

PEARL Information Session (20st August, 2022)

The contents of the presentation are as follows.

About Keio University

Keio University is a private, comprehensive higher educational institution located on six campuses spread across the Greater Tokyo area.

Founded in 1858 by Yukichi Fukuzawa, Keio was Japan's first private institution of modern higher learning.

Keio is recognised both nationally and internationally for its quality as a university. In 2021, The QS World University Rankings 2022 placed Keio University 197th in the world and 46th in Asia.

About Keio Economics

The Faculty of Economics at Keio is one of the leading economics departments in Japan.

The Faculty of Economics at Keio also boasts the largest number of professors and students of any economics faculty in Japan.

Keio economics alumni hold positions of leadership in politics, business, and academia.

Each year, about 350 of our graduates find employment in Fortune Global 500 companies.

PEARL is an acronym for Programme in Economics for Alliances, Research and Leadership

Alliances because we produce graduates who build economic alliances in Asia and beyond, and because we are an international hub of economics research and education.

Research because by following the Keio tradition of "han-gaku, han-kyo" (learning while teaching, teaching while learning), professors and students work together to produce globally recognised research and researchers.

Leadership because as intended by our founder, Yukichi Fukuzawa, our graduates are destined to become leaders who design the future.

Why PEARL?

PEARL is Keio at its most traditional, and at its most innovative. PEARL is designed to help minds grow in wisdom and knowledge like pearls grow in beauty and lustre.

- PEARL is an All-English BA/MA Degree Programme, which offers a world-class education in liberal arts and advanced economics.
- Admission is limited to 100 students.
- The academic year begins in September.
- PEARL is designed to foster the global leaders of tomorrow.

PEARL Offers:

- The opportunity to earn a Bachelor's and a Master's degree within five years.
- Lectures by professors from partner universities abroad, and two-way distance learning using the internet and other resources.
- A chance to study abroad at one of our many partner universities.
- A chance to apply to our BA and/or MA Double Degree Programmes with the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), Bocconi University in Milan, Brandeis University, Stevens Institute of Technology, HEC Paris or CEMS
- Classes in economics and the modernisation of Japan, as well as business-related classes and internships.
- Intensive Japanese language courses
- Membership in Mita-kai, a strong global network of Keio alumni who are active in the private and public sectors.
- An ideal location in one of the world's safest and most cosmopolitan cities.

Curriculum at the Hiyoshi Campus: the first and second years

Students in their first and second years are required to take courses in Liberal Arts (General Education), Foreign Languages and Introductory economics.

Liberal Arts: Natural Sciences/Mathematics, Humanities/Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary

Languages: English, German, French, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese (Non-native Japanese speakers only)

Economics and Related Classes, Mandatory Classes:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Economic History
- Introduction to the Japanese Economy
- Historical Perspectives in Economic Analysis
- Statistics

Mandatory Elective or Elective Classes:

- Econometrics
- History of Economic Thought
- Economics and Environment
- Marxian Economics
- Mathematics (Calculus, Linear Algebra, Probability Theory)

Curriculum at the Mita Campus: the third and fourth years

Students in the third and fourth years are required to learn advanced level economics and be ready to write a graduation thesis or research paper.

Fields:

- Economic Theory
- Econometrics and Statistics
- History of Economic Thought
- Economic History
- Labour and Industrial Economics
- Economic Policy and Public Finance
- Modern Economic Systems
- International Economics
- Environmental and Urban Economics
- Economy and Society

Advanced courses:

- Research Seminar
- Professional Career Programme (PCP)
- Independent Research Project

Note:

PEARL Students can take classes taught in Japanese, but the credits do not count towards graduation EXCEPT for Research Seminars and Independent Research Projects taught in Japanese.

For the information on faculties, please visit

<https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/about/faculty-list>

For more information on curriculum, please visit

<https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/pearl/curriculum>

Two New Programmes:

- DEEP (Data-driven Economics and Econometrics Programme)
- FACTS (Fieldwork for Active Comprehension of Targeted Subjects)

These new programmes

- respond to the demands of society.
 - DEEP: a data science education programme
 - FACTS: a fieldwork-based programme that develops skills in context-sensitive hypothesis building
- encourage students to take courses systematically over four years.
- award certificates of completion for the programmes to those who have earned the required number of credits and submitted the deliverables.

