

## Fourth Women's Dormitory

Congratulations on your acceptance to ICU! A new life awaits you and it's time that you make your own decisions. This includes finding the exact place for you to feel comfortable living in. Fourth Women's Dorm (4WD) was and still is where I feel I belong and I would like to share that with you about this dorm.

First of all, 4WD is located inside a forest (little bit isolated from the main area, but it is the quietest because we're surrounded by lots of nature!), takes about 3 minutes to walk to the main building. There are 16 rooms, 2 people per room, which make 32 girls living together (happily ever after ☺).

Every dorm has different building structures, equipment, regulations, duties, etc, and I would like to explain the general idea about our dorm.

### ❁ Building Structure ❁

4WD has a unique structure that is different from other dorms. It's a bit hard to explain, but imagine that the dorm has a 2.5<sup>th</sup> floor when you go up from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. This 2.5<sup>th</sup> floor leads to a corridor with 4 blocks. Each block has a staircase going up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and going down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with two rooms each. There is a bathroom in the space between the two rooms and a space to have two refrigerators, one for each room.

**Rooms:** 4WD has the biggest room out of all the girls' dorms. There are desks, cabinets, chests, and beds in each room, but besides that, there's even more space left to put your own furniture. The lights are both on the desk side of the room and on the bed side of the room; so in case your roommate is staying up late, you can turn off the lights on the bed side and sleep.

**Kitchen:** We share one kitchen on the 2.5<sup>th</sup> floor. We have 5 electronic cookers, a microwave, pots and pans, cups and plates, and other cooking equipment and utensils. You can enjoy cooking with the people in the dorm and enjoy having meals together.

**Bath/Shower Room:** We also share one bathroom/shower room on the 2.5<sup>th</sup> floor. There are 5 showers and one big bathtub. For some people, bath time is one of the fun times where people talk with each other about their day, girl talks, etc. that sometimes, people spend talking over an hour in the bathtub!

**Social Room:** The social room refers to the living room located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. You can watch TV, read mangas, books, newspapers, relax on the couch, have small parties, eat meals, etc. This is also the place where we do dorm meetings every month.

\* There are three other rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. We have a laundry room with two washing machines and a drying machine. A drying room where you can dry your clothes indoors on rainy days (there's also an outdoor one on the 2.5<sup>th</sup> floor to hang your clothes on sunny days) and there's also an iron so you can iron your clothes. Lastly a study room, where is a quiet place to study.

### ❁ Dormitory duties and meetings ❁

We have two types of duties at 4WD. One is the cleaning duty; we clean the common spaces such as the kitchen, the social room, and the bathroom/shower room; there is a cleaning lady who comes 3

times a week to clean the dorm, but to maintain cleanliness we also take turns to clean these areas. This makes us the cleanest dorm!!

The other duty is the information duty in which we take phone calls and deal with visitors. Information duty is 3 hours a week for regular students; exchange students do not need to do this duty. These duties are crucial to maintain a smooth dorm life.

**Dorm meeting:** As I mentioned before, we have a dorm meeting once a month and all 4WD members are obligated to attend every meeting; this is an important time in order to make this dorm a better place to live. All the reports, discussions, questions and answers will be said in Japanese and English.

Well, how do you think about this dorm? This was just to give you the general idea of the dorm, so now I would like to share my personal experience here. I am really glad I was accepted to this dorm. When I first arrived here, I was so scared of living with strangers and having to deal with the Japanese “sempai-kouhai” relationship. But there were no such relationship and everyone was treated equally. This made me feel comfortable talking to people of different grades and backgrounds and eventually, it became so normal living together with such different people. I never experienced feeling lonely inside the dorm because there was always someone who would say “okaeri” (welcome back) when you get back home.

Compared to other dorms, there might be more responsibilities and duties to do, but this makes us a more independent individual and be able to resolve problems by ourselves. Living in the same building and participating in various dorm events together makes us united that, without realizing, my dorm mates are my best friends in university.

A dorm is not just a place to eat, study, and sleep; it is a place to interact and learn from each other. In this dorm, there are so many people with different backgrounds and personalities, but the magic of living under the same roof and supporting each other creates a tight bond between one another. So come join us in the 4WD family.

Yuika Matsushita(Junior)  
President of Fourth Women’s Dorm

P.S. One thing I really do recommend is to try joining in any of the old dorms. It doesn’t matter if it isn’t 4WD, but I’m sure that in any of the old dorms, you will have an unforgettable memory and experience. There are so many events only among the dorm students and I assure you that you will have fun participating in them. The old dorms have many traditions which creates close friendships among the dorm students, and most importantly, you can have close relations with the alumni. Being part of this small community will make you closer to each other and create unforgettable memories that you can only experience as a student.



Kitchenette



Bathroom



4WD All members



Drawer



Closet



Double room