

JULY 2020 | WISH TIMES

WELCOME TO WISH



PHOTO: WISH FAREWELL PARTY JANUARY 2020
WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU TO WISH

DESIGN BY 9F RA SAYAKA

Preparation for your life in WISH

Hi guys! This is Yuma from 5F.

This article summarized the questionnaire I asked RAs regarding the life in WISH.

I hope this will alleviate your worries before you come in!

All 33 RAs were asked to answer 3 questions. (multiple answers)

1. What you must have in WISH (Answers: 68)
2. How can you improve your QOL at the WISH (Answers: 64)
3. Some drawbacks of the WISH (Answers: 64)

I will introduce the most popular answers!

What you must have in WISH

Number of answers

7	Friends
5	Power strip・extension cord
4	Electric Kettle
3	a generous heart, storage box
2	Cleaning staff, reusable bag, strap for name tag in WISH

Of course, the most “must have” in WISH is “friends”. In your two years here, you will spend a lot of time with different people together. Talk to as many people as you can after your entrance! Making friends start from talking to people. Don’t be shy!

In your room, there are 3 electrical outlets (1 under the table, 2 near the door). If you feel these are not enough, I recommend you to buy an extension cord. By the way, I am using a 3 meters long extension cord.

Surprisingly, “a generous heart” is at the top of our rankings. We live together in WISH. There are things that you are not comfortable with or satisfied to. But, you need to express your thoughts humbly while paying respect to others. Enjoy the diversity in WISH, and let’s aim to be a better individual that can communicate with anyone!

Everyday, there are cleaning staffs that help maintain our beautiful dormitory. Always be grateful and think about next user when you use anything.

The key in WISH is special, and it has IC inside. It will cost you about 20000 JPY to renew if you lose it. So people usually have a strap to prevent from losing it. A WISH strap will be distributed when you enter the dorm, so write a name card and use it!

As you might already know, a lot of RAs have their own preference for fragrance. There are tons of rules in the WISH but there are no rules on fragrance. As long as you are not bothering your roommates, you are free to enjoy your own oasis by adding some fragrance in your room!

Since the electric kettle ranked in both “must have” and “improve QOL”, we are going to explain why it is so popular among the current residents. Just imagine an elegant afternoon with a cup of tea or coffee or you are craving for a bowl of ramen noodle for your late night supper. What do you need in both situation? Yes! A electric kettle. So write it down in your shopping list before you move in. The kettle are only permitted to use in the kitchen.

One last point to mention here, is that air humidifier or air cleaner will definitely make your life better here in the WISH. However, you need to register at the second floor Office before you start using it. Also, only humidifier without AC function are allowed to use. This is because we already have AC installed in your room and it also serves for the safety purpose. If you are considering to bring them with you, please make sure you consult the residence life center beforehand.

Number of
answers

Some drawbacks of WISH

7

sound leakage

4

some rooms are far from the kitchen, can't open the window

3

Wi-Fi restriction, rooms are too small

Number of
answers

How you can improve your QOL at the WISH

5

aroma diffuser and room fragrance

4

foilage plants, electric kettle

3

bluetooth headphones, air humidifier or air cleaner

We also listed some common complaints from the residents. Sound leakage are the most common complaint here in the WISH. Since the wall is a bit thin and there is an air vent for every room. Sound insulation might not be the ideal, but if you are being aware of your roommates, keep it down when it is late night while talking on the phone, watching movies, listening to the music, etc. You will have no problem with this.

The complaint “Far away from the kitchen” is because there is only one kitchen located at the center of each floor. Therefore, some rooms are close to it but some are far from the kitchen if the rooms are located at the two ends of the floor.

Except in the case of the emergency, you are only allow to open the window for 10cm. Thus, you can not go out to the balcony nor hang out the laundry. Use dryers mainly and you may also use the wire in your room.

Waseda University provides the WISH residents free Wi-Fi, just like the on campus internet condition. You will have no problem with uploading or downloading data, watching YouTube etc. But for gaming and LINE calls, we cannot guarantee the internet connection.

Rooms are a bit small because the university designed the dorm with the concept to make resident interact with other residents. There is a shared space for every unit. You can always hang out there and make some friends in WISH !

These opinions are based on current residents in WISH. We hope that you enjoyed the article. RAs are excited to see all of you this september ! See you at the WISH!!!

Translator: Brandon

“the winner is who enjoyed the most”

Writer: Kohta Shimada
Translator: Nao Tsutsui

"I expected WISH to be way more exciting than this..."
One week after entering the dorm, I quietly murmured.

Seeing the senpais in the hallway from an ungodly hour.
Going to the 2F to play table tennis just to find out they are being used and having to wait.
Using the kitchen that is left cluttered, by someone who used it before me.
Feeling awkward with the strangers at the exchange event.

Living in WISH does give me stress that I don't have to feel at home.
There are times where I just want to spend time alone.

