KYUSHU UNIVERSITY
STUDENT CLUB
AND
CIRCLE GUIDEBOOK
Introduction
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Credits

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Let’s join clubs and circles!

University life outside the classroom gives students a chance to broaden their prospects and boost their ability to engage in multiple interests. With that purpose, 100+ circles and clubs can be found in campus, serving to enrich the social and cultural understanding of Kyushu University students, influencing larger communities and ultimately contributing to the internationalization of the university.

What is the difference between clubs and circles?

In general, “clubs” are officially supported by the university, and hence, have missions to represent the university in external tournaments or competitions. With that aim in mind, club activities are generally more competitive and have tightly organized activities or practices. On the other hand, a “circle” is a student-organized group which aims to develop a mutual interest between its members. Therefore, the circle’s activities and practices are more lax and schedules more flexible.

Key Information

1. Senpai-Kohai System

There is a Confucian value that dictates Japanese club culture called the “senpai-kohai system”. Senpai can be translated as “senior”, while kohai is “junior”. This system is a two-way relationship; as the senpai is expected to mentor the kohai and take responsibility of their performances, while the kohai is expected to show more respect and act politely when the senpai is around. An example of this system can be easily spotted at drinking parties and gatherings where kohai pours senpai’s beers and senpai usually gives more treat financially.

2. Membership Fee

Club or circle members are usually expected to pay a membership fee, which is used for the activities or to run the club/circle community. This fee varies between clubs/circles and ranges between 2000 – 5000 yen per month.
The Student Committee for the Internationalization of Kyushu University (SCIKyu) conducted an online survey and searched what both international and Japanese students think about clubs/circles. These are several interesting facts to share.

**Question for Japanese clubs: Do you welcome international students?**

*Answer:* “Yes we very much welcome international students!”

In fact, 84% of the clubs answered that they welcome international students. They’re waiting for you to join! However, 68% of the clubs haven’t had international students in the past, so you might want to ask whether you can join their activities or not because you may be the first one!

**Question for international students: Have you ever joined a club or circle in Kyushu University?**

*Answer:* Only 16% of the international students are currently in a club or circle, but about half of international students answered that they would like to join some clubs/circles. Why don’t you give it a try??

There are various reasons why they have not been able to join yet. The major answer was that they don’t know how to join one. The solution? This guidebook! Please read me carefully! The minor reasons are language abilities and the lack of time. For these problems, you can ask each club or circle directly by email. We hope you can find one that is suitable for you!

How were these surveys? Many clubs are welcome to international students and many international students are willing to join them. So why do you hesitate? Let’s join in club activities and enjoy your life merrily in Japan!
How to Contact Clubs and Circles

Contacting a Desired Club

When you find a club you are interested in and receive the club’s contact email address, the next step would be to send them an email stating your intention to join. All club managers usually understand emails written in simple English; however, you may get more attention by writing in simple Japanese. Below is an example email in Japanese followed by an English translation. In this email, a freshman named Tom is sending an email to “KUIFA”.

Sample Email

Subject: 活動参加希望 トム

KUIFA様

はじめまして。
私は九州大学に留学生としてきている、工学部1年のトムです。
今回、Kyushu University Student Club and Circle Guidebookを見たKUIFAに興味をもったのでメールしました。一度KUIFAの活動に参加したいのですが、いつどこにいけばいいでしょうか。返事をお待ちしています。

なお、私は日本語があまり得意ではないので、英語ができる方はとりあえず返事をいただけますか。

よろしくお願いします。

トム
工学部1年
メール: lamtom@tomtom.jp
電話番号: 000-111-2222

English Translation

Subject: Joining KUIFA, Tom

Hello,

My name is Tom, a B1 international student in the School of Engineering in Kyushu University.

I am sending this email because I am very interested in your KUIFA activities and I would love to try to participate in your activity once. Could you please tell me when and where I should go to join the next meeting?

If possible, I would like to get a reply in English because my Japanese is not so good.

