

## Student 1's Key Points:

### **Introduction:**

- Student 1, a third-year student in the PEARL program, grew up in Japan and attended an international school. His perspectives are shaped by his unique background.

### **Workload:**

- PEARL program courses, especially in the first two years, are exam-heavy, which can be challenging for students who prefer project or essay-based evaluations.
- He found it beneficial to select elective classes that focused more on projects or final essays to alleviate exam stress.
- Outside of exam periods, the workload is manageable and should not be a major concern.

### **Social Life:**

- The small cohort size allows for interactive and discussion-based classes, fostering closer friendships that are less common in larger schools.
- Living in a dorm during the first year helped him adjust to college life and make new friends, even though he eventually moved back in with his parents.
- He compares life in the PEARL program to an extension of international school life in Tokyo, which might feel familiar but lacks the traditional college experience seen in movies.

### **Joining Clubs:**

- PEARL students face challenges when joining clubs since they start in September, while most Japanese students join in April. This timing mismatch can make club recruitment difficult.
- His experience with Keio's English-Speaking Society and the official boxing team highlighted these challenges, especially with practices and commitment levels.
- Despite the difficulties, he encourages PEARL students to explore various clubs and sports teams as these experiences can be highly rewarding.

Student 2's Key Points:

**Introduction:**

- Student 2, originally from Korea and later moved to Guam, provides her perspective as someone who has not lived in Tokyo before attending Keio University.

**Living as a Keio Student:**

- Keio offers extensive support for international students, including scholarships and help with visa issues, which differ significantly from U.S. or Canadian schools.
- Networking sessions and Japanese language classes have been valuable resources for her to connect with the broader community outside of PEARL.

**Living as a PEARL Student:**

- The PEARL program fosters close relationships within a small, supportive community of international students who are open-minded and understanding.
- Academic challenges in the first year include mandatory courses such as English academic writing and language classes, but the workload becomes more manageable in subsequent years.
- The unique seminar classes (ZEMI) offer personalized learning experiences, allowing students to connect with peers from outside the PEARL program.

**Living in Japan as a Foreigner:**

- Japan is welcoming to foreigners, especially those who make an effort to learn Japanese. Mastering the language helps in understanding the culture and improving interactions with locals.
- Japan's safety and convenience provide a comfortable living environment, which is reassuring for students and their families.
- She values her decision to study in Japan over the U.S., appreciating the rich culture, safety, and numerous opportunities available to foreigners.