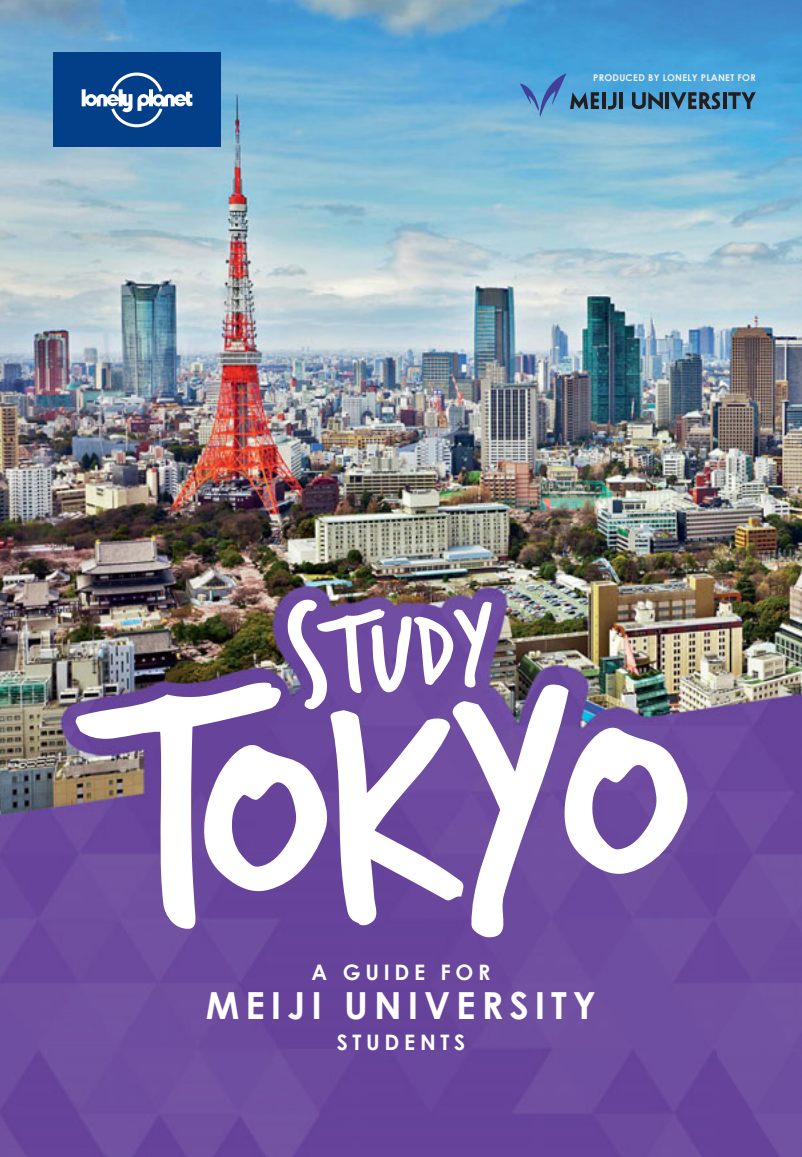




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MEIJI UNIVERSITY



**STUDY
TOKYO**

A GUIDE FOR
MEIJI UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS



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ABOUT MEIJI UNIVERSITY

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Established in 1881, Meiji University is one of Japan's premier educational institutions.

Since its inception over 130 years ago, Meiji University has stayed true to its founding principles of individual rights, liberty, independence and self-government, and has sent more than 500,000 graduates out into the world, including two former prime ministers.

Today, nearly 33,000 students study at Meiji, including 1200 from abroad. The university offers 10 undergraduate schools, 11 graduate schools and four professional graduate schools.

Japan's most popular university For the last four years, Meiji has attracted the highest number of high school applicants across all Japanese universities, and has had more than 100,000 applicants in each of the last seven years.

Four stimulating campuses Meiji's main campus, Surugadai, is close to Japan's political, economic and cultural core, and has a lively university town atmosphere thanks to surrounding secondhand bookshops and musical instrument retailers. The Izumi and Nakano campuses are also in urban Tokyo, and Ikuta is in the lush green Tama hills, with excellent transport access to central Tokyo.

Yoshihiro Yonezawa Memorial Library of Manga and Subculture In 2008, Meiji University established the School of Global Japanese Studies and set about planning a manga, anime, and video game archive facility that would be the largest of its kind in the world. The Yoshihiro Yonezawa Memorial Library of Manga and

Subculture opened in 2009 and holds a large collection donated by the late Yoshihiro Yonezawa – a Meiji alumnus, leading manga critic and collector. Meiji is also planning an additional library that will hold a comprehensive collection of comics, animation and games.

