

Khizar Bilal:

Background:

- Originally from Pakistan; raised in Japan. Fluent in Japanese, English and Urdu.
- Went to an International highschool in Tokyo.
- Used SAT score and highschool GPA for entry; mentioned my Economics coursework, extra-curriculars (MUN and charity), language skills, and strong interest in the program for the essay.
- Why I was interested in PEARL:
 - Being able to utilize both English and Japanese
 - Strong alumni network, especially in Finance
 - Opportunities to do sports at clubs, or to join various circles of interest
 - Ability to interact with top professors
 - Great campus locations

What I'm doing at PEARL:

- In the wrestling club.
- Admitted into the Fukuhara Masahiro Research Seminar conducting research on fintech and big data in English.

My Experience:

- Small student population:
 - Get to make deep friendships and know everyone.
 - Small class sizes make learning very engaging. I particularly enjoyed a course on the history of love and marriage.
 - Recommended to join clubs, circles, and research seminars to connect with the greater Keio student body.
- Great athletics teams:
 - Can maintain a good balance of study and sports.
- Many options for clubs and circles to join:
 - Recommended to put effort into learning Japanese as the majority operate in Japanese.
- Great campus locations:
 - Hiyoshi campus has a great shopping street, cheap food, greenery and lots of open space. It's located between Yokohama and Tokyo, both of which are great cities.
 - Mita campus has good access to Tokyo.
- The ability to join Research Seminars:
 - Allows students to gain specialized knowledge in a particular field in a small classroom setting.
 - Allows you to make deep connections with fellow seminar members and the seminar professor.
- Keio has a strong alumni network and employment opportunities:
 - Particularly advantageous for employment in Japan
 - Good for finding internships and job hunting.

Hanako Sakurai:

- Background
 - Born and raised in Japan until 10
 - Lived in the US for 8 years
 - Went to an American public school
- Why I chose PEARL out of all the other English degree programs
 - Was interested in economics
 - Liked the study abroad program they had (double degree and master's degree program)
 - Wanted to continue studying in English thinking about my future career
- What I do in Keio right now
 - Aikido club and literature club
 - Will be learning about game theory and experimental economics in my seminar from this fall semester
- What I like about PEARL
 - Small class size
 - Allows us to get closer to professors
 - Easy to ask questions
 - Many group discussions, presentations, and projects
 - Can get to know everyone
 - About classes
 - Can take variety of classes (many classes outside of economic)
 - My favorite: archeology class → went to an excavation trip in Yamanashi
 - Don't get graduation credits for Japanese classes but can still take them if you want to
 - About circles/ clubs
 - Many clubs only actively recruit during April so might be hard to find if you don't know what exactly you are looking for
 - Majority of the clubs are mainly in Japanese