Thank you,

Tom
Engineering, B1
Email: lamtom@tomtom.jp
Phone Number: 000-111-2222
USEFUL WORDS

打ち上げ (Uchiage)
A celebration party, usually with drinking

おごり (Ogori)
To treat someone. It is more common for a “Senpai” to treat a “Kohai”

先輩 (Senpai)
“Seniors.” Someone who is older in age or grade

後輩 (Kohai)
“Juniors.” Someone who is younger in age or grade

合宿 (Gasshuku)
Training camp

遠征試合 (Ensei Shiai)
An away match

敬語 (Keigo)
Honorific speech, a respectful way of speaking from kohai to senpai, coaches and teachers

監督 (Kantoku)
Head coach

マネージャー (Manager)
A club member who is in charge of taking care of equipments, members fitness, performance records, etc

新歓 (Shinkan)
A welcome party or event for new club members

飲み会 (Nomikai)
A drinking party

インカレサークル (In-kare Circle)
“Inter-college circle”. A circle that consists of members from several different universities

※Joining a club or circle in Japan is not only about practicing a particular sport or art. By becoming a member you will be able to learn and practice more about Japanese language and culture by following many traditions and experiencing intense yet fun senpai-kohai relationships.
I’m a student in mechanical engineering but I am also interested in aerospace engineering. I belong to Kyushu University Bird-man team. Our team makes a handmade airplane every year and we take part in the bird-man competition. I enjoy designing a vertical and horizontal tail wing and landing gears using CAD. I also cut and bend some pieces of metal. Metalworking is so exciting but it is difficult to try it without such a club. We participate in “Gliders for Distance” every year and design our glider aiming to travel as far as possible. Fortunately, we won this event in 2015!! The glider travelled 373 meters. The most interesting point I think is that we can practice many skills and knowledge, which we learn in our engineering school. We can bring up our engineering skills through these irreplaceable experiences.

**STUDENTS’ VOICE**

I decided to join Kyushu University Karate-do Club right after enrolling to IUPE and actively practiced for two years and a half. During this time, muscle pain was part of my life. The training was actually quite harsh and serious as we needed to be both physically and mentally well-prepared for many annual tournaments. However, I enjoyed the practice very much. I loved its atmosphere of unity, where all members shouted out “kiai” at the same time and aimed at the same target. I also loved the confidence I gained after each practice as I could feel clearly that I had been pushed to the limit to get stronger. Even though I have only participated in the club for two years and a half, this period of time is definitely a priceless memory of my four years in Kyushu University.

*Students’ information is as of March 2016.*
Introduction of clubs and circles

Finance:
5- more than 10,000 yen a month
3- less than 5,000 yen a month
1- no need to pay

Japanese language skill:
5- you definitely need to speak Japanese
3- you would be able to enjoy in English
1- you can speak English all the time

Nomikai frequency:
5- more than twice a week
3- 2 or 3 times a month
1- less than 1 a month

Special topic:
ex. friendship, smile, passion, kindness, etc...

Commitment:
5- more than 5 times a week
3- 2 or 3 times a week
1- nothing special

Ameican Football Club
Aren’t you restraining your own fighting spirits inside? Don’t you want to reach beyond your limits with lifetime friends? Don’t you want to find yourself during your “last school life”? This field, a place where every member shines, is worth every second of your university life.
email: palookas2017@gmail.com

Ashihara Karate Club
Osu!! Hello, we are Ashihara Karate club. Our club is the only Karate club in Kyushu University following the full-contact sparring rules. We have many beginners so please feel free to join us. Since our activities are held in Ito, if you have interest, please contact us!!
email: kyushu.u.ashihara@gmail.com

Badminton Club
We are badminton club in Kyushu University. Our practice is enjoyable and very hard, so we welcome the person who loves badminton and has passion for it! Let’s enjoy badminton together!
e-mail: threecars.tree@icloud.com
Culture Cafe
Hello there! This is a volunteer circle where students run a Cafe on campus. We learn about brewing tea and coffee, serve customers cakes. And we hold events like Tanabata, Halloween, Christmas and so on. It’s a lot of fun, so let’s run this Cafe together!!
e-mail: culturecafe2@gmail.com