International student support In 2009, Meiji University was selected as one of 13 universities to take part in the Global 30 project, becoming a centre for the globalisation of Japanese universities by increasing the number of international students studying in Japan. Meiji provides solid support to international students, offering Japanese language education, events to experience Japanese culture, English-only programs, job search assistance, information on scholarships and residency, and an international student office with staff who speak English, Chinese and Korean.

Fulfilling campus life Meiji has around 330 university-sanctioned sports and cultural clubs that are formed and run by students. The university is also renowned for its active involvement in sporting events, with students and alumni coming together to celebrate and take part in Tokyo's popular university baseball tournament, the Hakone Ekiden marathon and the Waseda vs Meiji rugby match.

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MEIJI UNIVERSITY





TOKYO TOWER & SHIBA PARK (ARCHITECT: TACHŪ NAITŌ)

INTRODUCING TOKYO

JOINING PAST AND FUTURE, TOKYO DAZZLES WITH ITS TRADITIONAL CULTURE AND PASSION FOR EVERYTHING NEW.

Tokyo is a city forever reaching into the future with sci-fi street-scapes of crackling neon and soaring towers. Yet it is also a city steeped in history, and you can find traces of the shōgun's capital on the kabuki stage or under the cherry blossoms at Ueno Park. Tokyo has a neighbourhood for everyone – be they suit-clad salarymen (white-collar workers), manga-thumbing *otaku* (geeks) or *hime gyaru* (princess girls). No doubt it has one for you too.

TOKYO'S TOP 10 EXPERIENCES

★ SHINJUKU NIGHTLIFE

Shinjuku pulls you in and impresses with its scale and sheer variety. Here you can sing karaoke to your heart's content, catch the city's best jazz musicians or dance the night away with drag queens.

★ TOKYO SKY TREE

Opened in 2012, the 634m Tokyo Sky Tree is the world's tallest tower. This digital broadcasting monolith has two observation decks that present a stunning panorama of the greater Tokyo area. The views are best at sunset and in the colder months, when Mt Fuji's peak pokes out above the distant mountains.

★ SHOPPING

Where to begin? With the eye-popping, highly covetable fashions, the cutting-edge electronics or the traditional

artisan crafts? Whichever way you look at it, Tokyo is full of dangerously tempting shops.

★ TSUKIJI CENTRAL FISH MARKET

The world's largest fish market sells billions of yen worth of seafood every year, from mountains of octopus to pallets of giant bluefin tuna. Wake up early and get one of the few spots to watch the auction action, and don't forget to have the world's freshest sushi for breakfast.

★ MEIJI-JINGŪ

This Shintō shrine, Tokyo's largest and most famous, feels a world away from the city. It's reached via a long, rambling forest path and the grounds are vast, enveloping the classic wooden shrine buildings and a landscaped garden in a thick coat of forested green.



“ TOKYO'S
LARGEST AND MOST
FAMOUS SHINTO SHRINE
FEELS A WORLD AWAY
FROM THE CITY. ”

MEIJI-JINGŪ (ARCHITECT: ITŌ CHŪTA)

★ ROPPONGI ART & DESIGN

Legendary for its nightlife, Roppongi also has a sophisticated art scene. Art Triangle Roppongi is a group of three outstanding museums in the district – the Suntory Museum of Art, the National Art Center, Tokyo, and the Mori Art Museum.

★ SUSHI & RĀMEN

Tokyo's food obsession knows no boundaries, and two of the city's most beloved dishes couldn't be more different. On one hand there's sushi, the essential Japanese dish of delicate raw fish. On the other

hand there's the wonderfully rich, stick-to-your-ribs *rāmen*, for which Tokyoites will queue up around the block.

★ ONSEN

Don't let Tokyo's slick surface fool you – underneath the city it's pure, bubbling primordial pleasure. The natural wonder that is onsen exists even in the hyperdeveloped capital, rising from amazing depths into the tubs of tiny traditional bath-houses and lavish, modern bathing complexes.

★ SENSŌ-JI

The spiritual home of Tokyoites' ancestors, the great Sensō-ji

NATIONAL ART CENTER (ARCHITECT: KISHO KUROKAWA)



HANAMI

was founded over one thousand years before Tokyo got its start. Today this temple retains an alluring, lively atmosphere redolent of Edo (old Tokyo) and the merchant quarters of yesteryear.

