the teachers speak a little English, and you can usually work out between you what is going on. So far we have had one main teacher (who teaches us on two days) and then three other teachers who takes us for the other three days. You are taught alone although in the past classes have been mixed with other international students.

The teaching style is very different to what you are used to – you must be polite, follow the system, do exactly as they say. Still, it’s by far for the best if you just go with it, and keep them happy. In previous years the teachers were quite strict about attending lessons every day; however, with us they have proven to be much more lenient. The 2006/7 guidebook spoke of them phoning you, or giving you ‘test penalties’ should you go AWOL, but we have never experienced any of this. Again, it’s an issue of self-motivation.

This might all sound like a bit of a doddle if you’ve been filling in the bits that Foucault himself couldn’t quite come up with for the past three or four years. It’s not. The hardest thing we’ve come up against is staying motivated and staving off boredom. For very long periods your life will follow an almost unwavering routine: get up, go to class, do Japanese drills and tests which are much the same no matter who is teaching, eat lunch, more class or teach English, do homework or memorize kanji/vocabulary, go to bed, get up… This scheme is not going to provide the rose-tinted backdrop for a year of unfettered Oriental discovery. But work hard, and the results really will pay off; when you travel, go out, meet people, you gradually be able to talk to them. And without that ability, your experience in Japan will be far poorer.

Term Dates
The terms are longer than you will be used to - Oxbridge really spoils us in that respect. This year’s dates, for reference, were:

Autumn 2014 September 22nd – December 16th
Spring 2013 January 12th – March 16th
Summer 2013 April 6th – July 17th

There are National Holidays scattered throughout the year – in the first term, there will be one or two every month, but there are much fewer in the Spring. The third term features ‘Golden Week’, an entire week of National Holidays in late April/early May. On these days, JUE closes down, so there are no classes, and you will almost definitely not have any teaching either, unless you have a private conversation class who are very keen.

The Language
There are two very important factors in learning Japanese. The first is that Japanese is not just English with different words. To an extent, you can construct sentences in pidgin French using French words and English grammar. In Japanese, this does not work. Correlations between
English and Japanese usages are mostly coincidental, and grammar will prove to be a major stumbling block, especially when speaking - you have to think of your sentence structure beforehand.

The second factor is that written Japanese and spoken Japanese are two completely different kettles of fish. Written Japanese uses two “alphabets” (syllabaries), one set of ideograms and the Roman alphabet, the last of which becomes less useful as you progress. The syllabaries are hiragana and katakana, each of which are entirely phonetic, and consist of 46 basic symbols, many of which can be modified. They both represent exactly the same sounds, but are used in different contexts: hiragana is used in everyday Japanese, and for grammatical inflections, particles etc., while katakana is used for words borrowed from other languages (mostly English). The ideograms are called kanji (Chinese characters), and there are over 7,000 of these, of which 2,000 are claimed to be in everyday use. You won’t learn them all (we had over 200 by Christmas), but you will learn some, and they will be mildly useful, and very pretty.

In our experience, it will save some time and panic if you have at least looked at the hiragana and katakana before getting here. And by this we mean that we strongly recommend you have at least a bash at memorising some of it. Once you’ve mastered the kanas, you will have all the sounds in the Japanese language at the command of your tongue, and from there Nihongo (Japanese) is your oyster.

Teaching Method & Specific Learning Difficulties
You don’t need a PhD in Pedagogy to know that the Japanese education system is, famously, based on rote learning. Courses at the Japan University of Economics are no different and, as students of a foreign language, we’re also taught using the direct method. As a result, students with specific learning difficulties - in which rote learning is a hindrance - should be prepared to put in more hours completing homework than their counterparts. In some instances, you’ll be shown lists of Japanese vocabulary in class and will have 5 minutes in which to memorise them, before being expected to use that same vocabulary in the 3-hour lesson. If you have a learning difficulty, this will almost certainly affect your experience of learning Japanese and it is worth being aware of that in advance; unfortunately, specific learning difficulties are not well recognised in Japan and conversations with teachers about dyslexia tend to be met with silent bewilderment.

THAT SAID; it most definitely should not put you off coming. We tell you this in order to prepare, rather than dissuade, you. In the 2014-15 there are two dyslexic students on the scheme who still enjoyed themselves.

Firstly, we advise any students with specific learning difficulties to try to learn the 90-odd hiragana and katakana before arriving (there are some great phone apps for this, or you can make your own flashcards). This will give you a head start and allow you to focus on getting used to the course structure, textbooks, teachers etc. in the first few weeks. Secondly, if you do not respond well to rote learning - or indeed if you are a visual, rather than an auditory, learner - it is vital that you don’t simply rely on the structure/content of the textbooks to teach you Japanese grammar and vocab. Other students may be able to respond passively to the teaching style but you should expect to spend extra time tailoring the information to your personal learning method. The language is challenging, but not impossible. Though the same is true for everyone, you will need to make a specific effort to find ways of learning the vocab and kanji that work best for you. Looking ahead to the final JLPT exam, you are entitled to special conditions such as extra time, but you should inform Seb and fill in the appropriate forms as the other teachers haven’t a clue.

If you have studied a modern language or linguistics at degree level in the UK before - ab initio or otherwise - elements of the course structure will likely still be alien to you. It is important to bear in mind that the primary objective of our course is to get us to pass the JLPT N3 exam in July. Because the N3 doesn't include an oral exam, our course doesn't place huge emphasis on conversation practice. If you wish to practice your Japanese speaking, you will have to do this in your own time, either with Japanese friends or in a private conversation class. Similarly, learning by rote means that you will not spend any time on syntactical analysis, grammatical morphology or
pragmatics, and hence at times it may feel as if you only have a superficial understanding of the grammatical structures of Japanese, when compared to previous study.

**JLPT: Japanese Language Proficiency Test**

The course claims to get students to the level required for the Level 3 (N3) JLPT. The JLPTs are held twice every year, in December and July, and at the same time all over the globe. There are four levels, from Level 5 (easiest) to Level 1 (hardest).

If you want to take the JLPT before you leave, make sure to arrange with your teacher at JUE for you to take the JLPT in July. Alternatively, you can take it at the School of Oriental & African Studies at the University of London, who administrate the JLPT and offer refresher courses. Check this link for more details: www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre/japanese/jlpt/home.html

**The University**

The Japan University of Economics has previously been known by several other names including Japan University, College of Economics; Daiichi University of Economics; Fukuoka University of Economics and probably a few others. Despite its grandiose name JUE is neither prestigious nor academically strong, students and staff alike will admit as much. However, the Japanese course you will be on is good.

Also on campus are several other universities/colleges (all part of the Tsuzuki Educational Institution) as well as the Linden Hall schools. It won’t escape your notice that the campus is rather quiet - the universities and schools appear to be struggling to attract students in recent years. Useful things to know about on campus (Seb will probably take you to most of these places on the tour):

- **Library**: Housed in the pointy end of the big new building (you can’t miss it) and occupying two floors, the library has a rather interesting selection of books in English ranging from classic fiction to undergraduate textbooks. They also get copies of some English-language news magazines (which you can find on a shelf by the computers). You can borrow books using your student card. You can also surf the internet on the computers, or watch a DVD from their DVD collection (use some headphones though!). Printing is 10yen a sheet in black and white, and 50yen a sheet in colour.

- **Shop (baiten)**. The baiten is located just round the corner from the International Office. It sells snacks, stationery, magazines, manga and other bits and bobs

- **English Garden**: Mosquito-infested in the summer so best explored once the weather’s a bit cooler. A large garden centred on a lake (complete with swans) adjoining the campus. The garden is filled with replica statues from ancient Rome and Greece. Has to be seen to be believed.
7. TRANSPORT

Trains: the Nishitetsu line
The Nishitetsu Tenjin-Omura line is a private railway line that runs from Tenjin, in the centre of Fukuoka, to Omura, which is miles away. It's the most convenient railway line, and it's the one you'll use most often. Cambridge House is closest to the Asakuragaido stop, whilst Oxford House is closest to Futsukaichi. Worth noting that the train stops are almost all written in romaji (in Latin letters) so don't worry too much about having to learn these names in Japanese.

Tickets need to be bought using ticket machines found just inside the stations. You can check the map above the ticket machine which tells you how much it is to get from where you are to any other stop. Once you've worked it out you simply punch the desired amount on the touch screen and insert the requisite amount of money. Once you've got the ticket you need to feed it into the barrier in order to get the train, and then once you've reached your destination, put the ticket into the machine to let you out.