Car Circle (Q.U.C.C)
We are car club in Kyushu University. We service the car and race using it. The everyday activity holds a meeting in garage on every Saturday. Our garage is in Hakozaki Campus. We really welcome you if you have feeling which you like cars.
e-mail: qucc.org@gmail.com

Cheerleading Team
We are cheerleaders in Kyushu University. We always enjoy our activities with smiles! If you have a nice smile, let’s join us!
e-mail: kyushuuniversity.etoiles@gmail.com

Cinema Club
We are cinema club in Kyushu University. We usually watch movie on Tuesday and Friday. We welcome you if you like watching and making movie!!
e-mail: kyudaieiken@gmail.com

Cycling Club
We are cycling club in Kyushu University. We really welcome you even if you do not have your bike!!!
Come join us!!!!!!
e-mail: info.qucc@gmail.com
Debate Club (QDC)
If you want to speak Japanese better, why don’t you join our club? We work on preparation type policy debate in Japanese. We will hold International Japanese Debating Course during summer vacation. Participants are from South Korea, Taiwan, China, and etc. We are waiting for your participation!
email: qdc.debate@gmail.com

ESS (English Speaking Society)
We do debating in English. Through debate, we can practice speaking English, and improve logical thinking. Members are from various countries (Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam...etc.). Let’s have fun debating together!
email: kyudai.golf@gmail.com

Golf club
If you love golf, why not come to our club! There are members who can speak English and foreign students in Golf Club. So don’t worry even if you can’t speak Japanese fluently. It doesn’t matter where you are from, "YOU" are the one we are waiting for!!
email: kyudai.golf@gmail.com

Harmony chorus club
Hi! We are acappella circle, HarmoQ! Like singing ✔ Wanna make lots of friends ✔ Love Pentatonix
We have about 200 members and various bands. You can practice anytime you want. Don’t worry about the language. Let’s have fun together!
email: harmoq@yahoo.co.jp

Handball club
We, Kyudaigakunai Handball Club, have practice 4 times a week at the Ito Gym. Our motto is to "win while having fun", so if you are interested in any way, why don’t you just try playing handball with us?
email: kyudaigakunaihandball@gmail.com
**Hougaku club** (traditional Japanese music)

We play the Japanese traditional musical instrument like Koto, Shamisen, Shakuhachi and court musical instrument like Sho, Outeki, Shichiriki. Let’s enjoy playing the Japanese traditional musical instrument with us!!

e-mail: qdai_hougaku@yahoo.co.jp

**ICPC challenge Project**

We are ICPC Challenge Club. In this club, we solve various problems by programming. If you are interested in competitive programming, please send us email.

e-mail: icpccc@gmail.com

**Itoshima Vacant House**

Our main activity is renovation of vacant house. If you are interested in design or carpentry, Please join once!!

e-mail: itoya.2011@gmail.com

**Juggling Club (9JUC)**

We are juggling circle in Kyushu University. Juggling is very very fun! Let’s play juggling with us!

e-mail: ninejuc@yahoo.co.jp

**Junko-Baseball Club**

We are junko baseball club in kyushu university. We use junko ball which is semi-hard ball. All members enjoy baseball. Let’ play junko together!!

e-mail: kyudaijunkou@gmail.com
Judo Club
We are Kyushu university judo club! We play judo with original rules, so we hope you can find something interesting about judo. We are looking forward to playing judo with new friends!!
email: kyudaijudohp@gmail.com

Kendo Club
We are kendo club in kyushu university. Kendo is japanese traditional sports. You’re always welcome!!
e-mail: kyushu.university.kendo@gmail.com

Koshiki-Baseball Club
We are baseball club in Kyushu University. We make an earnest effort to win games. Let’s enjoy baseball with us!
e-mail: kyushu_bbc@hotmail.com

Kyushu University International Friendship Association (KUIFA)
As it’s name suggests, we are doing cross cultural communication. We enjoy coffee hour, and go camping sometimes. We hope you all come to our circle!!
e-mail: kuifa2010@gmail.com