[NOTE]

* Credits for courses offered in Japanese may also be recognised for the purpose of these programs though they do not count towards graduation credits for PEARL students.

* For more information, please visit

DEEP: <https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/deep>

FACTS: <https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/facts>

Taking Masters Courses as a 4th Year Student:

- Students enrolled in their fourth year in the Faculty of Economics may take master's courses offered by the Graduate School of Economics prior to entering the master's programme. These courses will not count towards your undergraduate degree, but after joining the Graduate School of Economics, you can apply for credit for the master's courses you passed in the fourth year of your undergraduate programme to be included as "courses taken prior to joining the graduate school".

If you are interested in taking advantage of this system, please visit the Faculty of Economics Section in the Office of Student Services after your enrolment in the PEARL programme.

BA/MA Five Year Programme with HEC:

- HEC (The “Etablissement d'Enseignement Supérieur Consulaire Hautes Etudes Commerciales de Paris”) is one of the most selective French grandes écoles. It was created in 1881 by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Students enrolled in PEARL at Keio are eligible to apply to the BA/MA Five Year Programme with HEC (2 students /year).
- Keio PEARL students study for 3 years at Keio, then 2 years at HEC.
- If they meet the requirements, they will be awarded a BA in Economics from Keio after their 4th year and a Master in Management from HEC after their 5th year in the programme.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/pearl/hec5yrbama>

Other Options for Studying Abroad:

Details are available here:

<https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/abroad>

- BA/MA Five Year Programme with Sciences Po (Paris, France): 5 students/year
- BA/MA Five Year Programme with Bocconi U. (Milan, Italy): 5 students/year
- BA/MA Five Year Programme with Brandeis U. (Boston, USA): 6 students/year
- BA/MA Five Year Programme with U. of Cologne: (Cologne, Germany):
5 students/year
- BA/MA Five Year Programme with the Stevens Institute of Technology (New York metropolitan area, USA): 5 students/year

- Double Degree Programme with Sciences Po (Le Havre, France): 10 students/year
- Double Degree Programme with Università Bocconi (Milan, Italy): 4students/year

- University-wide Exchange Programmes
Please see pages 23-24 in the following booklet.

<https://www.keio.ac.jp/ja/assets/download/about/learn-more/publications/index/keio-university-academics-en.pdf>

- Short-term Programmes

Other Options for Studying Abroad:

■ Faculty-wide Exchange Programmes

* It is possible to graduate in four years even if you study abroad for one year provided certain conditions are met.

For more information please visit

<https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/abroad/exchange-outbound>

EUROPE (欧州)

 **AUSTRIA**
Vienna University of Economics and Business
ウィーン経済・経営大学

 **BELGIUM**
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
ルーヴェン・カトリック大学
Université catholique de Louvain
ルーヴァン・カトリック大学

 **DENMARK**
Copenhagen Business School
コペンハーゲン・ビジネス・スクール

 **FINLAND**
Aalto University
アールト大学

 **FRANCE**
HEC Paris
HEC経営大学院
École Polytechnique
エコール・ポリテクニク

 **GERMANY**
University of Cologne
ケルン大学
Leipzig University
ライプツィヒ大学

Goethe University Frankfurt
フランクフルト大学

University of Mannheim
マンハイム大学

 **ITALY**
Bocconi University
ボッコニー大学

 **NETHERLANDS**
Erasmus University Rotterdam
エラスムス大学ロッテルダム

 **NORWAY**
NHH Norwegian School of Economics
ノルウェー経済大学

 **SPAIN**
ESADE Law School
ESADEロースクール

 **SWITZERLAND**
University of St. Gallen
ザンクトガレン大学

 **SWEDEN**
Stockholm School of Economics
ストックホルム・スクール・オブ・エコノミクス

 **UK**
University of Glasgow
グラスゴー大学
University of Kent
ケント大学
University of Warwick
ウォーリック大学

NORTH AMERICA (北米)

