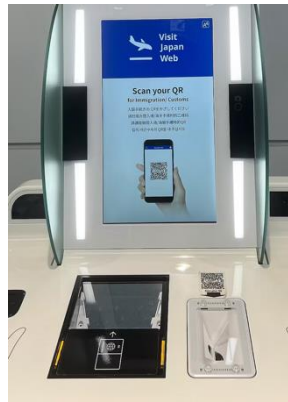


What to Prepare Before Going to Hosei

Iuliia Terekhova

Airport

Before departure I completed “**Visit Japan Web**” and received the QR code. Passengers with it have a separate line for immigration and customs, which saves a lot of time. At the border I needed only the **COE** and the **work permission form**, which I’d filled in advance, so that the officer could add the info to my residence card right at the airport. I’d also planned my route before arriving and chose the **bus** over the metro. On a crowded train a suitcase gets in the way whether you’re sitting or standing, but on a bus, you just ride at ease - so planning your arrival is vital for your comfort.



Courses

My biggest concern was about the **credit system**, because it differs from my university’s. I asked students who had already been on exchange at Hosei and confirmed the calculation with my coordinator many times to get everything right. As I had to take many Japanese classes, my schedule clashed with the most interesting ESOP courses, which upset me at first. However, I found out that after a selection process I could join courses in other faculties: this is how I got into “Media Effects” and “German as a Third Foreign Language” taught in Japanese. That’s why my advice to incoming students is to prepare **backup timetables** to make sure everything works out.

Cash

Money matters as well. I have a card that works abroad, but I still brought **cash**, since many places in Japan accept cash only.