★ HANAMI

In springtime, thousands of cherry trees burst into white and pink flower, and if Tokyoites have one moment to let their hair down en masse, this is it. Japanese poets have extolled the beauty, and samurai have admired the noble, short lives of the blossoms, but modern residents of the capital are happy to drink, eat and party under the boughs.

“ IF TOKYOITES
HAVE ONE MOMENT
TO LET THEIR HAIR
DOWN EN MASSE,
THIS IS IT. ”

OCHANOMIZU & JIMBŌCHŌ

Ochanomizu, literally 'water for tea', was named for a local spring that was once used to make a cup of tea for a shōgun. For centuries it was the home of feudal lords, who had their villas on the hill, Suruga-dai. Today, Ochanomizu is best known for its high concentration of universities.

To the south, Jimbōchō is known as the booksellers' district – a reputation that dates to the arrival of the universities in the 19th century. The neighbourhood has an old-fashioned mid-20th-century atmosphere and, with dozens of bookstores, is naturally a favourite of bibliophiles.

SIGHTS

Ochanomizu's most famous sights are its three sacred institutions – an ancient Shintō shrine, an Edo-period (1603–1868) Confucian temple and a

Meiji-period (1868–1912) Orthodox church – which represent three very different traditions, time periods and architectural styles. It is also well known for its river, the Kanda-gawa, and the photogenic series of bridges that pass over it. Southwest of Ochanomizu, the neighbourhood of Kanda-Sudachō has an atmospheric block of vintage, pre-war buildings.

KANDA MYŌJIN

(☎03-3254-0753; www.kandamyoujin.or.jp; 2-16-2 Soto-Kanda, Chiyoda-ku; free; ☀24hr)

This beloved Shintō shrine, founded some 1280 years ago, was the unofficial shrine of the city during the reign of the shōgun. The three major deities enshrined here are Daikoku and Ebisu, who are said to bring prosperity, and Taira no Masakado, a samurai whose spirit is said to protect Tokyo from natural disasters and other misfortunes.

YUSHIMA SEIDŌ

(☎03-3251-4606; www.seido.or.jp; 1-4-25 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku; free; ☀9.30am-5pm Apr-Sep, to 4pm Oct-Mar)

One of just a handful of Confucian temples in Japan, Yushima Seidō dates to the 17th century, when Confucian doctrine was popular with the ruling elite. It's now popular with students praying to the patron of learning, Confucius. Visit on a weekend to see the interior of the main hall (admission ¥200).

NIKOLAI CATHEDRAL

(☎03-3295-6879; www.orthodoxjapan.jp/annai/t-tokyo.html; 4-1-3 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku; ¥300 recommended donation; ☀1pm-4pm Apr-Sep, to 3.30pm Oct-Mar)

This unusual (for Tokyo!) Byzantine structure, built in 1891

TOP TIP
WHEN VISITING A SHRINE, IT IS THE CUSTOM TO FIRST WASH YOUR HANDS AND MOUTH AT THE FONT. LOOK FOR A SMALL POOL WITH LADLES TO THE LEFT OF THE ENTRANCE.



TOKYO FOR FREE

Tokyo is regarded as one of the world's most expensive cities, but many of its top sights cost nothing. Shintō shrines are almost always free and most Buddhist temples charge only to enter their *honden* (main hall). Many of the city's parks and gardens are also free – these leafy escapes are a welcome respite from the cityscape and can be great for people-watching. You can spend hours browsing various free markets, like Tsukiji and weekend farmers markets and flea markets, and there are free festivals and events year-round.

and complete with copper-green domes, is an Ochanomizu landmark. Named for Saint Nikolai, who introduced Orthodox Christianity to Japan in the mid-19th century, Nikolai Cathedral is the headquarters of the Orthodox Church of Japan.

ORIGAMI KAIKAN

(☎03-3811-4025; www.origamikaikan.co.jp/info/e_us.html; 1-7-14 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku; entry free, workshop fees vary; 🕒9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat)

Since 1858, Origami Kaikan has been devoted to origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. Workshops are held regularly; check out the samples on the ground floor to see what you can learn to make in the upcoming weeks. There's also a gallery and gift shop.

KANDA NO IE

(☎03-3255-3565; <http://kandanoie.com/en/en.html>; 2-16 Soto-Kanda, Chiyoda-ku; ¥250)

'Kanda House' is a beautiful and beautifully maintained example of an early-20th-century house. The original owners were a family of lumber merchants and fine examples of various woods are used throughout. It opens just a few days a month for pre-booked tours.