 **USA**
Brandeis University
ブランドイス大学
University of California
カリフォルニア大学
University of South Carolina
サウスカロライナ大学

ASIA (アジア)

 **KOREA**
Yonsei University
延世大学

 **P. R. CHINA**
Fudan University
復旦大学
Peking University
北京大学
Nankai University
南開大学
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology 香港科技大学

 **TAIWAN**
National Taiwan University
国立台湾大学
National ChengChi University
国立政治大学

 **THAILAND**
Chulalongkorn University
チュラロンコン大学
Chiang Mai University
チェンマイ大学

OTHER PROGRAMME

 **MALAYSIA**
International Center for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF)
国際イスラム金融大学

We send students to study at the INCEIF in order to receive specialised training on Islamic finance.

*NOTE: This is not a student exchange program.

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Where did our first PEARL graduates go in 2020? - Firms

(Based on surveys of students and their professors conducted by the Faculty of Economics)

Japanese Firms employing PEARL2020 students include the following:

CyberAgent, Inc.	Daikin Industries, Ltd.
Hitachi, Ltd.	Indeed Japan
Kao Corporation	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.
Mizuho Bank, Ltd.	Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd.
Nippon Express Co., Ltd.	Nomura Research Institute, Ltd.
Oriental Land Co., Ltd.	Rakuten, Inc.
RGF Professional Recruitment Japan	SoftBank Corp.
Sumitomo Corporation	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
Tokyo Broadcasting System Television, Inc.	
TV Asahi Corporation	ZUU Co., Ltd.

International Firms employing PEARL2020 students include the following:

Amazon Japan	BlackRock Japan Co., Ltd.
Bloomberg	Boston Consulting Group
Colliers International Japan	Credit Suisse
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	EY Strategy and Consulting Co., Ltd.
Goldman Sachs	IBM Japan
Loewe	Morgan Stanley

Where did our first PEARL graduates go in 2020? – Graduate Schools

(Based on surveys of students and their professors conducted by the Faculty of Economics)

Compared to Type A/B, a larger proportion of PEARL students go on to graduate school.

PEARL 2020 students either joined one of our 5 year BA/MA programmes, or gone on to schools that include the following:

- Columbia Business School (NY, US)
- Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po, Paris, France)
- Institute Francais de la Mode (Paris, France)
- Keio University (Japan) (Graduate School of Economics)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) (London, UK)
- Parsons School of Design (NY, US)

Where did our PEARL graduates go in 2021? - Firms

(Based on surveys of students and their professors conducted by the Faculty of Economics)

Japanese Firms employing PEARL2021 students include the following:

ASICS Corporation	CyberAgent, Inc.
DAIKIN INDUSTRIES, LTD.	Incubate Fund KK
Institution for a Global Society Corporation	
KDDI CORPORATION	Konami Digital Entertainment Co., Ltd. Marubeni Corporation
Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co., Ltd.	Mitsubishi Corporation
Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.	Nomura Securities Co., Ltd.
Recruit Holdings Co., Ltd.	Shiseido Company, Limited
SmartNews, Inc.	SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.
WILL GROUP, INC.	

International Firms employing PEARL2021 students include the following:

Accenture	Amazon Japan
Citibank, N.A., Tokyo Branch	Deloitte Tohmatsu Tax Co.
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu LLP	EY Strategy and Consulting Co., Ltd.
Ernst & Young Tax Co.	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
Hays Specialist Recruitment Japan KK	Hilton Worldwide
HRnetOne	IBM Japan, Ltd.
Kyndryl Japan Technology Service	Mckinsey & Company PricewaterhouseCoopers
Aarata LLC	PwC Consulting LLC
PwC Tax Japan	Robert Walters Japan K.K.
Standard Chartered Bank	

Where did our PEARL graduates go in 2021? – Graduate Schools

(Based on surveys of students and their professors conducted by the Faculty of Economics)

PEARL 2021 students either joined one of our 5 year BA/MA programmes, or have gone or will go on to schools that include the following:

Bocconi University (Milan, Italy)
Boston University (Boston, US)
Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburg, US)
Etablissement d'Enseignement Supérieur Consulaire Hautes Etudes
Commerciales de Paris (HEC Paris) (Paris, France)
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po Paris) (Paris, France)
Keio University (Graduate School of Economics) (Japan)

