

## ◆先輩からのアドバイス◆

### Some Tips for Freshly Joined Engineering Students

Same as everything else, studying in Japan also has its own culture which is better to be learned before entering academic institutions. Most of these rules are not spoken and written, which means you will not find it written anywhere and even in Japan no one will tell you how to behave or obey their culture. Thus, all the tips written below are a sum of experiences.

1. In the Japanese academic system, namely graduate degree, the study burden is divided as 20% on academic advisor and 80% on student, this means do not expect your professor to tell you what to do all the time, it should be you doing most of the academic activities.
2. Try to get achievable deadlines and then try to reach them. Do not attempt to get short deadlines just to prove that you are very smart and then not being able to fulfil the time requirement.
3. When talking about the time, the Japanese have a very firm rule regarding that, thus, be on time, which means at least 5 mins before the start of an activity or class.
4. Try to have a good relationship with your academic advisor as it can ease the overall process of studying for you, try to contact them frequently, and update them on your activities.
5. Try to understand what your academic advisor wants you to do, English is not the first language in Japan and some academic advisors might have limited English speaking skills, however, they will try their best to make you understand anyway, but still proceeding to an experiment or an academic activity which you are not sure of your academic advisor's intension can waste a lot of your time and resources which will only result in a disappointment.
6. As a research student in Japan, your academic supervisor should be completely satisfied by your research findings, otherwise it is more likely that you will not graduate, and you might be required to take more time until you get the results that would satisfy your academic advisor.
7. You should keep this in mind that in some cases, your academic advisor will not even tell you what to do because it is a research degree and you have already convinced him/her of how you will be conducting your research. This means you will have to do all the planning and must decide on how to do your research step by step, he/she will only be advising you.
8. Never try to manipulate your research findings as the academic advisor will check it very carefully, which will just cause you embarrassment.
9. While you are asked to do something (design, analyze, gather data...) never say I cannot do it or I could not find it right away or directly, it will just show that you have a very low self-esteem. Instead, take some time and try to do what your supervisor asks you for, even if you did not do it perfectly, they will think that you have tried your best.
10. Sometimes your academic advisor will ask you to do several things that are not directly related to your topic and you might think that it will just waste your time, however, they know better and have supervised tens and hundreds of students during their career. So, please do what your academic advisor asks you to do and it will only add to your knowledge and in the end, you will be grateful.

[Civil Engineering and Architecture M1]