For the first few weeks, get comfortable with how the system works. However, as soon as you are clued up, it is strongly recommended that you get yourself a 'NIMOPA' card (OYSTER card equivalent). There's no meaningful cost advantage, but it's very convenient not to have to buy a ticket every time you take the train. It can also be used on the JR lines, subway and all buses in Fukuoka and the REST OF JAPAN. Very convenient. You can buy them from the ticket machines at Asakuragaido, or Tenjin.

The Nishitetsu line isn't that expensive - a single to Tenjin costs ¥400 (about GBP£3.00). You won't save any money by getting a return, as it costs exactly the same as two singles. You can get trains times and bus schedules for Nishitetsu on this website:
http://jik.nnr.co.jp/cgi-bin/Tschedule/menu.exe?pwd=gb/menu.pwd&mod=F&menu=F

There are three types of trains; the "local" does all the stops, the "express" does fewer, whilst the "limited express" only stops at the most popular.

Trains: the JR line
It stops at different stations to the Nishitetsu line, though it often stops in the same towns – so, for example, a friend may specify JR Futsukaichi station, or the Nishitetsu Kurume station as a meeting point. There is a JR line stop near Cambridge House (Tenpaizan) but not one which is near Oxford House.

Unlike the Nishitetsu line, JR destinations are all written in kanji on the fare board. Make sure you can recognize the kanji of your destination before you get to Tenpaizan. For instance, “Hakata” is written as 博多, “Futsukaichi” is written as 二日市, and Tenpaizan is written as 天拝山. Station names at the stations themselves will be written in romaji, so you’ll (probably) know when to get off.

Once you've found the station name on the large sign above the ticket machine, insert the correct amount and press the button you require.

The JR line is marginally cheaper than the Nishitetsu line – Tenpaizan to Hakata costs ¥30 less – but the inconvenience probably outweighs any financial gain. The one exception to this is if you decide to go out late on in the evening; the last Nishitetsu train is at around 23:30, midnight on weekdays) as opposed to the last JR train which goes at around 00:20.

The Fukuoka subway
The Fukuoka subway (chikatetsu) is like no other in its regularity, reliability, cleanliness, spaciousness and many other wonderful aspects. You probably won’t need to use it very often though. Like the Nishitetsu line, the vast majority of signs are in English, and stations are announced in English as well. There is a subway station in Tenjin just next to the Nishitetsu Tenjin station. If you’re travelling to the airport, the 9-minute subway ride on the orange Kuko line from Tenjin (¥250) is especially convenient. You can also reach the Fukuoka Prefectural Museum and
Fukuoka Tower (Nishijin), a large park and ruins of Fukuoka castle (Ohori-koen) and the ferry port (Meinohama) on the kuko line. An easy way to get to the subway stations of the different lines is to turn right out of the Tenjin Nishitetsu train station and take one of the sets of stairs that lead down to the Tenjin Chikagai - an underground shopping arcade (more later) - and then follow the handy English signs to the subway line of your choice.

Trains/Subway: Journey Planning
For times, prices and route planning, use the highly efficient English language section of the JR website (which has both JR and private line information) - http://www.hyperdia.com/en/ Note that you have to spell the station names correctly – in this case Tenpaizan is actually spelt TeMpaizan. Also note that if you want to travel to/from Fukuoka on a JR train you have to type in “Hakata” (the name of the main JR station in Fukuoka), typing in “Fukuoka” will land you in a station hundreds of miles away.

Buses
The Nishitetsu company (same people who run the train line and the supermarket among many other things) operate a special ¥100 bus around the Tenjin area, which will drop you anywhere within the ¥100 zone for- you guessed it- ¥100. A map of the route can be found in Fukuoka Now, available from Rainbow Plaza. Apart from that, you’re best hijacking a Japanese person and asking them what bus to get. When you’re getting a bus, pick up a ticket from the dispenser at the back door, and then deposit this with the relevant fare in the collection box by the driver when you get off (the number on your ticket will be shown on an electronic board at the front, with the corresponding fare below). It’s a good idea to have the right change handy before your stop. If you’ve used all your pennies in vending machines, stick your money in the slot by the driver, collect your change and all will be well…as long as you then remember to pay, and haven’t caused a silently angry queue. Although of course all this is avoided if you have a NIMOCA card because you can simply tap it to pay the amount you owe.

Medium or long-haul highway buses (to Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Tokyo, etc.,) leave from the Nishitetsu Tenjin Bus Centre, next to the train station, and from Hakata. Anyone traumatised by cramped conditions on school trips, rest assured the buses are luxurious by comparison - but perhaps not as cheap as you would hope. You can buy tickets on arrival, or reserve online and then pay at a travel agent (like the one in Nishitetsu Futsukaichi station) before your journey. Also, try this website: http://www.bus.or.jp/e/

Taxis
A refreshingly polite, white-doilied, white-gloved, automatic-doored experience. It’s fairly easy to catch a taxi in Fukuoka – taxi ranks are plentiful and well-distributed. However, don’t expect the taxi driver to know where Cambridge House is (Oxford house you’ll probably be fine because they’ll know the university). So instead, ask if he knows how to get to Asakuragaido station (eki). It's generally a good idea to keep a copy of the address with you so they can look up the postcode on their nifty sat-navs. Once at Asakuragaido, you can give directions fairly easily, resorting to hand gestures if necessary. A late-night taxi ride back from Tenjin costs about ¥5,000. Best to share, or in reality wait for the first train back (about 05.30am).

If you’re going in the other direction, or from the dormitory to the airport, then it’s best to ask a member of the reception staff to book a taxi for you. A taxi to the airport will cost you around ¥4000.

Bicycles
If you’ve blown all your money on sake and sashimi, then travelling by bicycle is the ultimate in retro throwbacks. There are bikes for our exclusive use. Most roads have wide cycle lanes, and drivers give you a lot of space. If that doesn’t put your mind at ease, cycling on the pavement is ok too, on either side. Swap your room key for your bike key with the porters before you leave, and vice versa when returning. Be aware that maintaining your bike and paying for damage is your responsibility. You are also expected to return it to its designated parking space at Cambridge House every night (we have been threatened with hefty fines if the bike goes missing, although the threat has never been followed through).
8. PART-TIME WORK

If you are awarded a place you will come to Japan on the understanding that you will learn Japanese and teach English at Linden Hall. This doesn’t mean that you have aspirations to teach professionally, or even that you know anything about teaching (or about the English language save the ability to speak it for that matter). But you must be prepared to stand in front of a class and do something.

In 2016 - 2017 the group has also been asked to help out on “presentation days”. Students from local high schools (think secondary schools) come to the university and we are each given four or five students to sit with and talk about the UK. The students then have to produce a poster to then present to the rest of the group about a particular theme. Thus far (December 2016) there have been four. They are unpaid (except for a symbolic one-off sum of ¥2,700).

Students this year earned around ¥20,000 a week from their private teaching, though individual numbers varied greatly. Alcohol, train journeys, eating out and karaoke will use up your money fast, but if you’re careful, that ought to get you a holiday or two over the year.

Linden Hall(s)

There are two schools called Linden Hall - the Elementary School and the Junior High School. Both are owned by the Tsuzuki family. The promotional literature claims it was founded in 1746, but apparently Chancellor Tsuzuki (who also owns other Universities and High Schools) somehow bought the right to make that claim from the original Linden Hall in America. Questionable. Linden Hall is a private bi-lingual school. As a Tsuzuki scholarship holder, you are obliged to sign up to a work schedule, the structure of which varies from year to year. This year the group had to cover two sessions in the morning which take place before the morning Japanese lessons and two sessions in the afternoon from 3:30ish to 5:30pm. The work is mainly giving the kids a chance to practise their English conversation in very small groups or one on one. In the afternoons, we eat a snack with the students at 4:00, then help them with their homework until 5:00pm before ending with half an hour of free play in the gym or outside. The Junior High usually consists of helping with reading for one hour. The exact schedule of events also depends on which day you’re there. Covering these slots is a condition of the scholarship, however you will also receive what is known as a ‘gratuity payment’ for doing them. This year it was ¥10,000 a month, although this varies from year to year.