Keio University (Graduate School of Media Design) (Japan)
University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada)
University of London (London, UK)
University of Oxford (Oxford, U.K.)
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (Taipei, Taiwan)
Seoul National University (Seoul, South Korea)
Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)
The University of Tokyo (Japan)
Waseda University (Japan)

Application Schedule for 2023 Entry and Application Documents:

The information can be found on the following page:

<https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/admissions/undergraduate/pearl/>

Admissions Statistics 2021-22:

	Number of Applicants			Number of Successful Applicants		
	Total	Male : Female	Japanese : Other Nationalities	Total	Male : Female	Japanese : Other Nationalities
2021	575	270 : 305	288 : 287	174	73 : 101	85 : 89
2022	507	265 : 242	239 : 268	200	109 : 91	91 : 109

For more information, please read the Application Guidebook for September 2023 Entry available at <https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/admissions/undergraduate/pearl/>

Tuition and Application Fee

Application Fee: Applicants are required to pay an application fee of JPY 35,000.

Tuition: FY2022

(JP Y)

Admission Fee	200,000
Registration Fee	60,000
Tuition Fee	890,000
Facilities Fee	200,000
Other Fees	8,350
Total (1st year)	1,358,350
Total (2nd-4th year)	1,158,250

There is no additional fee for participating in and completing the PEARL programme.

Students' Housing Information:

Limited availability, especially to September entrants.

These links provide some information:

- Housing for Japanese students:

<https://www.keio.ac.jp/ja/student-life/housing.html>

- Housing for international students (students who stay in Japan with a student visa):

http://www.ic.keio.ac.jp/en/life/housing/ryu_boshu.html

Scholarship Information:

For the Scholarship Information please visit

- * Some of the linked pages from the webpages below are available for enrolled students only.
- * If you find questions on the scholarships after your enrolment, please ask the scholarship section at the Office of Student Services.

- Scholarship webpages (in English)
(Keio University website)
<https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/student-life/scholarships.html>

- Scholarship webpages (in Japanese)
(Keio University website)
<https://www.keio.ac.jp/ja/student-life/scholarships.html>

- Scholarship Information for the students seeking admission to Keio Univ.
(Keio University International Center website)
http://www.ic.keio.ac.jp/en/life/scholarship/intl_student.html

Q & A about the PEARL programme

Q. Can PEARL students study abroad?

A. All PEARL students can apply to exchange programmes that Keio has with foreign universities. Keio has University to University exchange programmes operated by Keio's International Center, and Faculty to Faculty exchange agreements operated by the Faculty of Economics.

PEARL students can also apply to the University to University exchange programmes which Keio University has with over one hundred top universities in Asia, Oceania, North America, South America, Europe, and the Middle East.

For the information on the University to University exchange programmes, please see pages 23-24 in the following booklet:

https://www.ic.keio.ac.jp/aboutic/partner_univ.html

Q. Can PEARL students study abroad?

A. Furthermore, the Faculty of Economics has its own exchange programmes with the following universities:

- Fudan University, School of Economics (China)
- HEC Paris (Undergraduate students only) (France)
- Goethe University Frankfurt, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (Germany)
- Bocconi University (Italy)
- Yonsei University, College of Business and Economics (Korea)
- Erasmus University Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Economics (Netherlands)
- Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) (Norway)
- University of St. Gallen (Switzerland)
- National Taiwan University, College of Social Science (Taiwan)
- Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Economics (Thailand)
- University of Glasgow (U.K.)
- University of California, Education Abroad Program (U.S.A.)

and more. In general, the Faculty to Faculty exchange programmes provide more flexibility regarding the period of study abroad (one semester or one year) and the timing of the start of the study abroad (spring and fall semesters) provided the partner university agrees.

For more information please visit

<https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/abroad/exchange-outbound>

Q. What is the goal of PEARL? What are the strengths of PEARL?

A. PEARL aims to turn out graduates who can design the future, and who are ready to tackle challenging issues and thrive in the global arena. Unlike many other all-English programmes in Japan, we are a programme focused on economics that offers education both in liberal arts, introductory economics and advanced economics. Our strengths are the faculty members who are world-class researchers and educators at the same time, and the strong tradition of Keio as an incubator of economic and political leaders with a world-wide network.

