Middlebury's program in Japan offers year-long students the rare opportunity to share double-room dormitory space with Japanese students.*

ICU, the host university of Middlebury’s School in Japan, is one of the very few residential campuses in Japan. Students who are unable to stay the year are placed in the international student dormitory, which is in the same building as the cafeteria. Year-long students can apply to the other 6 on-campus dormitories, where they will share a room with a Japanese student.

Depending on which dormitory you choose, your experience will be quite different. The dormitories can be broadly grouped in two categories: the new dorms and the old dorms.

1. Zelkova, Ginkgo, and Oak House

These three dorms, newly built in 2010 and 2011, are known for their well-equipped facilities and high security. Each dorm has over a hundred students residing, with the first floor as the men’s floor and the 2nd and 3rd floor as the women’s floor. Residents carry a key card to enter the dorm entrance and their floor entrance, ensuring security and privacy. Boys and girls cannot enter each other’s floors, and visitors are limited to family only. Participation in dormitory activities and events are not too strongly enforced, making them suitable for people who want more personal space and less interaction with others.

2. Canada House, 3rd Women’s Dorm, and 4th Women’s Dorm

These are student-governed dorms, each accommodating 30-40 residents. Built in the 60s, their facilities are old, but have unique cultures rooted in their 50 year-long traditions. 3rd Women’s Dorm is known for its enthusiasm towards dorm activities and intimacy of the members. In 4th Women’s Dorm, students are more independent but also responsible in keeping the place in order, making it the cleanest dorm among the three. Canada House is the only men’s dorm, whose atmosphere has a good balance of enjoying each other’s company and respecting each other’s space.

For more information about each dorm, see the following web page. (Another undergraduate dormitory called Global House is also listed, but Middlebury School in Japan does not allow students to apply to Global House because they have a language pledge for those who want to learn English.)
There are events in which all dorm residents are invited to participate, such as a welcome party for newcomers and the dorm festival where each dorm prepares a drama performance. Every student, including study abroad students, will be considered a member of the community and expected to express his or her ideas, working side by side with Japanese students. Living in the dorms and being part of such community life will add so much to the study abroad experience.

In both the new dorms and the old dorms, students will be paired with a Japanese student from the host university. In the roommate matching process, compatible interests, habits and lifestyle will be taken into consideration. Previous students who have participated in the Middlebury Schools Abroad agree that having roommates from the host country offers amazing opportunities to build lasting friendships and for integration into campus life.