

Congratulations on your acceptance to ICU, and welcome! You made the right choice. Naturally for many of you after getting accepted, the first thing that'll cross your mind is – where do I want to live? Well if you're planning to live off campus, you can probably stop reading now... But if you're planning to stay in one of the dorms, actually having to pick one out of the many choices will be tough. However, we can proudly state that living in a dorm will be a one in a lifetime opportunity, a chance to make new friends – friends that you'll soon be able to call 'family'. They can introduce you to life in Tokyo, whether it be finding a part-time job, discovering the best ramen restaurant in town, or getting information on the different clubs and activities happening on campus. And of course, living on campus means that you'll be much closer to the campus facilities and your classes (so you don't have to get up so early in the morning)!

One of the main reasons why we find our life at ICU amazing is because we live in Zelkova (Keyaki) House, one of the 3 newest dorms on campus. Built in 2010, you'll be amazed at how fresh the facilities are, and how nice its atmosphere is! For me, one of Zelkova's most appealing points is that it is the closest dorm to the 'Honkan' where most of the classes are held. It only takes a minute to walk to the main entrance! (20 seconds if you run). It's also really close to the dining hall (Gakki) and the New Diffendorfer (Shin-D), where the ICU book store, the café, ATM and post office are located. Walking a few minutes to ICU High School, there is another exit of ICU, from which you can access the nearest restaurants and grocery stores in Higashi-Koganei.

The dorm has basically everything you need. With guys on the first floor and girls on the second and third floors, there is more than enough space for everyone. And in addition to basic dorm rules, you have to make certain commitments like the kitchen duty and laundry duty, which is where dorm members take turns to make sure that the kitchen, shower mats, and dish towels are fresh and clean every day. Although these tasks may seem annoying at first, they make you realise the importance of your parents and help you become more responsible. But life on every floor in Zelkova can be summed up as follows:

1st Floor (Guys) – The Zelkova first floor is definitely what you'd expect from an enjoyable University life. People are always playing PS3, battling it out on Super Smash Brothers, reading Manga, and generally having a good laugh. Guys cook their own food, work out in the lobby, and sometimes stay up late to watch movies or to chat.

2nd Floor (Girls) – The second floor is super active and fun as well. Everyone is always spending time with each other, whether it's hanging out in the social room, doing homework in the study room until late morning, having tea parties and eating sweets, or teaching others how to cook new Japanese recipes.

3rd Floor (Girls) – The third floor is known for being the most calm and lady-like. The girls are always hanging around in the kitchen to cook sweets, study, and share their latest updates on each other's University lives.

We also have what we call 'dorm parents' at Zelkova, whom we often call 'Nabe-Papa' and 'Nabe-Mama' (Mr. and Mrs. Watanabe) because they are like our mom and dad away from home.

They are very sweet and gentle, and if you get sick and need someone to take care of you or just need someone to talk to, they are always there for you on the first floor.

Every dorm member participates in an initiation at the beginning of their first term at ICU. This is where you get to know all of the people in your dorm and make new friends immediately after entering your dorm. This September, our group dressed up as minions from 'Despicable Me' and we created a 7 minute dance that we were to perform in front of the entire school during lunch time at Bakayama (one of the two big hills in front of the Honkan). It was definitely embarrassing at first to have to wear all yellow for the whole first week of school, but this initiation really helped to cut the awkwardness that most people may experience during their first couple of days.

But personally, one of the greatest things about living in Zelkova is that there is always, regardless of whether it be at 3 in the morning or before one of your classes, someone to talk to wherever you are in the dorm. Furthermore, the most simple phrases that you hear in Japanese society – 'Tadaima' (I'm home), 'Okaeri' (welcome back), 'Ittekimasu' (I'm going) 'Itterasshai' (have a nice day) start to mean a lot more to you. Living in a dorm is like living with a huge family and Zelkova has helped all of us feel like we are at home. We are looking forward to having you come join us and enjoy your dorm life to the fullest at ICU!

Asahi Suzuki (Senior)
Eiki Takeda (Senior)
Zelkova House



Double room

1st Floor



Social room



Zelkova All members



2nd Floor



3rd Floor