Q. What is the intention behind creating the PEARL programme?

A. A key word is “diversity”. We welcome students with diverse backgrounds and aim at turning out graduates who understand cultural sensitivities, who can think outside the box and hit the ground running. This would be beneficial not just for Keio, but also for the entire economy and society. We are not just looking for gender balance and a balance between Japanese and foreign nationalities, but for a mixture of individuals with greatly varying experiences.

Q. Can PEARL compete globally with other programmes in English at other universities and around the world?

A. Teaching in Japanese means universities and faculties are protected by what some have called the “language barrier”. We chose to remove this barrier and to enter the global arena of competition, because we were ready for it.

Q. Who will be faculty members?

A. Many of the professors have degrees from foreign universities and/or research/teaching experiences abroad. Our faculty includes scholars from Germany, France, the UK, Korea, China, Australia, the USA.

We will also invite professors from our partner universities from all over the world to take courses in our Faculty.

Q. PEARL students start their academic year in September, while other students start in April. Would this be a source of confusion and/or concern?

A. We already have students who start at Keio in September. These are students in the Double BA Programme with Sciences Po, and other exchange programmes. If anything, such students have positive influences on the students already at Keio, expanding the latter's horizons and encouraging flexibility.

Q. What subjects can I study in the PEARL Programme?

A. The curriculum for PEARL is nearly identical in content to the regular BA programme offered in Japanese by the Faculty of Economics at Keio. As a reference, here is the page explaining our curriculum:

<http://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/pearl/curriculum>

Q. How big are the classes in the PEARL programme?

A. Classes vary in size. Major subject classes are mandatory, so all of the approximately 100 PEARL students will be taking them. For elective classes such as language classes and seminar classes, class sizes are much smaller.

A. Can I take both PCP and Research Seminar courses at the same time?

Q. There are no rules against that. Students who choose to do so should understand that the workload will be that much heavier.

Q. How can I apply to the Double Degree Programme with Sciences Po or Bocconi, or the five year BA/MA Programme with HEC?

A. - For information about the Double BA Programme between Keio University and Sciences Po, please visit

<http://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/abroad/sciences-po>

* Please note that the screening of the Double BA Programme with Sciences Po is usually held in March, immediately after results of the Application Period II are announced. Therefore, students who would like to apply to PEARL and join the Double BA Programme with Sciences Po need to apply to PEARL by the Application Period II at latest.

[Important Note] Please keep checking both the PEARL admissions webpage and the Double BA Programme webpage because they are constantly being updated.

- For information about the Double BA Programme between Keio University and Università Bocconi, please visit

<http://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/abroad/bocconi>

* It is highly likely that PEARL students will require more than four years to complete all the graduation requirements of these two degrees as many of the courses Bocconi requires you to take at Keio are offered only in Japanese, and their credits cannot be counted towards graduation from PEARL.

- For information about the BA/MA Five Year Programme between Keio University and HEC (a BA in economics from Keio and a Master in Management from HEC), please visit.

<http://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/pearl/hec5yrbama>

Q & A about the Admission Procedures

Q. Are there minimum required standardized test scores?

A. No, there are no “cut-off” scores.

Q. Please tell us the average score of each Standardised test obtained by successful applicants.

A. We do not disclose average scores for the Standardised tests because ours is a holistic selection process so that any particular score level does not guarantee admission.

Q. What factors are considered in the admissions process?

A. Admissions decisions are never based on a single factor. It is important to remember that we review the applications holistically. We look for good points and bad points in every application by reviewing everything an applicant submits.

Q. Do I need to sit an interview?

A. No. Interviews are not part of the PEARL programme admissions/selection process.

Q. How long should the letter of reference be?

A. There is no requirement regarding the length of the letter(s) of reference.

Q. Do I need to prepare new application documents, including the written statement of the applicant’s academic goals, if I apply multiple times?