EATING & DRINKING

With several universities in the vicinity, it's only natural that there are many restaurants in Ochanomizu that cater to students. Think cheap and filling *rāmen* (egg noodles) and *tonkatsu* (breaded and fried pork cutlets). You'll find such restaurants clustered in front of



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STUDENT VOICE

STUDENT VOICE

PATRICK BEHUHUMA MOKONDOKO

SCHOOL: Professional Graduate School of Governance Studies
FROM: Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

TOKYO IN A WORD? Busy! **WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU ABOUT TOKYO AND JAPAN?** The marriage of tradition and modernity. People try to keep Japanese traditions, but at the same time embrace elements of western cultures. **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN TOKYO?** Odaiba. There are many beautiful places where you relax with your friends, including dating spots, restaurants, shopping malls, a beach and a big park. **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE IN TOKYO THAT YOU'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE?** I played *taiko* (Japanese drum). It was very exciting. **WHAT DO YOU MOST LIKE ABOUT MEIJI?** Meiji never stands still and keeps on growing. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO EAT AROUND CAMPUS?** A curry restaurant called Ethiopia. You choose curry heat levels from one to 70. But I can only order up to level three! **HOW HAS STUDYING AT MEIJI CHANGED YOU?** I now have different perspectives and ambitions for the future. **WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT STUDYING?** I cook delicious Congolese food, play basketball with my friends, practise judo and take photos of nature. **HAS IT BEEN DIFFICULT TO LEARN JAPANESE?** Yes and no. If you do not make any effort, of course it is going to be difficult. But if you practise enough with local people you have lots of opportunities to improve.

STUDENT
VOICE

NATSUMI WATANABE

SCHOOL: School of Global Japanese Studies

FROM: Chiba, Japan

TOKYO IN A WORD? Clean. **WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU ABOUT TOKYO AND JAPAN?** Trains and buses are always on time. And the people are polite, kind and service-minded. **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN TOKYO?** A small street called 'Cat Street', from Shibuya to Harajuku. There are many shopping places, nice restaurants, cosy cafes and bars. Even though it's in a busy area it's quiet and laid-back. **WHAT DO YOU MOST LIKE ABOUT MEIJI?** The people at Meiji have many brilliant gifts. They always work hard to polish their talents and that encourages me. **HOW HAS STUDYING AT MEIJI CHANGED YOU?** At my school we can study in a variety of fields and abroad, and through this I found what I really want to study at Meiji – American college sports management. **WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT STUDYING?** I play tennis, work out, read books, hang out with friends, go shopping – there are lots of things to do in Tokyo! **IS IT EASY MAKING FRIENDS AT CAMPUS?** It's easy! There are around 330 university-sanctioned sports and cultural clubs, and the Japanese love having dinner and going out for drinks after classes, so just join them!

Ochanomizu Station and at the bottom of the hill, Suruga-dai, between Meiji University and Yasukuni-dōri. Jimbōchō is famous for its curry shops and its old-fashioned coffee shops.

MARUKA UDON

(☎3-16-1 Kanda-Ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku; noodles from ¥380; ☺11am-7:30pm Mon-Fri, to 2:30pm Sat)

Delicious, quick and extremely easy on the wallet, this noodle shop is almost always packed with students. The house specialty is *sanuki udon* – thick, square wheat noodles that are native to Shikoku. Start with a simple order of *kake udon* (noodles in broth) then add toppings and a side of tempura.

KAGIROI

(☎03-3233-3355; 3-20 Kanda-Ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku; dishes ¥450-1200; ☺11:30am-2pm Mon-Fri, 5-11pm Mon-Sat)

Charcoal-grilled meats and fish, organic vegetables smothered in salty, tangy miso – the food here is delicious, and that's only half the appeal. This stylish Japanese restaurant is inside a beautifully renovated old wooden house. Reservations are recommended on Friday and Saturday nights.

KYŌEIDŌ

(☎03-3291-1475; www.kyoueido.com; 1-6 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; curry from ¥900; ☺11am-8pm Mon-Sat)

Kyōeidō is one of the oldest curry joints in Jimbōchō, in business since 1924. The dining room has a wonderfully retro feel, with red vinyl booths and brisk service. The curry, served in a silver sauceboat, is based on a recipe from Sumatra, though tweaked for Japanese tastes.

SABOURU

(☎03-3291-8404; 1-11 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; coffee ¥400; ☺9am-11pm Mon-Sat)

The quintessential Jimbōchō *kissa* (coffee shop), Sabouru is a rambling, eccentric place. Part

TOP TIP
MANY COFFEE SHOPS IN JIMBŌCHŌ OFFER A MŌNINGU SETTO (MORNING SET), UNTIL AROUND 11AM. THIS INCLUDES A COFFEE, HARD-BOILED EGG AND TOAST FOR AROUND THE SAME PRICE AS A CUP OF COFFEE.