Teaching English Elsewhere

Each year the departing students prepare a database of jobs, which will be invaluable to the incoming students when they arrive in September. This contains information about all the jobs that are passed on between Tsuzuki Scholarship holders each year. These jobs are incredibly varied in terms of commitment and salary. You should devise a fair way of sharing out these jobs but think carefully before accepting one – do you really want to teach that age group/English level? Are the working hours awkward? How far will you have to travel? Some people make it a priority to lump all their work together on certain days and in certain places, and as such make a lot of money very efficiently. Others, however, have prioritised making sure that they teach interesting people so that they get something out of their teaching time other than money. It’s really up to you how your week, and bank balance, pan out in this respect.

English teaching can mean shadowing a Japanese teacher and reading out sections of textbooks for pronunciation purposes. It can mean teaching children anywhere between the age of 2 and 18 (some, unsurprisingly, with no background of English), alone and with varying degrees of resources. It can mean standing in front of a class of 20 in a community centre. Or it can simply mean conversation with fairly competent speakers about anything. You can find out more by emailing us… and please do. By doing so last year, some of us had a job sorted before we got here, and it’s always nice to have one less thing to worry about when you first get here. It’s important that you understand how big a role teaching could play in the year and make sure that you organise something that you’re going to enjoy, or at least not hate. Granny students who give you ice-cream whilst you teach them are an invaluable source of happiness. Similarly, lovely
middle-aged women with a great sense of humour who offer coffee, cakes, and interesting stories are delightful students.

The database alone will not provide enough work for everyone to be equally busy all the time. Inevitably, some of the group will seek employment from other sources. You could try contacting major language schools, though they usually prefer TEFL or CELTA qualified teachers and make huge demands on your time. You could also sign up to websites like www.121sensei.com, or www.my-sensei.com, where you can create a profile free of charge, set your own rate and wait for students to come to you. But please be sensible and arrange to meet in a café in an area you know well, and if you get funny vibes from a new student, just don’t meet them again! The best places to look are Rainbow Plaza and Fukuoka Now forums. You should expect to earn between ¥2500 – 3000 per hour. Some jobs will pay more; it depends on who your employer is. You may agree to take a conversation student for less, depending on the circumstances. Always take into account whether or not transport is included, and try not to be pushed into accepting anything less than ¥2500 per hour from a language school – in our experience being firm with your bottom line won’t cost you the job or a loss of respect, and being a native English speaking Oxbridge graduate commands respect in Japan.

Finally, for those of you who don’t have an in-depth knowledge of English grammar, don’t worry. Being a native speaker gives you an automatic advantage because you will be able to spot and correct mistakes straight away without understanding why.

If you do feel like making peace with/overcoming the grammatical failures of our good-old English education system, there are some books at Linden Hall and Cambridge House, as well as books with plenty of suggestions and advice about teaching.

It's worth noting that the local International Magazine, Fukuoka Now, frequently takes on interns for proofreading work. Two members of this year’s team started as an unpaid interns in September and found work as occasional writers or, these days, regular bloggers. The level of commitment possible will probably vary year on year. Interning/writing for free exposes you to a few perks like knowing about events well in advance, or the occasional free ticket.

Rainbow Plaza
(http://kyushu.com/fukuoka/services/rainbow_plaza/, http://www.rainbowfia.or.jp/)
Rainbow Plaza is a combined shop and meeting place for foreigners situated on the 8th floor of IMS building in Tenjin. Just turn right out of Tenjin Station: it’s the gold-coloured building on the opposite side of the road. Rainbow Plaza is initially a very good resource. They have information about international exchanges and forthcoming events. You can use the internet, read English language newspapers and borrow a limited selection of books there. Their friendly staff will also be happy to answer any of your questions – especially useful if you are looking for directions to some place or other. By far the most useful aspect of Rainbow Plaza, however, is its message board for advertising your availability to teach English.

You will need to register before you can place or view adverts, so be sure to take two photographic pieces of I.D. Registration is free. Rainbow Plaza is open from 10am till 8pm, and adverts must be renewed every two weeks. When placing your advert, put the common room phone number/or your mobile number if you already have this, and your email address. Write as legibly as possible. You will probably be taken in your first week by Maki-san or Seb.

Fukuoka Now
www.fukuoka-now.com
Fukuoka Now is a once monthly international magazine. It’s written in six languages, though the content is mainly English. Since it advertises and writes about events taking place in Fukuoka (quite a few written by students on this scheme), a look at its website can also give you a good flavour of what kind of trips could be in store for you once here. The magazine has a great forums section both in print and online and it is a very productive way of finding pupils; see the ‘Classifieds section’: http://www.fukuoka-now.com/en/classifieds
Fukuoka Now’s articles mainly promote sponsored initiatives, but this shouldn’t put you off getting involved. They host parties in Fukuoka’s gaijin (foreigner) hang-outs, which can be a good way to extend your social network. They are called ‘Now Lounges’, and have been some of the most enjoyable events of the year. From memory, there was one in Sep 2010, so I imagine there will be one at a similar time this year.

Modelling/Commercial Work
If you have no qualms about being in front of the camera, then maybe you might like to try your hand (or more appropriately, face) at modelling. You needn’t be especially beautiful – just foreign – or so we’re told. Although this year we’ve collectively failed to break onto the billboard and TV commercial scene, in 2015-2016 two of the scholars were hair models for a local salon, and got to keep the clothes. You can sign up to a modelling agency (e.g. “International Stars and Brains”), send in some pouting jpegs Keira Knightley herself would be proud of, and wait for the offers/rejections to come pouring in.

Proof-reading
Despite the vast quantities of poor English in Japan, general proof-reading jobs are rather difficult to come by. Companies already have somebody to do it for them, or they just don’t care – Japanese people won’t notice anyway. By all means look, but don’t count on it. More likely is that a private student may have something they want you to check for them - one of us did great fun learning about the effects of various enzymes on egg white protein in a Pharmacology PhD thesis. Best that you are used to writing a scientific report though, or at least have experience of proof-reading the efforts of NatSci friends at college!
9. JAPANESE CUSTOMS

Japanese customs - a confusing part of the culture for anyone that has never spent a serious amount of time in Japan. Although some societal rules can be a bit bewildering or even unnecessary at first, you’ll soon get used to what is expected of you and when to do what, but here’s just a few tips from us to start you off…

Shoes
Something that you’ll find common throughout the whole of Japan is taking your shoes off when you enter a home or certain buildings. This includes the dormitory, Cambridge/Oxford House, Linden Hall, and some restaurants where you sit on tatami (Japanese mats). A good cue to know where and when to take your shoes off is when there is a step up into the building in the entrance area. We recommend bringing shoes that are easy to put on/take off. Turn your shoes to face the door once they’re off.

Toilets
Sounds pretty basic, but toilet training is required! Many public toilets are of the Japanese variety—that is to say squat toilets. If you’re not particularly bendy or good at squatting, it may be a good idea to get practising now! You’ll often find a pair of slippers in the bathroom. Please make sure that you use them, it’s supposed to be basic hygiene. It’s a good idea to carry a pack of tissues with you at all times, as some public loos don’t provide paper. Conveniently, there are always people handing out free packets near Tenjin station.

Bowing
As you probably well know, Japanese are not “hand shakers.” Remember, when you first meet someone, bow, and if they offer you their hand, do take it - they’re probably trying to be polite by following western customs. When saying goodbye to friends, waving is probably the best bet, even if you are only half a metre away!

Tipping
Tipping culture is simple - just don't tip. Not in taxis, restaurants or shops. Easy! Also note that in most bars and restaurants bills are paid at the till on your way out.

Hospitality
Whilst here, you will receive some of the most generous hospitality you have ever received, so be prepared! Sometimes, people go far out of their way to give a helping hand, or to offer you things that you never requested. Paying back the hospitality when you’re here will be difficult, but try your best. When someone has done you a great service, say thank you more than once, say sorry also ("sumimasen!"), and repeat thank-yous when you meet in the future.

Food
Most people find that Japanese cuisine ranges from horrors to delights to the absurd (think live, moving squid which suckers itself to your tongue. A particular highlight of the year!) If you're at someone’s house, as far as you can, try and stomach everything. It's seen as impolite to leave food that has been prepared especially for you. Eating etiquette can also be mind-boggling, but the basics are: don't stick your chopsticks in your rice and leave them there (major no-no), don’t drown your rice in soy sauce, and when you eat noodles, slurp for your life!

