



# Double Degree Program at Tohoku University

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October 2021 – March 2024



*Mont Fuji view from Fujiyoshida*

I studied at Tohoku University from October 2021 to March 2024 as part of the double degree program between my home university, École Centrale de Lyon, and Tohoku University. During my first semester, from October 2021 to March 2022, I had intensive Japanese Language classes. Following this, I spent two years as a master's student in the Graduate School of Engineering.

## **Student life**

Tohoku University offers an excellent environment for both studying and conducting research. Over the course of two years, I developed my skills and knowledge of renewable energies through my research project.

Each department has its own procedures, and laboratories operate differently. It can be beneficial to contact current students at Tohoku University when selecting your laboratory to gain insights and advice.

The university also provides numerous opportunities to get involved in clubs and circles, with clubs being more serious and time-consuming than circles. I personally joined the Kyudo Circle and the Tea Ceremony Club, which enriched my cultural experience.

Additionally, there is the possibility to work as a teaching assistant. I had the opportunity to serve as a teaching assistant for one year in Fukai-sensei's French classes.

### **Living in Sendai: Experience and Advice**

When I arrived in Sendai, the Incoming Student Exchange Section of Tohoku University provided invaluable assistance. They helped me open a bank account, register at the city office, and take out insurance. From an administrative standpoint, there is little to worry about, as the Incoming Student Exchange Section offers robust support. Additionally, you can seek advice from other double degree program students who arrived earlier.

My living expenses were fully covered by the MEXT scholarship, which provided 142,000 yen per month. Grocery shopping is slightly more expensive in Japan compared to France, particularly fruits, which can be very costly. However, dining out is much cheaper. Public transportation is a bit more expensive than in France, but car rentals are significantly cheaper. Phone plans are pricier, and calling and sending SMS are typically not free.

For those with a French driving license, I highly recommend obtaining a Japanese driving license, which requires only paperwork and no examination. This allows access to convenient services like Times Car Sharing, which are only available to holders of a Japanese driving license.

Sendai is a very comfortable city to live in. It is neither too big nor too small, offers beautiful natural surroundings, and is conveniently close to Tokyo via the shinkansen. Sendai is an excellent base for exploring the Tohoku area, which is stunning and relatively undiscovered by tourists. There are also international communities, such as Furisuku and Meetup, that are great for meeting new people.



*Samurai school in Aizu*



*Beach in Okinawa*



*Amanohashidate*



*Sunset in Oga Peninsula*

## **Career paths**

After graduating from Tohoku University I came back to my home country to start my career. I joined ENGIE as part of its Renewables Young Graduate Program. My double degree in Tohoku University is an unvaluable experience that helped me to launch my career.