STIR-FRIED NOODLES & RĀMEN

lantern-lit dungeon, part jungle island tree house, it's the perfect place to hole up with a book. Light meals, like sandwiches, are served here too.

BILBI

(☎03-3293-3211; 1-18-8 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; lunch ¥850; ☺11.30am-11.30pm)

This cosy little place, inside an old Japanese house, serves a tasty, healthy *teishoku* (set meal) at lunch that includes several Japanese dishes (like grilled fish) along with rice, miso soup, salad and pickles. In the evening, similar dishes (and more) are served à la carte.

SABUCHAN

(☎03-3230-1252; 2-24 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; rāmen ¥570; ☺11.30am-3pm & 4.30-7.30pm Mon-Sat)

Sabuchan is a classic hole-in-the-wall noodle shop, serving steaming bowls of Tokyo-style *shōyu rāmen* (egg noodles in a soy sauce flavoured broth). Try the popular *han-chan* – a bowl of *rāmen* with a side order of fried rice. It's on an alley off Hakusan-dōri, with red curtains over the door.

AMANOYA

(☎03-3251-7911; www.amanoya.jp; 2-18-15 Soto-Kanda, Chiyoda-ku; drinks & sweets from ¥500; ☺10am-6pm, closed Sun Apr-Dec)

In business for over 150 years, this teahouse to the left of the

entrance to Kanda Shrine specialises in *amazake*, a naturally sweet, non-alcoholic, fermented rice drink. You can also try a number of traditional Japanese sweets, like *mochi* (pounded rice cakes) and *manjū* (steamed buns).

ENTERTAINMENT

Ochanomizu and Jimbōchō aren't major entertainment districts, but they do have their own particular attractions. Literary Jimbōchō is home to two small cinemas that show classic and weighty films. Ochanomizu has an excellent jazz house. And like any university district worth its salt there are karaoke parlours and pool halls that stay open all night.

TOP TIP

MANY VENUES OFFER STUDENT DISCOUNTS. BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR STUDENT ID HANDY.

MUSICAL Tokyo

Though the live-music scene keeps early hours (shows often end around 10pm), rock, house, blues, jazz, classical and electronica are thriving in Tokyo. Big international acts often appear at large venues such as the National Stadium in Yoyogi or Budōkan. But Tokyo also has many good small live houses, especially in Shibuya.

Some of the Tokyo area's most well-supported musical events are festivals that draw thousands:

- ★ **Fuji Rock Festival** (rock; www.fujirockfestival.com)
- ★ **Summer Sonic** (rock; www.summersonic.com)
- ★ **Tokyo Jazz Festival** (jazz; www.tokyo-jazz.com)
- ★ **La Folle Journée au Japon** (classical; www.lfj.jp)

JIMBŌCHŌ THEATRE

(☎03-5281-5132; www.shogakukan.com.jp/jinbocho-theater; 1-23 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; students ¥800)

In a strikingly modern structure among Jimbōchō's aging bookshops, this state-of-the-art small theatre hosts month-long festivals of Japanese film classics, set around a particular theme (special effects or '80s nostalgia, for example). There are no subtitles: consider it a test of your newfound Japanese-language abilities.

JAZZ NARU

(☎03-3291-2321; www.jazz-naru.com; 2-1 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku; cover charge ¥2500; 🎵music from 7.30pm)

For far less than what you'd pay at one of the bigger clubs

downtown, Jazz Naru offers an intimate evening with some of the city's most promising young players. It's a swank place (but not fancy) and the food is good too. Three sets are played nightly.

BROTHERS BILLIARD

(☎03-3292-2226; www1.tcn-catv.ne.jp/BilliardsBrother; 1-4 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; students ¥660/hour; 🕒10am-1am Sun-Wed, to 6am Thu-Sat)

Don't let the grungy, smoky stereotype of pool halls put you off – this one is actually clean and well lit. In Japan, American-style eight ball is the game of choice, and you'll mostly see groups of friends playing together or practising (rather than hustling for money).