Communal Bathing (Onsen and Ofuro)
A daunting experience for first-timers, but well worth it. Cambridge House is probably the best place to practice getting naked in (semi-) public, especially because when you first arrive because any faux pas will only be witnessed by other students.

There will be a communal changing room with baskets and/or lockers for your stuff in all bath houses. It’s best to invest in a small plastic basket from a ¥100 store to put your toiletries in- these will be all you need to take into the bathing area.

Leave your towel outside- although some people like to take a flannel for a teensy bit of modesty. But it’s up to you. Grab a bucket to sit on, choose a shower, and wash thoroughly. Most people
seem to spend more time washing than in the bath itself. Make sure there are no suds on you before you get in, and rinse off your seat. Tie your hair up in a bun if it’s long. Then sit back, relax, gossip, make friends, enjoy the scenery… the onsen is a magical place. If you can, try and head up to Hita in the winter, as there are some stunning outside onsens, by rivers. With the snow falling as you unwind, it makes for a pretty magical experience.

Note that many onsen ban people with tattoos altogether, in an effort to keep the Yakuza (mafia) out. Tattoos generally are considered a sign of criminality in Japan, though the visible effects of this vary a lot. It should be at least possible to cover them up for school. You may well be asked to leave commercial onsen if other bathers complain about your having tattoos, but we've never had any problems in the Cambridge House onsen.
10. SHOPPING

From the numerous designer boutiques and mammoth electronics stores, you wouldn't think Japan had just emerged from a seven-year recession, and is probably entering another. It's a fantastic place to shop, and here is our guide to satisfying your desire to acquire.

Shopping for the Essentials

So, you’re looking for a loaf of bread, some milk and some chocolate. Where do you go? Well the go to is 7/11. It sells literally everything and is open 24/7. Family Mart is a strong alternative. Conveniently, you can also do all kinds of convenient things in both places, like paying mobile phone bills and booking ferry/theatre/flight tickets.

Supermarket items are, for the most part, reasonably priced. Bread comes in strange little loaves of six slices, sold for about ¥80-120, or about £1. Sometimes you can find a limited range of brown bread. Fruit is also expensive, as are beer and (decent) wine. Spirits, imported and home-grown, are cheap.

For cheaper, but less consistently reliable fruit (as nature intended it), there is a fruit and veg shop seconds from Asakuragaido station: on the way towards the station from Cambridge House, at the level crossing, take the lesser sharp left and walk on – it’s on your left before the Post Office. It is much cheaper than other supermarkets and the little man who owns it is always happy to try and chat to you in Japanese.

Clothes Shopping

Tenjin is fit to bursting point with high-end clothes shops for the discerning uber-vain Japanese youth. Unless you find a decent sale or are made of money, these are probably worth avoiding.

There is no Primark, but you can find decent clothes at decent prices at places like Muji in Canal City or Uniqlo in the Mina Tenjin Building. Also, keep an eye out for the Zara sales. You-Me Town (near Asakuragaido) is also pretty good for reasonably-priced clothes. For those with an eye for a bargain and a purse to match, you can find great second-hand clothes in Super Spinns on the 8th floor of Tenjin Core (opposite Tenjin station) and Hanjiro (7th floor of Vivre). You can usually pick up something quirky for about ¥1000, and they have a decent first-hand section too. In a similar but even cheaper vein is Thank-You Mart, where EVERYTHING is ¥390. It’s on Nishi dori (behind the station), as are many awesome things. Go down any one of the side streets to find loads of cool “vintage” shops in the Daimyo district.

The AEON MALL close to Cambridge House is complete with 3 floors of shops, restaurants, travel agencies, arcades, a cinema and everything you imagine a Japanese mall to have. It’s the third largest mall in Kyushu apparently. There is a good ¥100 shop on the second floor called Daiso (it’s hidden round a corner so look for it on a map) and shopping for all budgets. JUSCO is now the biggest supermarket in our area and often has offers on in the fruit section. Also cereal is much cheaper here than anywhere else. The food hall or ‘gourmet street’ as it is officially called on the first floor has a number of different restaurants including Italian and Chinese cuisine. There is a really cheap sushi place where many of us have spent Sunday afternoons with very pleasant, young staff. Plates are as cheap as ¥105 each. AEON MALL also has an excellent selection of souvenir shops (extremely useful for people who were returning to the UK for the holidays this year), there are many Japanese shops that sell chopsticks, pretty Japanese tea sets and kimonos. Last but not least, on the 3rd floor of Aeom Mall the Warner Brothers cinema is an experience you shouldn’t miss. Lots of leg room and a variety of Japanese and foreign movies are on here for ¥2,000. Monday is ladies’ night (¥1,000) and Friday is couples’ night (¥1,000). Late shows are discounted (¥1,200).

Books, CDs, DVDs etc

As mentioned before, the Internet is a priceless resource for these things. Japanese CDs and DVDs are not cheap by any standards you will be used to. Some bookshops will sell English books at the same price as back home, which is great! But Amazon will almost definitely have them cheaper. Much of the www.amazon.co.jp site is available in English, and delivery is free on orders over ¥1,500. Other sites that offer free delivery of goods include:
But be aware that unless you can make space in your luggage, you’re essentially renting these things for a year, then kindly donating them to the newcomers.

100 yen Shops!
Like pound shops, but cheaper and in a different currency (¥100 is about 80p). You will find almost anything from kitchen equipment and gardening goods, through books and decorative items to stationery and rugs. The AEON MALL one is the biggest on in the area but there’s a small one on the ground floor of the Asakuragaido Nishitetsu Store, a bigger on above that in Futsukaichi, and the mother of all on the 7th Floor of the Daiei building in Tenjin. Most ¥100 don’t include the 8% sales tax in their prices, so expect things to cost ¥108 each.

Miscellaneous
There’s an antique market at Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine on the first weekend of every month. It’s expensive, but well worth a look, and you can find reasonably priced kimono and fans if you look hard enough (they make excellent Christmas presents!). Dazaifu is generally awesome for Japanese gifts.

If you are looking for second hand kimono/obi/related attire, try the first (ground) floor of the Sun-Selco market building in Yakuin (10 minutes south of Tenjin on foot).

In addition to the many, many department stores in Tenjin there is also the Tenjin Chikagai, which runs for miles underneath the main street in Tenjin and has many cafes, clothes shops etc. as well as the entrances to the basements of all the surrounding department stores - it really is possible to spend all day in Tenjin without ever seeing daylight. If you’re feeling disoriented amongst all the skyscrapers the easiest way to regain your bearings is to dive into Chikagai and follow the handy signs or take a peek at the regular ‘You are here’ maps. Also a great way to get around when it’s raining!
11. TRAVELLING

One of the main highlights of the year for most people is the opportunity to go travelling, both in Japan and further afield. Although English teaching pays well, transportation, accommodation and food in Japan tend to eat up savings faster than you’d imagine, so be warned. A return to Tokyo this year cost around ¥28,000 (£200) from www.skymark.co.jp (more on that to come).

Returning Home

This year a number of people opted to return to the UK for Christmas and New Year. Flights prices were not as reasonable as last year’s (GBP400-500) and ranged from GBP800-900. This year we looked at booking flights within the first few weeks of arriving and the prices were still quite high but this seems to vary from year to year and this year especially the Yen was very strong in comparison to the pound (something else to thank Brexit for). When booked in Japan, flights can include a few days’ (or hours’) stopover in Hong Kong or similar places if you’re interested. It is generally a good idea to get Seb to move your return flight (i.e. the return paid for by the university) to Xmas and get a return from Britain (i.e. fly out in Jan, return in July) which can be £400 odd cheaper. If you know you want to come home at Xmas, mention this to Seb now (contact details at the end). This year we were allowed to change our flights once for free but you might not be able to do that this year.

Arranging Travel

If you are arranging a trip somewhere, the first person to speak to is Seb who can give you an idea of how much it might cost and the cheapest way of getting there. He can put you in touch with the JR travel agency who know all the student specials on transport and accommodation. For travel outside Japan, we highly recommend “No. 1 Travel”, who can be found on the third floor of the ACROS building in the centre of Tenjin or online at www.no1-travel.com. The staff speak English and they are used to finding the cheapest flights.

Destinations

This is just a sample of some of the places we’ve been to so far on our scholarship. We’ve been pretty opinionated, especially when we haven’t agreed with the Rough Guide/Lonely Planet, so feel free to go and decide for yourself!

