

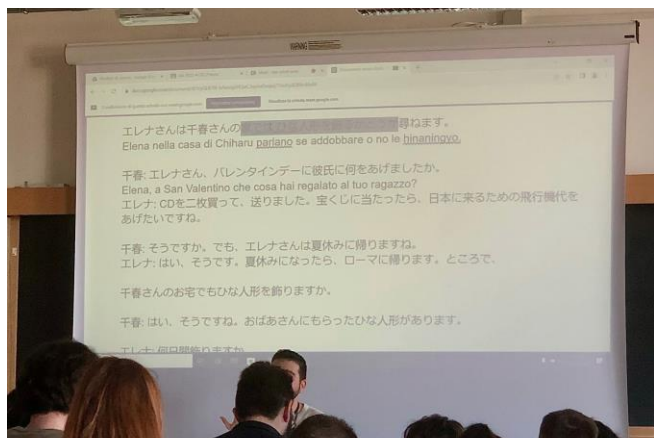
Two ways of studying

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It has been two months since I arrived here in Japan and I have learnt so many things. Regarding my academic experience, I think that there are some differences between **Hosei** and my **home university** in Rome. In particular, I was impressed by how the courses in Japan are structured and assessed, which is so different from what I was used to.

Freedom and autonomy

In Italy, we generally have 120-minute lectures and students are evaluated with a **single final exam**. During the semester, there are no weekly tests, and students have the freedom to choose when to take the exam through various schedules throughout the academic year. Since there isn't any homework during the courses, students are completely autonomous. Even full attendance is not required. So, students have the option to attend classes or not.



Structure and consistency



In **Japan**, on the other hand, lectures last 100 minutes and the academic path is much **more structured**. Each course includes weekly assignments, a midterm and a final exam accounting for 20-30% of the final grade. Thanks to these assignments, students are required to study consistently to keep up, reducing the risk of delays and disorganization.

All in all, universities in Japan promote greater discipline and active participation. While the Italian system gives students full independence, in my opinion, it carries the risk of procrastination. Perhaps an insignificant **academic detail**, but I truly believe it can make a **huge difference in one's university life**.