STUDENT
VOICE

JISEUNG A JUNG

SCHOOL: School of Commerce
FROM: Changwon, South Korea

TOKYO IN A WORD? Dynamic. **WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU ABOUT TOKYO AND JAPAN?** The Japanese don't say 'no!' **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN TOKYO?** Yoyogi Park. When sleeping on the grass I feel like I'm in heaven, and in spring we can enjoy the beautiful cherry blossoms. **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE IN TOKYO THAT YOU'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE?** I've enjoyed beautiful fireworks with friends wearing a *yukata* – a traditional Japanese summer kimono. **WHAT DO YOU MOST LIKE ABOUT MEIJI?** It is an environment with great diversity. You can easily make friends from all over the world through a bunch of parties and events on campus. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT AROUND CAMPUS?** Umisenyamasen Musashi Banpu – it offers bowls of rice topped with assorted sashimi at very reasonable prices, and free miso soup refills at lunch. **HOW HAS STUDYING AT MEIJI CHANGED YOU?** Studying with students from different cultures and with different experiences has changed my perspective on the world. **WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT STUDYING?** I mostly do an internship and have parties with friends. **HAS IT BEEN DIFFICULT TO LEARN JAPANESE?** No, it was not difficult for me. But it's not really hard to live in Tokyo, even if you don't speak Japanese well, because Japanese people are very kind and most people like to help foreigners.

KARAOKE-KAN

(☎03-5283-5565; www.karaokekan.jp; 3-8-9 Kanda-Ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku; noon-7pm weekday/weekend ¥80/106 per person 30 minutes, 7pm-5am weekday/weekend ¥525/630 per person 30 minutes)

You can't possibly understand Japanese culture without taking a turn behind the microphone at karaoke. Karaoke-kan has a huge song list, including hundreds of hits in English, Korean and Chinese. It is often more economical to go for the unlimited *furi taimu* (free time) plan.

IWANAMI HALL

(☎03-3262-5252; www.iwanami-hall.com; 2-1 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; students ¥1500)

Jimbōchō's other small theatre, which has been around since the 1970s, focuses on heavier fare – documentaries and films that take social issues to heart. Many of the works are from overseas and are screened in their original language, with Japanese subtitles.

SHOPPING

Historically, Tokyo neighbourhoods were organised by craft, a tradition kept alive in Ochonomizu and Jimbōchō (though the wares, naturally, have been updated). Yasukuni-dōri, where it runs through Jimbōchō, is wall-to-wall bookstores – but only on one side of the street (the shady side, so the books don't fade).

SHOPPING BY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Beeline to these neighbourhoods to find just what you're looking for.

- ★ **lidabashi and northwest Tokyo** – department stores and electronics
- ★ **Shinjuku and west Tokyo** – major shopping hub with everything
- ★ **Harajuku and Aoyama** – quirky street fashion and designer labels
- ★ **Shibuya and around** – trendy youth fashion
- ★ **Ebisu, Meguru and around** – stylish clothes and interior goods
- ★ **Roppongi** – designer wares and ultramodern malls
- ★ **Ginza and Tsukiji** – high-end department stores and boutiques
- ★ **Marunouchi (Tokyo Station)** – fashionable clothes for the working set
- ★ **Asakusa and Sumida River** – traditional crafts and artisan workshops

Beyond the intersection with Meidai-dōri, the focus shifts to sporting goods stores. Meidai-dōri is also known as 'Guitar Street' because of the musical instrument shops, new and secondhand, on and around it.

OHYA SHOBŌ

(☎3291-0062; www.ohya-shobo.com; 1-1 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; ☀10am-6pm Mon-Sat)

Part museum, part bookstore, Ohya Shobō has been in business since 1882 and specialises in books, maps and woodblock prints from the Edo era (1603–1868). Some items are incredibly valuable – like comics by woodblock master Hokusai, for example – but there are also reproductions of maps and prints that are vastly more affordable.

DISK UNION

(☎3295-1461; http://diskunion.net/shop/ct/ocha_ekimae; 2nd fl Shin-Ochanomizu Bldg, 4-3 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku; ☀11am-9pm Mon-Sat, to 8pm Sun)

This enormous used-CD store has over a 100,000 discs to choose from at any give time, in genres ranging from J-pop to punk to world. There's some vinyl here too. If you still can't find what you're looking for, pick up a map here for Disk Union's other, smaller outposts nearby.