Day trips

Yoshinogari site – Saga Prefecture, West of Fukuoka, about ¥1,000 on JR line. If you’re interested in Japan’s history then this place is well worth a visit. It is Japan’s largest ancient moat-enclosed settlement, dating from 3B.C - 3A.D. Excavations of the site began in earnest in 1989 and the settlement has since been expertly reconstructed for visitors to stroll around. It’s all outside so make sure you choose a fine day to visit.

Yanagawa – South of Kurume, ¥500 on Nishitestsu Omata line. A good place to enjoy punting in warm weather. We recommend you go during the annual Doll Festival, held in March, preferably towards the end of, so it’s warmer. The local speciality is eel, which you can enjoy in lovely surroundings (albeit at great expense) at the end of a punting trip. They have cool festival in October going down the river. We went and really wished we had got a boat (which conveniently fit 10 people) but you have to book well in advance (get Seb to do it!). You can take your own food and drink.

Spaceworld - Northern Kyushu, about ¥5,000. A circa 1980s Japanese vision of the future. As bizarre and fantastic as it sounds, complete with surprisingly good rides and theme tune. You can finish off the day at Mojiko, the northernmost point of Kyushu. Here, you can visit the mish-mash of European-style buildings that is retrotown, and try the infamous fugu blowfish.

Ootsuri bashi – Oita Prefecture, it might be possible to go by train but best to go by car (see later for ‘car hire’ or make Japanese friends). A good day trip during autumn to enjoy spectacular autumnal colours. Ootsuri bashi is simply a suspension bridge straddling a valley covered in maple trees. Each year thousands, possibly hundreds, of mad Japanese tourists flock here during autumn. It affords a stunning view and an insight into how Japan celebrates its seasons. We went in mid-October, but the abnormally long summer meant that autumn was still not in sight, so make sure you follow the weather carefully.
Also, queues for the bridge can be ENORMOUS, some people queued for more than 5 hours, but we were lucky to go with locals who took us to the OTHER SIDE of the bridge which had queues for less than ten minutes.

Niji-no-matsubara – Near Karatsu, about ¥1,000 on the chikatetsu. A long, beautiful sandy beach that backs onto a pine forest. The sea can get quite rough so take care.

Karatsu – A nice place for Japanese pottery, and for fresh (still living) seafood. There is a nice castle, which as a good view and pretty grounds, especially during the cherry blossom season. Renting bicycles at the station is very cheap, and you can easily cycle to the above Niji-no-matsubara.

Seiryu- ¥1,000 entry; ¥330 to Nishitetsu Ohashi station. A beautiful onsen, complete with salt room, sauna, electric bath, a steam room in a cave and individual outdoor pools facing a waterfall. A free-shuttle bus operates from Ohashi station will get you there. You will not be disappointed.

Hita – a beautiful candle festival held in Early November. About an hour's drive from Fukuoka. Easily combined with Ootsuri Bashi.

Kumamoto – An hour or so away by train, beautiful castle and stunning during Cherry Blossom season.

Weekend getaways
There are loads of places nearby that are well worth a weekend visit. Use the Lonely Planet to investigate Nagasaki, Hiroshima and Miyajima, The Onsen resorts Beppu (Japan’s answer to Las Vegas, apparently. Complete with a Jurassic Park themed Love Hotel) and Yufuin, Kagoshima, Aso volcano, Goto islands, and Kurashiki. Now that the Kyushu shinkansen, has opened, you can get from Hakata to Kagoshima in as little as 90 minutes. Be warned though, it is pricey, and a bus can get you there for 1/3rd of the price in about 4 hours.

Longer trips
Okinawa – Absolutely beautiful. Great beaches to laze on, waters to snorkel or dive in, forests to explore by foot or canoe.

The South-West islands are the most beautiful- Ishigaki-jima, Iriomote-jima and Miyako jima are definitely worth a visit. It takes time though, as ferries between the islands are infrequent, time-consuming and expensive. If you are pressed for time and cash, escape to the Kerama islands, particularly Zamami (think of the “Lost” Island and you’re spot on), where you can swim in the sea, rent a tent and go whale watching for a pittance between February and late March. Travel guides don’t do it nearly enough justice.

Takayama - central Honshu. The Lonely Planet says that this is one of the ‘must see’ places in Japan with an idyllic village from a bygone era. could use it as a base for a day trip into the Japanese Alps (which is well worth a trip), but even then not necessary, unless you go on April 14th–15th for their festival, which is truly stunning.

Nikko – North West of Tokyo, 2 hours on JR. Well worth a trip. Stunning temples and nice walks. The town itself is nothing special but the surrounds are stunning. People last year stayed in a great place called Nikko Rindo-no-ie that was incredibly friendly with exceptional Japanese food. Tel. no. 0288 530131. If you use their website to book you get ¥500 off, making it only ¥3,000 a night. This year Tara stayed in the extremely nice Nikko Park Lodge, which had amazing Zen Buddhist food and morning yoga classes.

Tanzawa National Park - 1hour outside Tokyo. A good place to hike at all times of the year, with views of the biggest urban sprawl in the world (Tokyo and Yokohama combined), Fuji san and the peaks of Tanzawa. If you’re planning a trip to Tokyo at some point in your stay (and no doubt most of you will) and fancy a couple of days’ relief from the hustle and bustle of the city, then I recommend this as a good two-day hiking trip. You can stay in a mountain hut overnight and watch the sun set. If the weather is good, it’s breathtaking.

Shikoku – access by train from Okayama, and from various other places by boat. Getting around by trains can be annoying, as there are few rapid lines. However, if you have time, it’s worth a visit. There are exciting whirlpools in Naruto (near Tokushima), a nice (non-swimming) beach and an
original castle in Kochi and various other goodies. Quieter and less crowded than Honshu, it is a nice place to relax. Many temples. Be warned – some Youth Hostels are MILES out of the place they claim to be in.

The mountains - hiring a car is fairly cheap, and gives you freedom to escape the conurbation sprawl and explore the interior of Kyushu and its largely uninhabitable mountains. A recommended route is to drive down to Kumamoto, where you can sample raw horse meat and check out the superb castle, on to Mount Aso (there is an English-speaking tourist information centre which can book you into one of many superb ryokans in the caldera with natural volcanic hot spring baths), then down through Takachiho gorge and Miyazaki. The mountains are cooler than the lower land in the summer, and you can rent little rowing boats and potter about between the waterfalls in Takachiho.

Kyoto and Nara – Stunning temples, both beautiful cities. The University used to take people on trips here, but this may have finally ended, and we didn’t get taken on trips.

Hiroshima – Needs no introduction. The shrine gate in the sea at Miyajima (20 mins on the train from Hiroshima, and then 10 min ferry) is stunning, and one of Japan’s most famed images. Well worth a visit.

Hakone National Park – About 80km from Tokyo, and offers some breathtaking views of Mt. Fuji. Very pretty during Cherry Blossom season, and has some stunning ryokan to stay in (although very expensive).

Kiso Valley – I went here this year, to visit Magome and walk the Magome-Tsugamo trail. Admittedly a trek from Fukuoka, but can be combined with a trip if you head up to Tokyo. Really enjoyed it, and happily devoid of tourists.


Even Longer Trips
You can also go even further afield and travel outside Japan during your somewhat time-restricted holidays. Popular destinations include Korea, China, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Australia. Bear in mind that you might need to have relevant vaccinations or visas, and that you will need to go to the airport in Fukuoka in advance to apply for a re-entry permit (even if you have a multiple entry visa). The Chinese visa can be acquired from the consulate in Fukuoka.

JR Seishun 18 kippu (ticket)
Probably the cheapest, albeit slowest, way to travel in Japan. This discount ticket costs only ¥11,500 for five days of unlimited travel but it has some pretty major drawbacks.

1) You can only use it and buy it at certain times during the year. This year these were Winter break - Dec. 10 - Jan. 20 (tickets on sale Dec. 1 - Jan. 10), Spring break - March 1 - Apr. 10 (tickets on sale Feb. 20 - Mar. 31), Summer break - July 20 - Sept. 10 (tickets on sale July 1 - Aug. 31).

2) The ticket cannot be used on super express, limited express, express or sleeper trains, including any train on the Shinkansen network. This means that a journey, for example travelling from Tokyo to Kyoto, which takes as little as two and a half hours on the Shinkansen, takes about nine hours on rapid trains.

