

# OFIX NEWS

Osaka Foundation of International Exchange News

Summer of 2023

vol. 105

Jul 15, 2023

## NOTICE

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Official Character  
Bora-chan

## TOPICS

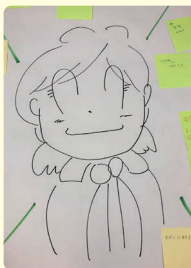
- Staff Training and Cross-Cultural Awareness Education Report
- Introduction of Orion International House
- Interviews with International Students at Orion International House
- Event Information

4.17<sub>[mon]</sub>, 19<sub>[wed]</sub>

### We held Staff training with "Persona Setting"!

What kind of life do residents from abroad in Osaka have and what kind of support do they need? In order to provide support that better fits the needs of foreign residents, OFIX held two "persona setting" training sessions for staff members at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Staff members first created two fictional foreign residents with different backgrounds and visa statuses, and proposed support plans that would suit each of them.

Let's meet the fictional characters Ms. Lee and Ms. Cham!

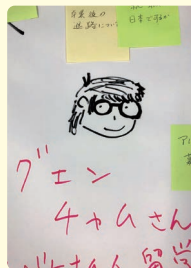


Ms. Lee

I am a permanent resident and I hope to invite my father who is in China to live with me in Japan.

#### Support suggested by staff

We will confirm Ms. Lee's father's intention and wish in regards to moving to Japan. Following that, we will discuss various support methods such as finding an appropriate status of residence and how to time his arrival in Japan.



Ms. Cham

I am an international student from Vietnam and have a dream to open a Vietnamese restaurant in Japan in the future.

#### Support suggested by staff

We will organize an international cooking competition and have Ms. Cham serve her own Vietnamese dishes to the participants at the cooking competition and ask for their feedback. Through this project, Ms. Cham will be able to better visualize the idea of opening a restaurant, learn what kind of dishes are popular and how to arrange the ingredients to attract interest.



**We will continue to use the experience gained from this training to plan projects that meet the needs of residents from abroad!**

## We sent supporters to conduct Cross-Cultural Awareness Education (CCAIE) classes!

As an opportunity to learn about multicultural coexistence with the youth in Osaka, we dispatch registered international students and other residents with roots abroad as supporters to help conduct cross-cultural awareness education classes at local schools. In May and June, we had face-to-face and online classes! Supporters introduced their countries' cultures, histories, and differences from Japan. Through the classes they were able to have meaningful exchange with the students in Osaka.

5.22<sub>[mon]</sub>, 6.26<sub>[mon]</sub>

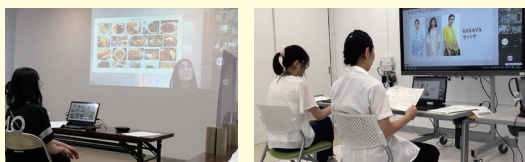
### Online classes at Osaka International Club OSAKA

Six OFIX supporters participated in the first (May 22) and second (June 26) online classes of the Osaka International Club! The first class was joined by supporters from the United States, Venezuela and Taiwan, while the second class was joined by supporters from Cuba, Uzbekistan and Korea. The supporter from Venezuela had a great time dancing with the children.

5.31<sub>[wed]</sub>, 6.14<sub>[wed]</sub>

### Online Global Meeting (OGM)

Online Global Meeting (OGM) is a series of four online classes for students in Higashiosaka City organized by the local board of education. In the first and second class, a supporter from Indonesia introduced Indonesian culture through fun quizzes and other activities.



6.12<sub>[mon]</sub>

### Face-to-face class at Osaka Prefectural Akutagawa High School

An OFIX staff from the Uyghur region of China gave a class in English to high school students at Osaka Prefectural Akutagawa High School. She commented, "I was nervous in my first class, but I told the students that it is important to communicate actively even if English is not their first language, and that it is fun to be able to speak different languages." The students were also surprised to learn that the Uyghur word for "thank you" (Rahmat sizge) is used everywhere in Central Asia.



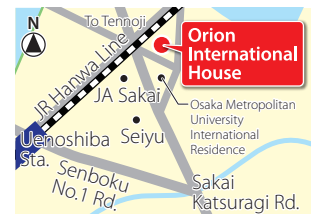
# Orion International House

With the easing of the restrictions from COVID-19, tourists from abroad have once again become a common sight on the streets of Osaka. Along with them, the number of recently arrived international students has also been gradually increasing. For this issue, we interviewed international students living at Orion International House in Osaka Prefecture, and found out their reasons for studying in Japan and what surprised them when they arrived!

