

# My life in Sendai

I am TEYS Louis, a student originally from the Telecommunication department at INSA Lyon. I came here to do my double degree in Tohoku's GSIS (Graduate School of Information Science).

## 1. Living in Sendai: Experience and Advice

Life in Japan is very comfortable. Food is cheap so it is very easy to eat out, transports are very convenient which makes going out of the city very easy and the pace of life is very cool. While compared to Tokyo or Osaka, summer is cooler, it is still unbearably hot and humid, which i would say is the only black spot on a very good overall Japanese experience. The Tohoku region itself could be said to be lackluster but, thanks to this, you get to enjoy a very authentic Japanese experience, far from the overtourism of the Kanto and Kansai region. Sendai is a very human sized city, with 2 metro lines and city buses which allow you to get around more or less conveniently, although it depends on your destination. Some locations around the city are definitely worth the detour and make for some very scenic photos !



Japanese bureaucracy can be rough, especially at the start with all the papers and things you need to do at arrival but thanks to all the support from the university and tutors, getting used to it wasn't too hard. People in Sendai tend to not speak English. From my point of view, it was a good thing because I got to experience what felt like a more authentic experience, but it can be a big break when travelling a bit into the countryside or for the student life itself.

## 2. Student's life

I believe that student life can really differ person to person. The biggest variable will be the laboratory you will join. It dictates the free time you get, as well the pressure you get during your daily life and commutes. I got very lucky with my laboratory : Interactive Content Design Lab (<https://www.icd.riec.tohoku.ac.jp/en/>). While it provides many opportunities for any future career, it also provides an environment that is very comfortable to live in as long as you do your work. I definitely recommend being careful when choosing your lab.

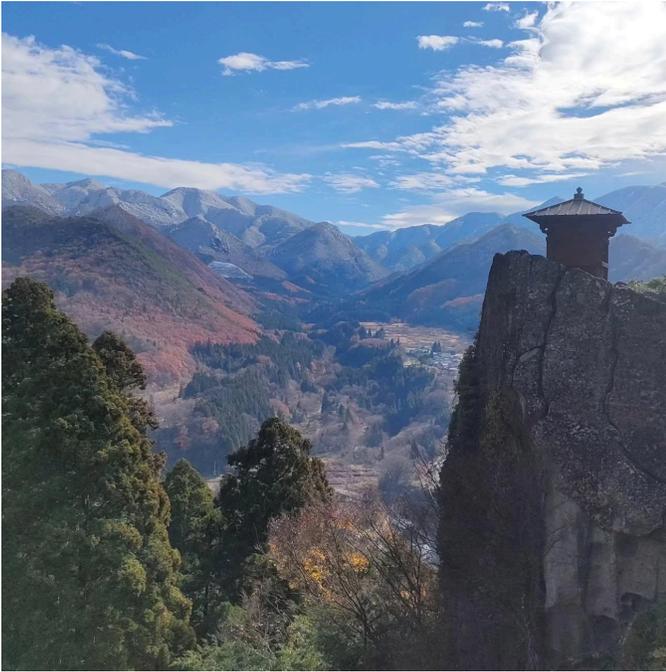
Most of the students live in the university residences. They are located either at Sanjo, or in the Aobayama campus which makes commuting to some campuses like Kawauchi, Seiryō or Katahira a bit troublesome but you can either use the free shuttle bus or the subway with a pass available for student at ¥ 7000 a month for one line of subway.



Aobayama campus in winter can get quite snowy so expect a lot of snow !

Your lab should offer you plenty of opportunities. Whether you come here for research and want to continue your studies with a PhD or want to focus on a career in a normal company, all of those paths should be kept open for you. Doing research for two years will allow you to try publishing your own work at a conference to start building up your resume or a lot of people from companies will show up at weekly meetings, giving you the opportunity to start building a network. The quantity, and quality, of those opportunities will vary again depending on the lab that you join, hence the necessity to choose a good laboratory and a good research project.

### 3. Some photos



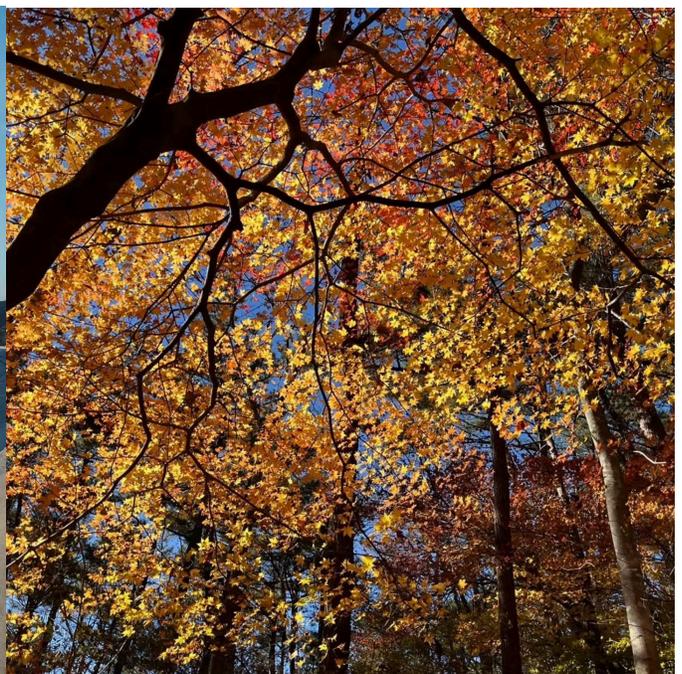
Yamadera (a temple in the next prefecture)



Tanabata festival in Sendai



Matsushima (one of the three most beautiful views of Japan)



A hike during the autumn season