JR Rail Passes
By far the best way to travel around Japan is with a Japan Rail Pass, but sadly we can’t use them due to our long stay visa. However, definitely bear them in mind for any friends or family that may visit. One point to note: they must be bought outside of Japan. They can be bought for varying periods of time and details of prices can easily be found on the Internet.

Regional passes are also available and might be more use if you plan to limit your travels to a certain area of the country. JR Kyushu do offer a pass for foreign students that is the same price as that of the tourist pass they do which gives you 3 days in Northern Kyushu and includes the Shinkansen. This is excellent value if you’re planning on doing a lot of travelling in a short period,
very good for three day weekends. Buy it from Hakata station by asking for a “ryugakusei pasu” (or just go to the English speaking counter if you’re not confident in your Japanese).

Car Hire
Car hire is easy, very convenient and fairly cheap by Japanese standards, although parking and traffic can be a headache in the larger cities. The place we usually hire from is Orix rent-a-car. They have a branch in Futsukaichi – one about five minutes’ walk from Futsukaichi JR station. The cars can be rented in blocks, and the 48-hour option is usually the most popular for weekend trips. The tank has to be full when the vehicle is returned.

For longer hire periods, you may want to speak to Avis, Budget or Hertz, all of whom have branches at the airport and in and around Tenjin and Hakata. The Mazda centre is right by Hakata, coming out of the Chikushi exit and turning right onto the main road. Car hire works out cheaply when there is a group of people. Most cars in Japan are automatic transmission and if you are a driver you will find that the Japanese have a fairly relaxed driving style. You will probably be amused to see the odd native bowing below their wheel if you let them through! They drive on the same side of the road to the UK as well. The cars come equipped with a GPS system that makes it almost impossible to get lost no matter how obscure the place you are planning to go is.

For reference, a single day’s hire will be about ¥6,000, and a 5-day trip cost us ¥22,000 including insurance, once the discount had been applied. Don’t forget to include petrol costs into your calculations though. And importantly almost all national routes in Japan are toll-roads – your GPS will warn you how much they will be (Kumamoto ¥2,500 one-way, Miyazaki ¥6,000 one-way).

Domestic Flights
Not cheap. There is no Japanese EasyJet or Ryanair, though competition is starting to open up a few things. A single to Tokyo from Fukuoka will set you back at the very cheapest 5000 yen, but in reality about 12000 yen. It is also worth checking Skymark.co.jp for advance fairs: their web bargain fares can have some great bargains, but require you being on the ball for booking. The tickets are released at 9.30am, and you have to book at 9.30am if you want to get the heavily discounted ones. Tickets can be got for ¥5,000 to Tokyo and even less to Okinawa. Also, you can get domestic return flights for 15,000 air miles, which should be roughly the equivalent of the trip out here and one return journey, for those keen to go home.
12. KEEPING IN TOUCH

Internet
From December 2007 there has been a super-fast wireless Internet connection, which has enabled everyone that brought laptops to get online in their rooms. Rest-assured that e-mailing your friends, or chatting on Skype, is extremely simple. Instructions on how to connect will be left for you.

Phoning Home
In your room there will be a phone, but it is only set-up to accept incoming calls. However, calling the UK from your mobile is ridiculously expensive (50p a minute), so should be avoided. International phone cards are available from the Family Mart near Cambridge House, but they are expensive. Best advice is to train your family and friends to use Skype, so you can make PC-PC calls for free (and also use your webcam). Additionally, set up a Skype account and you can call PC-landline with extremely cheap rates. Alternatives include GoogleTalk, as well as countless IM programs like Windows Live Messenger and iChat.

Post
Posting a letter requires ¥110 worth of stamps. These can be bought from the reception desk at Cambridge House. The letter can also be posted here. Post cards require one ¥70 stamp although some have a prepaid part which means you either pay less or nothing at all (the price of the prepaid cards are correspondingly higher). For parcels the best bet is to take it to the post office, either in Asakuragaido, Futsukaichi (near the university campus) or the central post office in Tenjin. You can post parcels at reception which is very convenient. They'll send parcels by EMS (registered and high speed) which is very good for posting job applications or late birthday presents.

Mobile Phone
You really have two options. First off is getting a phone in Japan. Unless you’re desperate to waste money, this isn’t advisable as it essentially requires you to take out a phone contract. It would also require extremely advanced Japanese in order to do successfully.

So the alternative would be to unlock your British phone (which is something you should do before leaving for Japan!) and then getting a Japanese SIM whilst you’re there. This is much cheaper, especially if you go for a data only SIM. Amongst the 2016-7 cohort this was the most popular solution. For just 900yen a month we successfully got 3GB a month. Set up was a little tricky, but by smiling and being persuasive most of us had the shop assistants do it for us...
13. ENTERTAINMENT

Nightlife
Nightlife in Tenjin* is fairly varied, definitely lots to do; ranging from the sticky-floored tackiness of Gaijin clubs to the chic bars tucked into the corners of Daimyo. If partying the Japanese way is more your thing, then there are plenty of karaoke bars to sing the night away in.

*Tenjin is a train ride (15-25min) away from Asakuragaido station. The trains stop running at around midnight (11.46 on Sat) and start again at 5.17am. A taxi will set you back around ¥6,000, but as places are open through the night, my advice is to head out late and party till dawn. If you get sick of the club, just go to any Karaoke to pass the time before the first train in a quick and hilarious way. There are also internet cafes which you pay a set fee and have unlimited soft drinks and internet, and very comfortable chairs. Be careful though: these venues are not to be confused with DVD parlours, whose chairs are less comfortable, stickier.

Favourite Places
Our personal favourites this year have been:

Fubar - Run by the inimitable Jody, a really friendly guy. Can be guaranteed to have a great night here. 3000 yen all you can drink (nomihodai) on Saturdays, 1000 on Fridays.

HappyCock – Ridiculous name, equally ridiculous club. Thursday nights are great fun, 2000 yen all you can drink. No dancing.

Infinity – The closest Fukuoka comes to a proper club. Bit pretentious, but good second club to go to after you finish at 3am at the first one. Sadly, no nomihodai but cheapish beers.

The Voodoo Lounge - Spacious bar/club with jungle décor; Music varies from reggae to 80s cheese, often has good live bands and acoustic sets. Go on a Thursday from 9-10pm when they sell beer for ¥100, very popular with Gaijin at this time: a good place to start your Thursday night.

Air - Probably the second closest thing you’ll get to a proper club in Fukuoka, after infinity. Two floors - one for hard-core dancing, the other for relaxing on leather sofas, listening to reggae and just drinking. The club organizes special music nights that can make entry quite expensive, but it’s probably worth paying more if you’re into the music. The nights we’ve been the music has been trance, but it also has hip-hop and reggae nights too.

Oyafuko-dori, near Fu Bar and Family Mart


As for bars:

Dark Room
Fairly small bar/club, with an open roof level in summer and a pool table. Serves good western food. Quite popular with Gaijin. Thursdays is ¥300 corona, Fridays is rock night. Oh, and Keanu Reeves once drank here… apparently. Excellent DJ on a Saturday who will happily accept requests for obscure 80s rock, if that’s your thing…
8F Tenjin Bacchus House (opp. Mos Burger!) oyafuku dori
Tel: 092 725 2989

Morris
Friendly British pub in Daimyo with reasonably priced drinks and pretty good fish and chips. Just like being at home.
7F Stage 1 Nishi-dori 2-1-4, Daimyo
Tel: 092 771 4774

The 3 Kings – In Daimyo. Opened in 2008, great British Pub run by James, who is very friendly. Old Speckled Hen on draught, and some very decent food if you’re feeling homesick or are losing the will to live with noodles.

Off Broadway – Opposite Fubar, 2F. Great burgers, and nice atmosphere.
These are clubs that previous years have mentioned, which we haven’t been to (and may no longer be open):
Sancho Panza/ Tiempo
A lively, atmospheric Latin American bar in central Fukuoka. Tiempo (inside the Sancho Panza building) has Salsa, Flamenco, Tango, Reggaeton, you name it they usually dance it, lessons each week. It’s always full of students and a really fun place to spend an evening. Entry before 9pm is free and on Saturdays they have a free Salsa lessons too - although they don’t last very long and tend to be quite messy with everyone - from professional dancer to complete novice - trying to follow the instructor. Once a month, on Saturday, some of the students and on occasions internationally acclaimed dancers perform throughout the evening. A good place to have fun with an international crowd. Behind Kego Park and always marked on a Fukuoka Now map.