A. If you apply multiple times, you will be required to submit some of the application documents including the written statement of the applicant’s academic goals each time you apply. For more detailed information on the application and application documents, please read the following application guidebook carefully:

https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/admissions/undergraduate/pearl/application_guidebook.pdf

Q. Can students apply to other universities at the same time as applying to PEARL?

A. Yes.

Q&A about after Graduation/Before Entry

Q. What are the possible careers for PEARL students after graduation?

A. Please see “After the graduation” on the page 11 in the PEARL brochure below:

https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Faculty-of-Economics_PEARL_2022.pdf

Q & A Others

Q. What is the ratio of Japanese students to students of other nationalities in the PEARL programme?

A. As for the successful applicants for the September 2021 entry, the ratio was about 4.9:5.1, the ratio of the September 2022 entry was about 4.5 : 5.5.

Q. Will I be able to join sporting activities and other “circles” at Keio?

A. Yes, but please consult the persons in charge of these activities regarding the fact that you are entering in September while most other students enter in April.

*Please note that you can find more Q&A here:

<https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/admissions/undergraduate/pearl/faq.html>

Admissions Procedures for the PEARL Programme including “Application Guidebook”:

<https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/admissions/undergraduate/pearl/>

Admissions Center:

pearl_admissions@info.keio.ac.jp

Information on The Faculty of Economics and PEARL

- Faculty of Economics website: <https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/>
- PEARL web pages: <https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/undergraduate/pearl>
- Web page where you can download brochures:
<https://www.econ.keio.ac.jp/en/about/brochures>
Available brochures: The Faculty of Economics,
 PEARL
 and The Graduate School of Economics

Information on Keio University

- Keio University website: <https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/>
- Keio University booklet:
<https://www.keio.ac.jp/ja/assets/download/about/learn-more/publications/index/keio-university-academics-en.pdf>

Introduction of the PEARL Programme by current PEARL students

Speech by HeeSung Chi (First Year*)

Esteemed guests, thank you very much for joining this PEARL information session. My name is HeeSung Chi, and like Ms. Hayakawa, the other student speaker here today, I am a rising 2nd-year student currently studying under the Keio PEARL Program. Before this session, I was informed that there may be prospective students here today among our audiences. So, for my speech, I would like to discuss more of how choosing Keio University has affected me as a student, rather than simply explaining what kind of curriculum the program offers.

So without further ado, I would like to begin by reiterating something that you and I might be aware of. That is, “Keio University is one of the most exceptional, recognized educational institutions offered in Japan”. As our previous speakers have indicated, Keio University is a certainly well-recognized institution. However, as an applicant or prospective student, that may be the only information you will get to know regarding Keio University as a university. A piece of information which has a very unclear meaning.

At least, that is how I was, and I assume some of us to be.

To specify, like some of us here, I was, at one point, a prospective college student filling in one college application after another. One such application happened to be for the PEARL program provided by Keio University. Now, for some of us, the prestige of attending Keio University (one of the best educational institutions in Japan) may be well understood. However, for others such as myself, as an international student with no relatives or acquaintances who had priorly attended Keio University, what I knew about Keio was very limited. Instead, I found out about Keio University through my own research via websites and my counselor, and learning about the PEARL program first, rather than the other way around. Some of what stood out about the PEARL program have already been mentioned today, such as the 5-year Master’s program or the opportunity to take seminars and independent research projects. Of course, throughout my research and as someone already interested in receiving an international education, I eventually became aware that Keio University was supposed to be “one of the best educational institutions offered in Japan”. However, what ultimately led me to apply to Keio University was for the PEARL program, not because it was Keio University. After all, the fact that “Keio was one of the best” was more of just a point rather than anything with meaning. What did it mean to be the best educational institution? And frankly, why was it necessary? Why choose Keio University?