While I was feeling that way, a friend spoke to me about a phrase.
“the winner is who enjoyed the most”

When I heard that first, I didn't quite understand what this word really meant.
But now I understand the essence of it.

The answer is: "Enjoy WISH", not "WISH is fun".
This can be applied to university life, circles, part-time job..etc.
It's not about whether the environment is enjoyable, but about how to enjoy yourself.

WISH offers you an environment to "enjoy" it.

If you want to play table tennis, you can find a friend to play and go to the fitness room every day.
If you want to savor good food, you can go to Koenji or Kichijoji by yourself or by inviting friends.
If you want to discuss about international relations, you can talk to friends from other departments until midnight.
If you want to play games, you can just talk to the person playing games in the living room.
You can even plan your own event. You can even invite guests to an SI program.

At first, I only “went with the flow” in the given environment.

That was also when my friend asked, “why not make an event with us?”
I answered "Yes", and maybe that was the first time I genuinely tried to “enjoy”.

As a dorm resident, not as an RA, I organized a Nagashi Somen event.
We talked until midnight, fixed the location since it was raining on the day, overcame many difficulties, and created an event as a dormitory student.

The days we spent organizing the event, were simply fun.
Maybe I didn't just enjoy making the event, but I enjoyed the process of creating something with my friends.
The people who I organized that event with, are still irreplaceable friends to me.

After all, “the winner is who enjoyed the most”.



“Where to eat next?”

We picked this theme so that new residents who will move into the dormitory in September can socialize through “food” when they move in. Eating out together or eating take-outs at the dorm together is a great way to make friends!

We asked RAs who have been living in Nakano for a long time, such as 3rd and 4th graders, to recommended their favorite restaurants around WISH, and below are the results. You can’t go wrong with any of these choices.

Ramen is a must, right?!

Nakano is a battleground for ramen

and only delicious restaurants can survive here.

A. Nogata Hope

The stock is based on pork backbones and has a rich flavor!

At first glance the soup might look too thick, but it's actually refreshing– lessening the feeling of guilt?

By the way, I (the author) have never been there (someone please go with me!?)

B. Budoka

Most Waseda students have tried this ramen place at least once.

It is a ramen shop that has its main store in Waseda, but the good news is that it also has a branch in Nakano!!!

A type of Yokohama family ramen, but budoka is a different type. It is very addicting, I wanted to go there again right after I left the place.

Some dormitory students are extremely addicted and eat there a couple of times in a week. Before you notice, you will find yourself squeezing into your jeans, so be careful not to overeat.

C. Mensho Yosuke

This place serves ramen with rich, white-colored chicken soup.

It's rich and thick, but it's light at the same time.

Everytime I go there I can't put my chopsticks down because I keep eating– it's delicious.

It's also super healthy because it's made with whole chicken with plenty of collagen. Also Zero Calor... (nope)

This restaurant was the first place I went to eat with my unit's seniors when I first moved in and it still remains my favorite even to this day. This is definitely my favorite place in Nakano.

D. Tokyo Niboshiya Honpo

This is a ramen shop located next to Nogata Hope (but they are also famous for their abura-soba, which is similar to ramen, just without the soup.

Below is the commentary of someone who ate there.

The abura-soba tasted great. You can also pick between three flavors: the standard, niboshi, and bonito flakes.

Their Taiwan Mazesoba is also good. Cold shabu- shabu, which is only available during certain season, is delicious. In winter, try the Yuzu-niboshi ramen- it is light and easy to eat (Source: 7FRA K.I)

This place is close to WISH so you can get there quickly!



For you guys who are health-conscious: teishoku (Japanese style meal set)

Teshiogohan (Homemade) Gen

WISHers love Gen. Generally, you can't go wrong with your order here since everything is delicious—but also reasonably priced! The set meal comes with different pickles, stews, and miso soup depending on the season. The menu changes depending on the season, so you can enjoy seasonal ingredients such as saury in the fall. What's better is they have free refill for rice and miso soup, which we are very grateful of. So many WISHers go there that everytime you go there chances are you will meet another resident there.



When you want to eat curry!

Yami yami curry

Nakano's famous store. It is an authentic Asian curry that has ethnic flavor that differentiates them from other curry places. There is also a wide variety of dishes and a wide variety of vegetables on the menu.

When you eat with coriander, your taste buds will explode with Asian flavor– now I'm hungry.



When you want to go to a Cafe

A. Nostalgia Cafe

only 3 minutes walk from WISH, this place exudes stylish atmosphere even from their outside appearance. The writer recommends meatballs. Also, their cheesecake is apparently delicious.

It's good to go out with your friends to fill up your stomach.

They have great coffee, so it's the perfect place to chat with friends.



B. good morning cafe

A cafe located in Nakano Central Park, it is casual and full at lunchtime.

Enjoy a wide variety of salads. Recommended for health-conscious people.

The best cake set for 900 yen on weekdays! They have wifi and comfy sofa seatings!