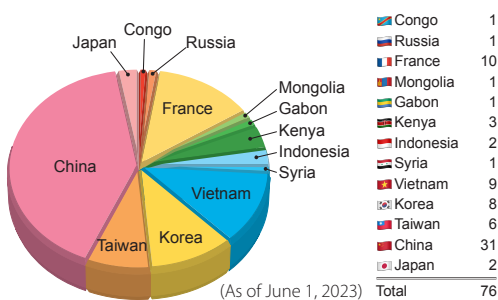


## Introduction of Orion International House

Orion International House is an international student dormitory operated by OFIX. Located in Sakai City, there currently are 76 students (as of June 1, 2023) residing in the dorm. Single international students who are enrolled in a university or other institution in Osaka Prefecture and who are having difficulty finding a place to live may apply to live in the dormitory.



### Orion International House Residents' Nationality/Home Region



Orion International House Introduction Video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT4FTHHZ1zo>



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FAX: 072-250-8702

## Tutor Introduction

### What is a tutor?

Tutors are dormitory students who plan and organize events for other residents in the dormitory and also serve as counselors. Tutors can be both Japanese and international students. Self-introductions of this year's tutors will be posted on our website, so please check it out!

Orion International House  
<https://www.ofix.or.jp/english/dormitory/>



## The Lives of International Students in Japan

### Point 01 What are the top 3 places international students living in Osaka Prefecture come from?

In 2022, the top three places that international students living in Osaka Prefecture came from were Asia, Europe and North America. Of the students from Asia, the largest number were from China, followed by Vietnam and Nepal. (From Osaka Prefectural Government, "Number of International Students in Osaka Prefecture 2022" data)

### Point 03 When international students want to work part-time, they need to apply in advance!

When you go to a convenience store or restaurant, do you sometimes see international students working? Since the status of residence for international students is "Student," they must spend most of their time learning at a school, but they can work part-time if they apply for "Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence (資格外活動許可)." However, maximum working hours are limited to 28 hours per week.

### Point 02 How do international students find a place to live?

When renting a room in Japan, it is necessary to find a guarantor, but it is often very difficult for international students who have only lived in Japan for a short time to find one. For this reason, many students use university dormitories or use a guarantor company to rent an apartment.

### Point 04 After graduation, foreign students can stay in Japan and engage in job hunting activities with a special status of residence!

After graduation, if an international student wishes to remain in Japan and continue job hunting, he/she can change his/her status of residence to "Designated Activities" (特定活動). The period of stay is 6 months, and the maximum stay is 1 year.



## International Students Interview



李思章  
Lee-san  
(Taiwan)



吳宛瑾  
Wu-san  
(Taiwan)



郭潤傑  
Guo-san  
(China)



楊建陽  
Yang-san  
(China)



CEZEUR Emma  
Emma-san  
(France)

\*Please note that in accordance with student requests, some interviews were conducted in languages other than English. Therefore the content may not reflect the international student's original intention perfectly.

### Q1 Why did you come to Japan to study?



Lee-san

I had been to Japan several times before coming here to study and had a very good impression of Japan. And now that I am a senior in university, I wanted to experience an exchange program before I graduate.

I have a few reasons! I decided to study in Japan because the cost of studying in Japan is cheaper than in the West. Also when I was choosing a second language at school, I thought Japanese sounded beautiful when my friends spoke it. My final reason is because there is a positive stereotype that Japanese people are very kind to Taiwanese people and that the cities are clean.



Wu-san



Guo-san

I decided to come to Japan because I wanted to study pathology here. I chose the Kansai region because the cost is lower than in the Kanto region.

I studied Japanese at university, so I wanted to study in Japan.



Yang-san



Emma-san

I decided to come to Japan as an exchange student because I am studying Japanese at university.

### Q2 What surprised you when you came to Japan?



Lee-san

I was surprised to see more bicycles than scooters. There are many more scooters in Taiwan than bicycles. I was also surprised by the many vending machines in Japan and that Japanese people always dress nicely when they go out.

I was surprised to see that most of the transportation was by bicycle. I saw some deliveries by bicycle as well. It is very unusual to me because in Taiwan, many people ride scooters. I was also surprised to see that Japanese girls always wear makeup when they go out.



Wu-san



Guo-san

I am from Sichuan, so I am a little unfamiliar with Japanese food because it tastes a little light to me. I was also surprised by how people often pay for things. In China you can pay using your phone, but in Japan, most places you pay by cash. I used a lot of coins for the first time in my life. (Laughs)

I have a Japanese "senpai" (senior) who is very friendly, and I usually speak with them using honorific language, but once I tried talking in a more casual tone and he got angry with me. There are no honorifics in spoken Chinese, so I found it difficult to use language differently based on the relationship with others.



Yang-san



Emma-san

I am a member of a club at my university, and when we had our first meeting, I found it strange that we all introduced ourselves one by one to the whole club. You don't see this very often in France.

### Q3 What do you want to try out recently?



Lee-san

I want to go to the Tenjin Festival.

I want to try to ride a bicycle in Japan.



Wu-san



Guo-san

I would like to try "natto" (fermented soybeans). I also want to visit a public bathhouse.

I will study hard! I also want to manage my time well.



