

Studying in Japan vs Australia: What Surprised Me Most

Zia Aroha Rantall MOWBRAY

Familiar Yet Foreign

At first glance, **Hosei felt surprisingly similar to my home university in Australia**. I study at Bond, where small classes and discussion-based learning mean you know everyone by name by semester's end. School spirit is big - clubs and events are always packed, just as I've seen to be the case here. But that's about where the similarities end.

Campus Life Clash

At Hosei, there is the infamous 7/11, daily food trucks, and countless cafeterias. But they come with a price: crazy lines. **Even the campus court is packed at the quietest times!** Back at Bond, we've only got cafés, a restaurant, and a tavern that hosts weekly parties. There's rarely a queue, and I almost never run into people crossing campus. In fact, **I've almost never shared an elevator!** If I told my friends about the shoulder-to-shoulder elevator rides here, they'd be horrified. We only queue for one thing at Bond: the free sausage sizzles. Priorities, hey?



Academic Contrasts



There are some big class differences too. At Hosei, each subject runs for a single 100-minute lesson. Bond? We usually have two classes per subject - a two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial on different days. Bond also uses trimesters: Jan-Apr, May-Aug, and Sept-Dec, with short breaks in between. It's intense, but fast! Oh- and there are **no lunch breaks at Bond**. We just eat in class, which I learned the hard way is not okay in Japan. Sometimes, we'll even have a little class party and bring in food to share!

Final Thoughts

There are plenty more differences, but these are the ones that still surprise me. I'm loving it, though - it's cool to be immersed in such a unique part of Japanese culture!