

# Campus Life Safety / Security Guide

As a new student, you are probably looking forward to the start of your university career, but may be feeling a little overwhelmed by the prospect of (perhaps for the first time) living on your own, working part time, and participating in various extracurricular activities. This leaflet describes a number of issues related to the start of college life that both new students and their parents/guardians need to be aware of.



## Various recruitment practices...

Following the Entrance Ceremony, some students autonomously hold welcome events on campus for their extracurricular organizations (circles, clubs, etc.). However, non-university groups whose affiliation and activities are unclear, or groups that conduct antisocial activities, sometimes take this opportunity to enter campus without authorization and conduct recruitment under false pretenses. Every year we receive numerous inquiries and requests for counseling regarding these.

The university is home to both student organizations that are officially registered with the university (such as circles and clubs) and student groups started voluntarily and not registered. The registered organizations are affiliated with the Gakuyu-kai (Students' Friendship Association), which is organized and operated by students and university staff, and receive support from the university. The voluntary, unregistered student groups are mostly involved in legitimate student activities, but a few of them are known to have connections with antisocial or extremist organizations, or do not disclose the content of their activities when recruiting.

### ▶ Beware of organizations that do not disclose their affiliation/objectives (deceptive recruitment)!

In the past, organizations practicing deceptive recruitment at the university mainly targeted new students from March onward, around the time when the successful applicants were announced. In many of the reported instances, they attempted to recruit members by falsely claiming to represent extracurricular groups that conduct surveys, dinner parties, study groups, or volunteer work. Such organizations also included cults, as reported by the mass media. Recently increased vigilance is necessary as such groups are recruiting year-round, not just during the beginning of the new school year. They now recruit both on campus and off campus via social media sites and door-to-door visits to student housing.

#### ● When/where you may be approached:

- While preparing to enter university (looking for housing at the University Co-op), near the Entrance Ceremony venue etc.
- During club/circle recruitment season
- Door-to-door
- Campus cafeterias, benches, empty classrooms
- Movie rental shops, supermarkets

#### ● Be cautious if anyone asks you the following:

- Please fill out this questionnaire.
- Are you satisfied with your student life?
- Please come to my dinner/study group.
- Do you ever think about the meaning of life?
- Do you want to go to a concert?
- Would you like to participate in a volunteer activity?
- Do you want to play sports (soccer etc.) with us?
- Can you show me to the nearest convenience store (or bookstore/drug store etc.)?

## How to detect deceptive recruiting:

- 1 Recruiters often approach people who are alone.
- 2 They may act overly friendly or eager to please.
- 3 They are not always students. (Some are older adults or expelled students.)
- 4 They will often try to take you off campus for their activities. (They are sometimes based in apartments etc. near campus.)
- 5 Initially, they will not disclose their organization's agenda. (They will try to build a relationship with you first, then reveal their actual motives later.)



## ► If you are approached...

In addition to verifying the organization's real name and activities, research them online before joining.

Note: Explanations of organization's that belong to the Gakuyu-kai can be found in the Student Life Guide distributed at the undergraduate orientation, and online.

(Go to the Tohoku University website, select "Campus Life," then click on "Clubs & Circles")

- Do not reveal personal information (your address, phone number, email, or SNS contact information etc.) without due consideration.
- Firmly refuse offers from any group whose identity and objectives are unclear to you.

## University Policy

- Tohoku University forbids organized activities by non-university groups on campus.
- Deceptive recruitment is unacceptable, no matter where it is conducted.
- However, the university does not forbid or restrict individual students' freedom of thought or religion.



## Please be sensible and responsible representatives of Tohoku University!

Naturally, violating the law will result in harsh social and legal sanctions, as well as separate disciplinary actions under university regulations (expulsion, suspension, or an official reprimand).

Committing a crime to fulfill some selfish impulse may result in the end of your college life, and possibly your future career. As members of the local community and students of Tohoku University, please have consideration for others (respect their rights), observe Japanese laws, use common sense, and act responsibly.

If this is your first time in Japan, please be aware that Japanese social norms and laws are probably very different from those of your home country.

## ► The university has a zero-tolerance policy on:

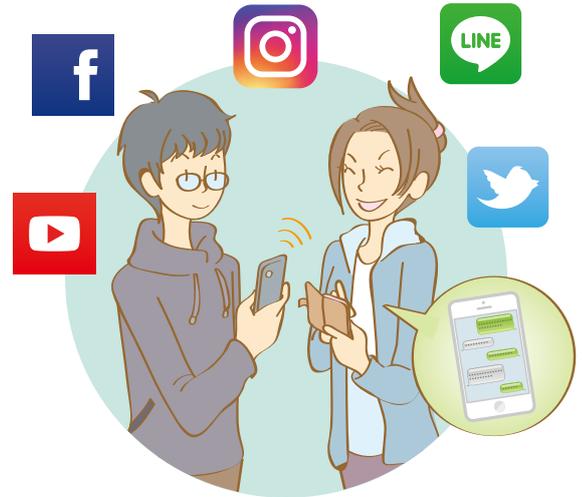
- Sexual assault, including non-consensual photography, molestation, indecency with minors etc. ■ Theft, assault etc.
- Use of drugs, such as marijuana, amphetamines, and "loophole drugs" ■ Online bullying/libel
- Giving alcohol to minors, pressuring others to drink (alcohol harassment)
- Violating traffic laws while operating bicycles, motorcycles, etc.
- Violations of community standards, such as creating excessive noise, improperly disposing of garbage etc.
- Any other behavior that violates the law or social norms

## ▶ Warning on Internet/SNS Usage

The Internet (including blogs and social networking sites) is a familiar and useful tool. However, as online communication is rarely face-to-face, misunderstandings often occur. These can lead to unintended problems, sometimes snowballing into social or legal issues.

