

## ◆先輩からのアドバイス◆

### How to make new friends

If you are new at the University of the Ryukyus and in Okinawa, you might be having some trouble making friends. If that's the case, here are some tips that will help you:

#### 1. University clubs.

Joining a club is one of the easiest ways to make friends. Universities in Japan usually have numerous clubs including scuba diving, football, tennis, golf, English, music, and so on. Most have regular meetings and parties, especially when there are new members. They are unique opportunities to socialize with new people.

#### 2. Language exchange meetings.

If you are an international student, you will surely be learning Japanese, or at least you will be trying. Since there are many Japanese people who want to learn other languages, why don't you try going to a language exchange meeting? It's a great way to make friends and improve your Japanese level at the same time. If you are a Japanese student, language exchange will allow you to make friends and learn new languages, including English.

#### 3. Sharing apartments, meeting neighbors

It is not very common to share a house/room/apartment with someone in Japan, but the experience can be interesting and lead to lasting friendships. The relationships with neighbors are very important regardless if you are going to live inside an apartment or at the university dormitory. When you move into a new room, don't forget to visit your neighbors and tell them. Pro-tip: a little gift is great to break the ice.

#### 4. Student parties.

Student parties are usually held at the international house, close to the south gate of the University campus. Participants are often a mix of Japanese and foreigners who want to make friends. Go and try to make friends with as many people as possible!

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