

This is Zonglin WU, student from INSA Lyon, who is right now enrolled as Double Degree student at Tohoku University.

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

To begin with, my time at Tohoku University has been truly enjoyable! Everything has gone smoothly, and I had the incredible opportunity to travel around Japan while learning Japanese before the official start of the academic year in April. One of my most unforgettable experiences was taking the train from the southernmost station in Japan (Makurazaki) all the way to the northernmost station (Wakkanai). It was an absolutely amazing journey!

Additionally, the staff at the international office have been outstanding. From the visa application to the enrollment process, Ms. ASANUMA, the Double Degree Program Coordinator, has been consistently supportive, always responding to our inquiries with impressive speed and efficiency.

Beyond academics, one of the highlights of my life in Sendai has been the food—especially ramen! I quickly developed a habit of eating ramen multiple times a week, exploring different ramen shops across the city. Each place has its own distinct style, and discovering new flavors became one of my greatest pleasures in Sendai. Whether it was rich tonkotsu broth, spicy miso, or light shoyu, there was always something new to try. If you're a ramen lover, Sendai will definitely not disappoint!



*Menya Masamune*



*Menya Pig Mountain*



*Menya 58*



*Tsukemen kazu*

**What is the monthly cost of maintenance in Sendai beyond the dormitory?**

Living in Sendai is generally very convenient! With 7-Eleven stores everywhere and plenty of 24-hour restaurants, what more could you ask for? The biggest expense is transportation, particularly the Shinkansen. Here's my advice: walk as much as possible to save money! If you don't travel frequently, a monthly budget of around 40,000 JPY is sufficient—even for someone like me who never cooks at home. However, if you enjoy traveling, your expenses can increase significantly.

The most essential item to bring with you to Sendai is a credit card. That's it! You can purchase almost everything here, except for some specialty foods from your home country.

**Difficulties you may encounter before/after arriving in Japan.**

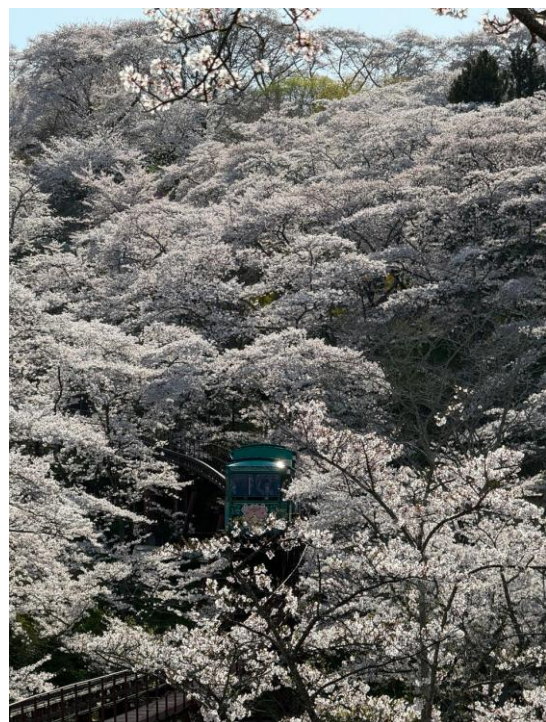
Before arriving in Japan, I faced a major challenge. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I was required to complete an additional questionnaire for my Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) application, which delayed my arrival and prevented me from traveling with other students. If you find yourself in a similar situation, don't panic—just be patient and wait a little longer for your CoE.

**Career Paths**

After completing the Double Degree program, I made the decision to enter the workforce rather than pursue a PhD. While I found research fascinating, I ultimately chose to apply my skills in a professional environment. I have since secured a job and am excited to embark on this new chapter of my career. The knowledge and experience I gained at Tohoku University have undoubtedly prepared me well for this next step, and I look forward to the opportunities ahead.



*Big Snow on Aobayama Campus*



*Hitome Senbonzakura*