Hasta Cuban Club
A relatively new club, only a year old, but as with all the Latin American bars in Fukuoka, it’s full of really friendly people. Unlike Tiempo you actually need to be able to dance salsa as the crowd tends to be a bit older and more experienced. That said, if you’re learning then it’s a good place to hone your skills with some good leaders. Entry is ¥1,000 with one free drink. Hasta also organizes lessons every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 8.30pm for a bargain some ¥550. 7F Gates Building, Nakasu, on the Fukuoka map

Epi Cafe
Good music, nice food, chilled bar. In the streets South-West of Tenjin Station there is a cluster of nice bars, of which Epi is probably the best. Look out, also, for Corduroy Cafe on the 4F and the Vinyl Cafe next door. Propeller Drive and Tattoo are one minute’s walk away too.

Propeller Drive
Trendy restaurant/bar, perfect as a prelude to a night out on the town. Sporting mirrors, chandeliers and a movie projector, this place is popular with the Japanese cool kids and gets pretty busy, so booking ahead for large parties is advisable. All you can drink with snacks approx ¥3,100. 1-13-30 Imaizumi Chuo-ku
(0)92 715 6322
Also check out Tattoo, the sister restaurant to Propeller Drive. It is larger, arguably more intimate and atmospheric but not as quirky as Propeller.

Places closer to home
In Futsukaichi, there are a few good places worth checking out:

BariBari – Pretty much next to Hotto Motto. Brilliant, brilliant bar, and unbelievably cheap nomihodai. All you can drink for 2 hours for 1000 yen (or 1500 with beer). Firm favourite.

J-Bowl – The karaoke box next to this bowling alley offers the late night karaoke of choice if you want somewhere you can walk/cycle home from. Turn right out of Cambridge House and follow the route 112 for about 25-30 minutes, and it’s shortly after the turn off for Nishitetsu Futsukaichi. Offers fairly cheap ‘free-time’ late into the night, but doesn’t serve alcohol, so be prepared to very discretely bring your own if you plan on drinking.

Wara Wara – Chain of Izekaiya opposite Futsukaichi Nishitetsu. Not as cheap as BariBari, but good deal nonetheless.

Other Things to Do

Dazaifu
Formerly the administrative capital of Kyushu, this historic town is a welcome tonic to the concrete excess of urban Japan. Dazaifu is dominated by its famous Tenmangu shrine, and the recently built Kyushu National Museum. The town quite rightly attracts tourists from all over Japan, and millions visit over the New Year period. We are lucky to be only fifteen minutes away. A day can be easily passed exploring by bicycle and venturing further out than the standard Tenmangu shrine visit.

Museums and Art Galleries
Kyushu National Museum has an awesome array of treasures. Fukuoka can boast a good variety of well-funded institutions of this type. If this teases your goat then look in the Lonely Planet or ask at Rainbow Plaza or the Cultural Information Centre (with English-speaking staff, 2nd floor ACROS
building) for more information. Visit the Fukuoka Asian Art museum and the adjoining 5th floor gardens.

**Classical Music**

ACROS Symphony Hall attracts the world’s finest orchestras and artists. The local professional orchestra – the Kyushu Symphony Orchestra – are very active, and perform regularly in a variety of venues in the city.

**Japanese Culture**

Kabuki, Bunraku, Noh Theatre, Taiko drumming … it’s all very strange but you should definitely not leave without seeing it. These are not obscure traditions by any means and opportunities will arise to experience them. If you demonstrate an enthusiasm for these activities with your Japanese friends/teachers/employers, you may even get invited to a performance.

Japanese pop-culture is also worth finding out about – manga/anime, cosplay, robots, modern art and Takarazuka – an all-female, all sparkly, dancing, singing, overacting musical extraordinaire theatre troupe.

**Sport**

Fukuoka is fairly well represented in the fields of football by Avispa Fukuoka and rugby, but particularly baseball by the Softbank Hawks. Asking a Fukuoka resident whether they support the Hawks invariably yields the reply, ‘Of course I do!’ If the team does well enough then stores in the city will even lower their prices in celebration. You can certainly see a game if you are keen enough, with the cheapest tickets available for just ¥1,000. As for Sumo, you will be taken to the annual Kyushu meet in November and it is not to be missed.

**Festivals**

This year we’ve been to several amazing festivals that we’d recommend you try and go to. These are:

- **Karatsu Kunchi**
  Karatsu (about an hour west on the subway from Tenjin) 
  Start of November 
  Huge floats are pulled by vast teams of people around what is normally quite a boring town. They do it at night with lanterns (prettiest), they do it during the day (busiest), they even pull them through a giant sandpit (most pointlessly tiring). Spectacular. (Also, there's a great beach and pine “forest”, called Niji-no-Matsubara, a few stops before Karatsu- see ‘day trips’ earlier).

- **Tsukimi** (Moon viewing) 
  Anywhere that isn't cloudy, but there's a final little community get together at the base of Tempaizan (about 15 minutes’ cycle from Cambridge House) Ask Kim-sensei, the Korean guy in the International office, he goes every year. Held on two nights in the autumn (ask people when). When the moon is at its biggest and brightest, people, well, look at it. Actually quite a wonderful thing to do. Though many of them seem to get bored pretty quickly, so they jazz it up a bit with fireworks and music and dancing and bits of octopus fried on sticks.

- **Takachiho Yokagura**
  Takachiho, near Mount Aso (get a nishitetsu bus) 
  On several different nights over the winter, starting in late November. Overnight from 8pm to 8am, men perform ancient ritual dances handed down from days of yore. An absolute mission to get to, but a unique experience. If the idea of Morris dancers with swords makes you laugh, don't bother.

- **Daizenji Fire Festival**
  Daizenji (half an hour south on the Nishitetsu line) 
  January 7th
Men. Fire. Sake. No clothes. What more do you need. Huge wooden trunks are set alight and carried aloft around a wooden temple. Awesome fun, strongly recommend that you go to this. Singes still visible on my shoulders.

**Nagasaki Lantern Festival**
Nagasaki (about 2 hours on the JR Shinkansen)
Every weekend in February, and the first weekend of March. Held in lively China Town to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Colourful lanterns, dragon dances, taiko, acrobatics and an excuse to gorge yourself on gyoza! We spent the day there and feasted on champon (a Nagasaki speciality), took in the historical sights of Dejima and Glover Garden (where we dressed up in Edwardian clothes and walked around the garden for 30 minutes for a bargainsome ¥500) and then headed back to China town for the festival performances in the evening.

**Tanka Festival (Kyokusui-no-en)**
Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine
The first Sunday of March
A great poetry festival dating from the Heian period with traditional Japanese clothes and music right on your doorstep. Basically, poets dressed in 12 layers of kimonos and funny looking hats sip sake and write poetry in a garden during the plum blossom. It’s a popular festival and although there are several stages for watching they are rammed and unless you get there early expect to queue to get a good view. I’d recommend getting there before 11am to watch the poets and their ‘servants’ parade through the town. It’s a great spectacle.

**Nakasu Girl’s Festival**
Early October. About 500 women carrying yatai, and lots of street entertainment. Fun.

**Takayama Festival**
Held in October and April every year. Stunning floats, and well worth a visit. Long way from Fukuoka though, so perhaps combine with another trip.

**Hit a Lantern and Candle Festival**
Incredibly pretty festival, where the whole town is lit up with thousands of candles, especially along the river bank. Sample the local yakisoba (fried soba noodles and beef – delicious!) and sake.

**Sake Festival - February**
Can’t remember the exact location, a couple of stops south of Daizenji on the Nishitetsu line. Absolutely brilliant, free sake all day, and very interesting as you can go inside all of the sake factories. Expect amazingly drunk Japanese men left right and centre, all being very amicable indeed.
14. PARTICIPATION IN JAPANESE LIFE

JUE isn’t like Cambridge or Oxford in terms of the opportunities to join clubs and societies. Furthermore, it is not easy to mix on a social level with the other students. Not through lack of trying but we, and previous years, have all experienced a real detachment from university life. It is made complicated by the lack of Japanese we are able to speak on arrival; the other students’ ongoing lack of any grasp of the English language besides “England good, David Beckham”, and the division cast by curfews, sexual segregation and the Japanese legal drinking age! If any progress is to be made, we recommend making friends with the Korean and Taiwanese students, of whom there are many, as they are a little older, speak some English, and have slightly weaker curfews than the Japanese students.