VILLAGE VANGUARD

(☎5281-5535; www.village-v.co.jp; 3-14 Kanda-Ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku; ☀10am-11pm)

The latest music, manga, magazines, gadgets, accessories and character goods – this pop



STUDENT
VOICE

LORIS USAI

SCHOOL: Graduate School of Information and Communication
FROM: Rome, Italy

TOKYO IN A WORD? Eclectic. **WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU ABOUT TOKYO AND JAPAN?** The lifestyle, and the consideration and attention toward others that Japanese people have. **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN TOKYO?** Shimokitazawa. It's where new cultural trends are born and spread through the country, and there are lots of nice cafes and fashion shops. **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE IN TOKYO THAT YOU'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE?** I attended a fireworks festival wearing a *yukata* (traditional summer dress), ate *kakigoori* (shaved ice) and tried to catch a *kingyosukui* (goldfish) while fanning myself with an *uchiwa* (traditional fan). **WHAT DO YOU MOST LIKE ABOUT MEIJI?** The atmosphere on campus, the quality of study, the warmth of the people, the friendliness of the teachers and the support from the International Office. **HOW HAS STUDYING AT MEIJI CHANGED YOU?** Masters programs in Italy are very similar to Bachelor degrees, while Masters students in Japan study independently and can concentrate on their research topic. **HAS IT BEEN DIFFICULT TO LEARN JAPANESE?** At first it seems easy, but if you want to speak appropriate Japanese whatever the situation, and according to social status, position and interrelationship, it takes a while to master. But nothing is impossible!

culture emporium has it all. It's also the place to pick up birthday cards, silly souvenirs, stationery and, oddly enough, imported cookies. In fact, it is very hard to pass through here without buying something (you've been warned).

KITAZAWA SHOTEN

(☎3263-0011; www.kitazawa.co.jp; 2-5 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; ☺11am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, noon-5.30pm Sat)

Follow the curving staircase here to the second floor, where secondhand books in English are displayed in grand, floor-to-ceiling wooden bookcases. Among them are works of literature and literary criticism, art and philosophy – including rare first editions and long out-of-print titles.

BUMPODO

(☎3291-3441; www.bumpodo.co.jp; 1-21-1 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; ☺10am-7.30pm)

Another Jimbōchō classic, this 125-year-old arts supply store has all the stuff for serious pursuits: sketchbooks, etching tools and models for drawing manga. There's also a healthy selection of art postcards and stationery. Art classes are held upstairs.

VINTAGE

(☎3261-3577; www.jimboucho-vintage.jp; 2-5 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; ☺11am-7pm Mon-Sat, noon-7pm Sun)

Vintage is all about pop culture, of the vintage variety, naturally. Movie posters, pin-ups and magazines from the 1950s up to the 1980s are crammed into this tiny Jimbōchō store.

VICTORIA

(☎3295-2955; <http://sportsxproject.jp/x-shop/victoria>; 3-4 Kanda-Ogawamachi, Chiyoda-ku; ☺11am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-7.30pm Sun)

Of all the sporting goods stores on Yasukuni-dōri, Victoria wins for sheer variety. It's eight floors of everything you need to hit the mountains or the sea, the track or the field. Bonus: students get a 5% discount.

TOP TIP
JAPAN DOESN'T HAVE A CULTURE OF BARGAINING – EVEN AT SECONDHAND SHOPS. YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO KNOCK A FRACTION OFF THE PRICE, BUT YOU ALSO RISK OFFENDING THE OWNER.

EVENTS (CALENDAR)

JANUARY

NEW YEAR'S DAY (O-SHŌGATSU)

Tokyoites flock to Shintō shrines and Buddhist temples to celebrate the New Year, from 1 to 3 January.

DAIKOKU FESTIVAL

Kanda Myōjin holds a festival in honour of Daikoku-ten, the god of wealth and prosperity.

MARCH

TOKYO INTERNATIONAL ANIME FAIR

This major industry event draws everyone from big-screen voice actors to teenage fans.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

APRIL

CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Tokyoites toast spring at parties beneath the pink blossoms.

ENTRANCE CEREMONY

ORIENTATION FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

FIRST SEMESTER STARTS

MAY

SANJA MATSURI

Arguably the grandest Tokyo *matsuri* of all, this three-day festival attracts around 1.5 million spectators to Asakusa-jinja.

KANDA FESTIVAL

One of Tokyo's biggest festivals, put on by Kanda Myōjin and featuring raucous parades.

JULY

SUMIDA-GAWA FIREWORKS

The grandest of the summer firework shows features 20,000 pyrotechnic wonders.

TANABATA FESTIVAL

Festival at Kanda Myōjin honouring two star-crossed lovers.

AUGUST

KŌENJI AWA ODORI

Some 12,000 participants do a spirited folk dance along a 2km stretch.

O-BON

Festival honouring the dead – graves are swept, offerings are made and *bon-odori* (folk dances) take place.