Yang-san



Emma-san

I want to travel to various places. I would like to go to Hiroshima.

### Q4 What is your favorite Japanese word?



Lee-san

"Takoyaki" (たこ焼き). Because it is delicious!

"Umaa [Delish]" (うまっ). When used it conveys the meaning that the food is so delicious that it is surprising. So if I have to pick a favorite word that would be it. (Laughs)



Wu-san



Guo-san

"Daijoubu-desu-ka [Are you okay]" (大丈夫ですか?). It is a very useful word because it can be used in many situations.



Emma-san

"Neko [Cat]" (ねこ). I have been to Gotokuji temple in Tokyo, which is the temple that the famous good luck "maneki-neko" is from.

"Ichigo-ichie [Once-in-a-lifetime meeting]" (一期一会). I have lived in Japan for seven years, so I think this word represents the many encounters I have had with people.



Yang-san

### Q5 What did you bring from your own country?



Lee-san

I brought Taiwanese cup noodles. I wanted to taste the taste of Taiwan in Japan.



Guo-san

Chinese hot pot soup.



Emma-san

I brought porridge and chocolate from France. I eat them when I feel homesick.

### Q6 What are your future goals?



Lee-san

I would like to improve my Japanese language skills. I also want to go on a working holiday in Japan in the future.

I want to study Japanese more and get a job where I can use Japanese after graduation.



Wu-san



Guo-san

I would like to take a professional examination and continue my research at university.

I want to become a teacher in the future.



Yang-san



Emma-san

I would like to continue to study in Japan, maybe doing a master degree here.

### Q7 Finally, anything else you would like to share?



Lee-san

I have more homework than I expected 📖.

I am not good with all the raw vegetables served in Japanese dishes. I am used to stir-fried vegetables.



Wu-san



Guo-san

I sent a package to China at the post office the other day and was very impressed with the courteous service of the post office staff.



Emma-san

Japan is an interesting country and I like the style of the streets because they are really unique.

It is difficult for international students to find a room by themselves, so I am very happy to live in a safe and inexpensive dormitory like Orion International House.



Yang-san

# Seminar for Companies Looking to Hire or Have Hired International Workers

On September 7(Thu), we will hold a seminar for companies that want to hire or have hired international workers! An official from the Osaka Regional Immigration Service Bureau will give a lecture on basic information (status of residence, work visa, etc.) and provide details regarding the hiring of international workers. In addition, foreign residents living in Osaka will introduce the work culture of their country. Please feel free to join if you are interested!



Date and Time	September 7(Thu), 14:00-16:00
Place	Mydome Osaka
Language	Japanese

\*Advance registration required (details will be posted on the [OFIX website](#) at a later date)



“Plain Japanese” is a way of writing Japanese that is easier for everyone to understand, and was created in the wake of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. It is used in various fields as an effective means of providing information to residents of varying backgrounds not only in times of disaster, but also during everyday life. Did you know that depending on where someone comes from, not just honorifics and kanji, but katakana (foreign loan words) and onomatopoeia can also be difficult?

We have chosen five words this time, so let's try to rewrite them into “Plain Japanese”!

- ① 台風 ② 治療する ③ 待合室 ④ 無料 ⑤ 最寄り駅

## ▼ Example Answers

① 台風(台風) ② 治療する(病気を治す) ③ 待合室(待つ部屋) ④ 無料(お金がいらない) ⑤ 最寄り駅(近い駅)

To learn more about “Plain Japanese”, please visit <https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/kanko/easyjpn/index.html> (Japanese only)



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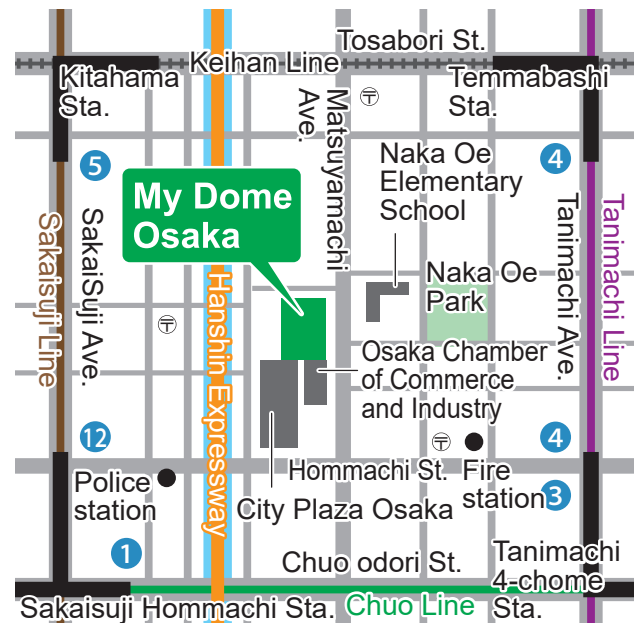
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## Access



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