Nearly a year has passed since I began attending Keio, and from what I have experienced, I can now confidently understand what it means for a university to be “one of the most exceptional educational institutions”. From having the privilege to receive education from renowned professionals in their fields to communicating alongside a culturally diverse

student body, Keio University has a wide range of opportunities above and beyond the programs alone. Likewise, attending Keio under the PEARL program, I have had the opportunity to work alongside some of the most ambitious economic minds and be challenged through the PEARL environment to think in many diverse ways, academically and culturally. From my experience, being a PEARL student will not confine you to sticking only amongst your international classmates but rather do the opposite. From being able to join numerous Japanese circles and student-run startups to learning directly from the best educators, you are bound to experience higher education in Japan with virtually no barriers that stem from cultural differences alone. Therefore, as a PEARL student, you will have the advantage of experiencing the best of Japan's education whilst simultaneously learning alongside the brightest minds from around the world.

Naturally, studying under the best educators and students can be challenging, and living in a new country or environment? Even more daunting. Yet, to our prospective students or applicants, at Keio University, I guarantee you will be able to overcome these challenges through the help of our faculty and student community. As colleagues of one of the best educational institutions, it would be our pleasure, as students, to help you with the best of our efforts should similar problems arise.

In all, I wholly recommend those here to apply to Keio University and experience what it is like to study at one of the best institutions in Japan. And to our incoming first years, a warm welcome. To study at one of the best institutions in a nation means to offer the best resources of the nation. And Keio University is THE university that will hone your abilities, your pen to be mightier than the sword.

I would like to end today's speech with a quote by our founder Fukuzawa Yukichi.

“It is said that heaven does not create one man above or below another man. Any existing distinction between the wise and the stupid, between the rich and the poor, comes down to a matter of education.”

Speech by Sakura Hayakawa (First year*)

Hi, I'm Sakura Hayakawa, a rising second year student in the PEARL programme. I grew up in Shizuoka, Japan, and studied at a boarding school in Connecticut in the US in my junior and senior year of high school.

The Pearl program's curriculum is mostly comprised of economics related courses, but there are also many liberal arts courses to choose from. Some of the most interesting courses I've taken in the past year have been liberal arts classes. Information Processing 2 was a challenging yet rewarding elective I took in the past semester, which covered the

basics of python syntax and algorithms.

You can also take courses by famous professors in Keio University. I took one such course taught by a professor who often commentated on Japanese news programs, which was a great experience.

Next, I'd like to focus on the many opportunities offered in PEARL outside of the official curriculum.

The Pearl programme has a cohort of students who are bright and have diverse backgrounds with many international students and students with experience living overseas. There is an atmosphere of collaboration rather than extreme competition. Keio university as a whole has a strong network of alumni active in various fields.

In university, you have many free periods depending on your schedule. During such free periods, I usually work on homework, talk with friends, or go out for lunch in the university cafeteria called the Gakushoku or go for something fancier in the area called the Hiyoura near Hiyoshi station. Some other students have part-time work during free-periods or after classes. On the weekends, I might hang out with friends in Shibuya, go to Karaoke, or relax at home if it's not during the exam period.

Outside of class, I am currently a selected member in the 2022 Jyukusei Kaigi which aims to make Keio University more aligned with the values of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is an year-long project officially run by the university, and is a great opportunity for people interested in ESG initiatives. Members meet every Wednesday to hear talks from experts in each field and come up with policy recommendations for Keio University to become a more sustainable and inclusive institution.

There are also club activities called 'circles' offering a wide variety of interests ranging from music and economics to astronomy or archery in Keio. I am part of several circles, including the public finance department in a circle called the Economics Honor Society. In this circle, we discuss issues related to public finance and write an essay on a topic of our choice, collaborating as a group with several students. Circles are a great opportunity to make friends and meet people outside of Pearl.

If you want to learn about a certain topic outside of class, there are usually circles you can join for that purpose. For example, I am part of AIC, or the Artificial Intelligence and Programming consortium where you can take courses taught by fellow students in Keio relating to programming or AI. So far, I've taken 5 courses from this circle, which was possible because the courses are on demand, meaning you can take them anywhere anytime.

There are also circles that have students from different universities called inkare,

short for intercollegiate. I'm part of one circle called Waseda Economics and Finance Forum which has students from Waseda, Keio and Ritsumeikan University among others. Though the majority of circles in Keio are in Japanese, this circle is held in English.

I hope I've given you all an idea of what university life is like in the Pearl program and you would consider applying!

* His/her year at the time of the speech.