SUMMER VACATION (1 AUG TO 19 SEP)

SEPTEMBER

TOKYO GAME SHOW

Get your geek on when the Computer Entertainment Suppliers Association hosts this massive expo.

SECOND SEMESTER STARTS

NOVEMBER

INTERNATIONAL ROBOT EXHIBITION

The world's largest robot expo takes place every other year at Tokyo Big Sight.

AUTUMN LEAVES

The city's trees undergo magnificent seasonal transformations during *kōyō* (autumn foliage season).

KANDA CURRY GRAND PRIX

In mid-autumn, Kanda's famous curry shops compete for visitors' favour.

CAMPUS FESTIVAL (MEIDAI & IKUMEI FESTIVALS)

DECEMBER

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Temple bells around Japan ring 108 times at midnight and Tokyoites begin lining up at Shintō shrines shortly after for *hatsumōde*, the first shrine visit of the year.

YEAR END FRIENDSHIP PARTY

WINTER VACATION (25 DEC TO 7 JAN)

MEIJI'S JAPANESE CULTURE EVENTS

Experience Japanese culture at these events, held throughout the year:

- ★ Zazen (sitting meditation)
- ★ Japanese Tea Ceremony
- ★ Ikebana (flower arrangement)

GETTING AROUND

Hyperefficient, sparkling clean and virtually crime-free, Tokyo's public transport system is the envy of the world. It is reasonably priced and frequent (generally no more than five minutes between trains on major lines).

SUBWAY

Ferrying millions of passengers around daily, the subway is the quickest and easiest way to get around central Tokyo. The city is home to 13 subway lines, of which nine are operated by Tokyo Metro and four by Toei. The subway runs 5am to midnight.

TRAIN

In addition to the subway, there are aboveground train lines that are handy for navigating Tokyo and travelling to other parts of Japan. Useful Japanese Railway (JR) lines within the city are the Yamanote, Chūō and Sōbu lines.

BUS

Tokyo has an extensive and convenient bus network, operated by Toei.

TAXI

Taxis in Tokyo feature white-gloved drivers, seats covered with lace doilies and doors that magically open and close by themselves. It's the only transport option that runs all night, but prices are steep and it only makes economical sense for groups of four.

BICYCLE

Despite the tangled traffic and often-narrow roads, bicycles are still one of the most common forms of transport in Tokyo. Theft does happen, especially of cheap bicycles, so use your lock.

MEIJI UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

SCHOOLS

Meiji University has a large number of undergraduate, graduate and professional schools across a range of subjects.

Undergraduate: Law, Commerce, Political Science and Economics, Business Administration, Arts and Letters, Information and Communication, Global Japanese Studies, Science and Technology, Agriculture, Interdisciplinary Mathematical Sciences.

Graduate: Law, Commerce, Political Science and Economics, Business Administration, Arts and Letters, Information and Communication, Global Japanese Studies, Science and Technology, Agriculture, Humanities, Advanced Mathematical Sciences.

Professional Graduate: Law, Governance Studies, Global Business, Professional Accountancy.

ENGLISH-ONLY PROGRAMS

Meiji University offers five English-only programs for students wishing to study solely in English:

- ➔ Meiji Institute for Advanced Study of Mathematical Sciences (MIMS), Doctoral Program, English Track
- ➔ Graduate School of Business Administration English Course in Double Degree Program
- ➔ Graduate School of Governance Studies, Public Policy Program, English Course
- ➔ Graduate School of Science and Technology, International Program in Architecture and Urban Design, Professional Course
- ➔ School of Global Japanese Studies, English Track

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

The University also offers a number of 'Japan Study' short courses to help students learn about Japan and Japanese culture.

Japanese Language Program (Japanese): Explore and experience Japanese culture and society through field trips and excursions while studying Japanese.

Cool Japan Summer Program (English): Study and analyse various elements of Japanese pop culture and traditional culture, including manga, anime, video games, J-pop and modern Japanese film.

Law in Japan (English): Study Japanese law and the Japanese legal system.

USEFUL WEBSITES

➔ www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english
Meiji University website

➔ www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english/meiji_guide
Your Guide to Meiji

➔ www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english/programs/index.html
Meiji University Japan Study Short Programs



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STUDY TOKYO

With its sci-fi streetscapes, centuries-old traditions, unforgettable cuisine and neon-lit nightlife, Tokyo is a tapestry of sensorial madness unlike anywhere else in the world.

Get to know Japan's buzzing capital with this introductory guide to Tokyo. Discover the city's top experiences, see what's on throughout the year and explore the best sights, eateries, shops and entertainment options around Meiji University.



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