Any information you post online can potentially spread to the wider public in any number of forms. Once you post something, it is extremely difficult to remove it completely. Furthermore, you have no way of knowing who will see the things you post.

Please communicate in a self-aware, responsible manner to avoid hurting others or causing misunderstandings.



## ▶ The Drinking/Smoking Age is 20 in Japan!

Many students believe that once they reach college-age they are free to drink and smoke. However, under Japanese law drinking alcohol and smoking tobacco are forbidden until the age of 20. If you are under 20, do not drink or smoke.

### Alcohol

Every year, problems involving alcohol and university students are reported by the mass media. In the past Tohoku University students have been taken to the hospital due to alcohol poisoning. Entire Gakuyu-kai organizations, whose members damaged or defaced campus facilities or equipment while drunk, have also been penalized (temporary suspension of the group's activities).

### Smoking

Smoking (including vaping/electronic cigarettes) is prohibited on all Tohoku University campuses. Of course, minors are prohibited by law from smoking, but even students who are of legal age cannot smoke on campus.



## Traffic Rules

### ▶ Sendai City Bicycle Safety Bylaws (effective January 1, 2019)

Sendai City enacted the Bicycle Safety Bylaws, which became effective on January 1, 2019. These bylaws created the following obligations/guidelines for cyclists when riding within the city.

- ❶ Cyclists must follow the Road Traffic Law and all related regulations.
- ❷ Cyclists are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with bicycle safety information.
- ❸ Cyclists must not endanger pedestrians or other cyclists.
- ❹ Cyclists are strongly encouraged to wear helmets.
- ❺ Cyclists are strongly encouraged to have their bicycles routinely inspected and maintained.
- ❻ Cyclists are required to enroll in cyclist liability insurance (starting April 1, 2019).

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## ► Mandatory Cyclist Liability Insurance

As of April 1, 2019, the Sendai Bicycle Safety Bylaws make it mandatory for anyone riding bicycles within the city limits to enroll in cyclist liability insurance. This is partially covered by the Personal Accident Insurance (Gakkensai) and Supplementary Personal Liability Insurance for Students (Gakkenbai) that all students (excluding international students) are required to join, but the Gakkenbai coverage is very limited. So, if you plan to use a bicycle in the city, we ask that you enroll in cyclist liability insurance to cover you in the event that you must pay extensive damages.

### Examples of Cyclist Liability Insurance

- TS Mark, provided by a bicycle shop
- Cyclist insurance provided through an insurance company
- Comprehensive Personal Liability and Accident Insurance for Students (Gakkensai Futaigakuso)
- Personal Liability Insurance for Students provided by University Co-op

Note: Please check the details of your existing insurance before enrolling in cyclist insurance because you may already be covered under the personal liability provisions of your or your family's vehicle or fire insurance.

International students are covered under the generally required Gakkensai and Inbound Futaigakusou (Comprehensive Personal Liability and Accident Insurance for Students) policies, so please be sure to enroll in these.

## ► Observe Traffic Rules, Avoid Accidents

Many students commute to the university by bicycle or motorcycle. Unfortunately, every year the university receives numerous complaints from the local residents about the students' poor road manners. Many are issued citations by the police. If you commute by bicycle or motorcycle, be sure to leave with plenty of time and observe all traffic rules. If road conditions are bad, or you are feeling unwell, please consider using public transportation instead of your own vehicle.

### Top 3 Traffic Citations Issued to Cyclists

(Central Sendai Precinct, October 2017-September 2018)

- 1 Wearing headphones etc. while cycling
- 2 Endangering pedestrians
- 3 Failing to use bicycle lights at night

Note: These are all traffic violations.



### Tohoku University student accident statistics

| Year | No. of Accidents<br>(No. Requiring Hospitalization) |      |
|------|---|------|
| 2016 | 23  | (15) |
| 2017 | 23  | (10) |
| 2018 | 21  | (12) |



Note: Over half the accidents were single-vehicle accidents, resulting from failure to obey traffic rules or speeding.



## If you need counseling...

At the beginning of the school year, many incoming students face a large change of environment due both to the transition to university and to living in an unfamiliar place. Adjusting to a new life can be physically and mentally exhausting. This can lead to stress, which is a further burden on both the mind and the body. Please do not hesitate to schedule counseling if you find yourself too tired to attend classes for multiple consecutive days, or if during the course of everyday university life you have problems, concerns, or anxieties.

### Student Health Care Center:

☎ 022-795-7829

Counseling Office: ☎ 022-795-7833

Disability Services Office:

☎ 022-795-7696

- Stress, mental/physical health
- Academic, career, or interpersonal concerns/anxieties
- Concerns related to studies/lifestyle

### Student Services Division:

☎ 022-795-7818

### Student Exchange Division:

☎ 022-795-7776

- Suspicious solicitations
- Counseling for/reporting of student life problems