Kyushu University Railway and Transpotation Club
Our activities include regular meetings twice a week and traveling during long holidays or participating in railroad events. Our members are fans of not only the railroad, but also fans of airplanes, buses, anime, J-idols, and sports. (2 female members & 2 international students are active members as well!)
email: tekken.kyushu.univ@gmail.com
Mixed Chorus Club
We, mixed chorus club, is called 'Qkon'. We enjoy singing three days a week. We have over 150 members and all members are funny and cheerful. You can find great friends! Many of us are beginner, so don’t hesitate! You must become to like us!
e-mail: q_kon_renraku@yahoo.co.jp

Noh Club
Do you know Noh? It’s Japanese traditional opera consisting of the music, chorus and dance. We’ll teach you how to play it. We’ve had some international students before so please feel free to join. Through Noh, let’s learn Japanese culture!!
email: nohbutai@hotmail.com

Philharmonic Orchestra
Do you like classical music? If you like, let’s enjoy orchestra with us!! We welcome you!!!!
e-mail: qdaiphil@gmail.com

Piano Club
We are Kyudai Piano Club in Kyushu University. If you like playing the piano, our club suits you! Of course, we also welcome beginners! Let’s enjoy playing the piano!!
e-mail: 9piano@gmail.com

RAKUGO Club
What is Rakugo? It is a 400-year-old tradition of comic storytelling in Japan. A minimalistic performance art, Rakugo features a lone storyteller dressed in kimono, kneeling on a cushion. Come and enjoy ooool Japanese culture with us!
email: kyushu.ochiken@gmail.com
Renshinkan (Karate Club)
We are karate club in Kyushu University. We practice twice a week. We will welcome whoever wants to practice karate!!
e-mail: renshinkan9dai@gmail.com

Shodo Club
Hello! We are Calligraphy Club in Kyushu University. If you join our club, you can enjoy Cool Japan, so there are a lot of foreign students. Let’s enjoy with us!!!
e-mail: kyudai_shodo@hotmail.com

Ski Club
We are skiing club in Kyushu University. Skiing is exciting sport. Let’s play skiing together.
e-mail: ksr1979@yahoo.co.jp

SkyJack (Hang Gliding Club)
We are Hang gliding circle ‘SkyJack’. If you want to fly freely, this circle is the best for you! Exciting sky world is be open for you from here!
e-mail: skyjack.mail@gmail.com

Soft Tennis Club
Hello! We are soft tennis club! We practice at C tennis court in Ito campus. We focus on a win. If you want to play tennis seriously, why don’t you join us!
e-mail: 9dai.softtennis@gmail.com
Tennis Club
We practice 17:00~20:15 on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday, 09:00~16:00.
It is better you have tennis experience.
e-mail: kyudaitennis@gmail.com

Unplugged (Acoustic Guitar Club)
We are the acoustic guitar club in Kyushu University. We really welcome you if you love playing the guitar!
e-mail: unplugged.q@gmail.com

Wonder Vogel Club
If you like outdoor activities, you have no choices but this club. Let’s climb mountains and ride bicycles throughout Japan! Please contact us.
e-mail: q_wander_vogel@yahoo.co.jp

Windsurfing Club
We are windsurfing club in Kyushu University. We enjoy windsurfing and other marine sports every Saturday in Obaru Coast. Let’s enjoy marine sports together!!
e-mail: blueplanche@gmail.com

Women's lacrosse Club
Hello, we are Girls' Lacrosse Club of kyushu university. Lacrosse is very exciting sport! We are looking forward to playing with you!!
e-mail: qlax2015@gmail.com
SCIKyU (the Student Committee for the Internationalization of Kyushu University) is an official committee which was initiated in 2011 by Kyushu University, comprising of Japanese students, international students and several teaching members whose aim is to help foster the internationalization drive of Kyushu University from various perspectives. This Clubs and Circles Guide is a part of efforts of SCIKyU cooperated by the International Student Exchange Division. We hope this guidebook will help many international students in Kyushu University. Contact us at scikyu.official@gmail.com or visit our website and Facebook page at www.scikyu.com and www.facebook.com/SCIKyU.