Whilst joining teams has proved to be difficult, it does not mean the university facilities are out of bounds. There is a gym (albeit prehistoric), a running track, some tennis courts, and two sports halls which can be used (badminton etc), and have formed the setting for slightly awkward conversations in the past. It has been known for us to join in a sporting match with our Japanese friends without having any dialogue at all. Very polite, as you would expect, and about as close as you can actually come to being part of a club. That said, if you ask nicely you may be able to join in again. It is possible, if you ask, to take up a local martial art – although be careful because you will either be put into a class with professionals and end up battered and bruised or you will be taught individually (the latter is most likely). As far as sports are concerned, there are many gyms, although membership is expensive, unless you join at the start of the year to get your money’s worth. We found a cheap swimming pool and teeny gym (mainly running machines) near Tofuro Mae station (one local stop from Nishitetsu Futsukaichi towards Tenjin). It costs about 1GBP per hour for swimming and 50p per hour for the gym. Membership is not necessary. There is also a “training centre” gym above the Mammys at GoJo Station in the Ikiiki centre near the university campus that is reasonably priced.

The University Festival (end of October) provides an opportunity to meet the JUE students. It’s about the nearest Fukuoka comes to an English Fete and you should definitely take part. This year we set up an ‘Olde English Fayre’ stall with tea and gingerbread men. This gave us the chance to browse the other stalls and events and actually rub shoulders with some other students and allowed us to get our own back by yelling Irrashaimase!! at the top of our voices a la Japanese shop assistants. It is definitely worth taking part, and was good fun. There was also a sumo contest, in which some of last year’s team were convinced to appear (and one won a whole 2 kilos of rice (worth a lot more than you’d think)). Be warned.

On a further positive note, do not feel that you will be totally isolated and lonely whilst here in Japan. Tenjin is a relaxed and fun-loving city and there are lots of people out there keen to make friends with foreigners. As you will soon work out, the city has fewer foreigners than most Japanese cities, so you will soon feel quite special about the town. People will become your best friend during a simple train journey; they will sit near you in Starbucks, make polite chit-chat and then pay for your night out; they will talk to you in clubs and then never stop pestering you to meet up again. So long as you can handle this kind of friendship, it is all good fun. There is also an international rendezvous point in the IMS building in Tenjin and an English language magazine (Fukuoka Now) through which you can meet lots of people and really become part of the local community, many students have provided content for the mag in the past and it gives you some great opportunities. As in any big city, there is so much you can get involved in if you put your mind to it, and it is through these activities, and teaching, that most of us have made our friends.

For a brief rundown of what we have been up to, or what we can help you with, see our contact details on the last page. And USE THEM!
APPENDIX A:

The Rough Guide's take on Fukuoka

Fukuoka

A big, semi-industrial city at the southern end of the Shinkansen, FUKUOKA was, until recently, simply a place to negotiate as quickly as possible en route to Kyushu's more picturesque regions. However, over the last few years it has established itself as western Japan's major cultural centre and an important international gateway. Though not a huge place (just under 1.3 million people), the city combines tremendous vitality with a determination to make the rest of Japan sit up and take notice – already it claims the country's biggest hotel, longest bar, largest cinema complex and most advanced baseball stadium. For the visitor this translates into a thoroughly modern city with all the energy and atmosphere of a Tokyo or Osaka, contained within manageable proportions. Though Fukuoka offers few historical sights, it does have one or two excellent museums plus more than enough outstanding modern architecture to justify at least a day in transit. The highlights are Canal City, a sparkling new, self-contained cinema, hotel and shopping complex built around a semi-circular strip of water, and Hawks Town, which forms part of a major seafront redevelopment. The city is also renowned for its festivals and folk crafts, which are presented at Hakata Machiya Folk Museum. As with any self-respecting Japanese city of this size, Fukuoka maintains a lively entertainment district, in this case crammed onto the tiny island of Nakasu, though it's safer on the wallet to head for the less glitzy bars and restaurants of Tenjin, the city's main downtown area."

Even today the old cultural and economic divide between the original castle town, Fukuoka, and the former merchants' quarter of Hakata can be traced, albeit faintly, in the city's streets. Much of Hakata consists of dull office blocks, but the district is also home to the city's oldest shrine and its most rumbustious festival. Here too, you'll still find the occasional wooden building, narrow lane or aged wall, and can discover some of the unique, Hakata culture in its well-presented folk museum. Not surprisingly, many craft industries originated in this area, most famously Hakata dolls and ori silks, while geisha still work the traditional entertainment district of Nakasu. Nevertheless, Hakata has also managed to throw up a startling exception, and one of Fukuoka's most famous landmarks, in Canal City. West of the Naka-gawa, Tenjin has upmarket boutiques, department stores and "fashion buildings", but there's little in the way of sights until you go further west to the ruins of Fukuoka castle in Ōhori-koen. As well as an attractive lake, this park also contains an art museum with an important collection of twentieth-century works. North and west again, you reach the high-tech Fukuoka City Museum of local history and, beyond, the coastal Momochi area dominated by the Fukuoka Tower and the Hawks Town development.

http://travel.roughguides.com/roughguides.html
Appendix B:

Useful ELT Websites

Baby-sitting and young learners:
www.genkienglish.com
www.bogglesworld.com
http://www.mes-english.com/ - Extremely good free flashcards and printables for children’s classes
http://www.eslkidslab.com/ - Good worksheets
http://www.esl-galaxy.com/ - Likewise

The intermediate class:
http://www.handoutsonline.com/

The Young Professional:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/ - Their ‘Words in the News’ short articles are especially good.
http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/

News:
http://www.japantimes.co.jp
http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/index-e.htm

About Fukuoka:
http://www.city.fukuoka.jp/index-e.html
http://www.kyushu.com/fukuoka/
http://www.fukuoka-now.com/

Japanese Language:
http://jisho.org/ - best online dictionary around. Has saved me days’ worth of time.
http://japanese.about.com/ - all sorts of resources including short tutorials and kanji lists

Japanese Society:
http://www3.tky.3web.ne.jp/~edjacob/intro.htm
http://www.japenesestreets.com/
http://www.thejapanfaq.com/FAQ-Primer.html
http://www.japanecho.com/
http://www.asahi.com/column/hayano/eng/list.html
http://www.gaijinpot.com/ - Aimed at foreigners in Japan

Other useful sites:
http://diddlefinger.com/m/fukuokaken/ Map of Fukuokaken
http://www.fukuokajet.com/leisure/events/festivals/fukuoka-festival-calendar - From the JET site, list of all the festivals.
Also worth having a read of their independent guide.
http://www.star-ch.co.jp/pc/star - movie channel listings
http://www.xe.com/ucc/ - what’s your money worth?
http://www.hyperdia.com/ - Invaluable if you’re travelling by train. Good for both long journeys and short commutes
Appendix C:
Contact Details
The main point of contact here is Sebastian Dakin (affectionately known as Seb), who is an ex-Fitzwilliam Japanese language graduate. He works as an English teacher at JUE, based in the International Office, and coordinates the whole programme.

His contact details are:
e-mail: kokusaibu@fk.jue.ac.jp
Mobile: 0081-9013447426 or 0081-9057408084, International Office: 0081-921-9827

The addresses of the dormitories are:

Oxford House
5 Chome 4-1
Futskaichi
Chikushino City
Fukuoka
JAPAN

Cambridge House
Zokumyoin 144-1
Chikushino City
Fukuoka 818-0067
JAPAN

Japan University of Economics
Gojo 3-11-25
Dazaifu City
Fukuoka 818-0197
JAPAN

Aside from Seb, there are numerous people in the International Office who will be glad to help you. You can also contact the respective college co-ordinators, c/o:

St Anne’s College
Woodstock Road
Oxford
OX2 6HS
Tel: 01865 274 800
Fax: 01865 274 899

Fitzwilliam College
Storey’s Way
Cambridge
CB3 0DG
Tel: 01223 332 015
Fax: 01223 332 078

The 2017-2018 students are listed below. Drop us an email by asking the college for our email address or find us on Facebook:

St. Anne’s Students
Alicia Chou
Lulu Huang
Matthew Robson
Rebecca Sutherland
Ludi Wang

Fitz Students
Emily Clark
Gabriel Lei
Michal Tkocz
Eleanor Whitlock
Ian Samir Yep Manzano