C. J.S pancake cafe

Also a cafe in Nakano Central Park (East side), they have various types of pancakes and light meals.

There are lasagna and clam chowder in addition to pancakes.

D. Azami Cafe

It is my 4th year living in Nakano but it was my first time hearing about this coffee shop! Carbonara and pudding seem to be excellent! (8FRA T.M recommendations)

You can tell from the photos that it looks delicious.

It's a bit nervous to visit a new cafe, but it's nice to visit a unique cafe once in a while!



When you're feeling ethnic foods



A. Thom Hom

This is a Thai restaurant located at the top of Minamiguchi Rengazaka, serving authentic Thai food. Their Khao Mangai is amazing, and everything else is delicious! The shopkeepers are friendly- they will talk to you easily.



B. Kebab Cafe Ertugrul

This is a restaurant where you can enjoy authentic kebabs! You can choose the sauce yourself, and their yogurt sauce is surprisingly delicious. RAs tend to use Uber Eats when ordering. It's quick, and surprisingly filling!

C. Persian Cuisine Volvol

Persian restaurant in Koenji!

A hidden spot that is also featured in the magazine "Popeye". The restaurant I want to go to most now. Not only the taste but also the atmosphere of the shop is wonderful! (8FRA N.M) It feels good even from the photo! If you get tired of your usual eating out, come try this place!



Omhayashi (Omurice-hayashi rice)

- Hayashiya Nakanoso

Everyone's favorite (?) You can get omhayashi, which is the upper compatibility of omelet rice. Fluffy omhayashi is very delicious. Really. Despite being reasonable, I am full. In addition to omhayashi, there is also



There are still many restaurants out there that we couldn't fit into this article this time!

You can use this article as a reference, or you can discover new places yourself. You can ask the seniors of the unit for more recommendations. You can eat too much! WISH has a fitness room! Work out so you can burn all those calories.

We wish you all a meaningful WISH life! See you soon!

Writer: Yoshito Tayama
Translator: Sayaka



Hitchhiking encounters 2

In the February issue of WISH Times, I explained some tips and tricks for hitchhiking, and in the April issue I described my crazy experience meeting an Australian who happened to be my friends' best bud during his study abroad in Sweden. Today, in my third article, I'd like to continue where I left off and introduce a few more characters I met during my hitchhiking journey. Though I originally went hitchhiking because I simply had no other choice, I soon discovered that hitchhiking is itself an incredible experience. One day, a man named Mr. Yoshida, a 21-year-old CEO and business owner picked me up in Tsu city. Today, I'd like to tell his story.

Early in the morning, I waited with a handwritten sign that said 'To Kobe' at a parking lot in Tsu City, Shiga Prefecture. I watched as the sun rose over Lake Biwa, which was adjacent to the parking area. It should have been a refreshing morning, but my hitchhiking journey had started late the night before and I hadn't slept. It was freezing out, and I had woefully underestimated the November cold; my hands shivered as they clutched the handmade sign. The cars, which passed one by one, seemed almost sheep-like, invited me to return to slumber.

As I neared my physical limits and considered returning to the rest area, a group of men in work clothes called out to me and handed me a cup of coffee. "You can ride with us," they said. My eyes winced as I looked at the man who called me - bright sunlight reflected off Lake Biwa, engulfing Mr. Yoshida in a blinding flash of light. There was something almost sacramone's about his presence.

Mr. Yoshida guided me to the passenger side of the truck, signaled to his colleagues that they'd picked up a hitchhiker, and started the car. I thanked Mr. Yoshida for picking me up and asked about the reason behind his generosity. He explained that it was his policy to "help if there is a person in need", and the boy he saw shivering with the handwritten sign was without a doubt a "person in need". Through this benevolent policy, Mr. Yoshida has helped dozens of hitchhikers, once even driving an acquaintance all the way to Yamaguchi Prefecture. Curious about the roots of these values, I decided to breach the subject with Mr. Yoshida. The story began when he was in middle school.

Mr. Yoshida was a so-called 'yankee' when he was in junior high school - in other words, he didn't exactly hang out with most academic crowd. He repeatedly skipped school, and at one point, received a lengthy school suspension for fighting with a teacher. Negative rumors about him spread through the neighborhood, and Yoshida watched as his parents repeatedly visited school and apologized profusely to administration staff.

Mr. Yoshida knew he'd caused harm to others and deeply regretted his actions. During this suspension, Mr. Yoshida decided to leave school and pursue a career in construction to support his parents. It was in this time of deep regret that Mr. Yoshida decided to 'help if there is a person in need'.

Mr. Yoshida started his business when his first child was born. He had long dreamed of earning enough to send his daughter to college, but knew that this would be impossible with his current income. Fortunately, his potential was clear to his coworkers, and Mr. Yoshida was able to work with his previous boss to start his own business.



As Mr. Yoshida spoke about being a CEO, his marriage, and being a dad, I began to wonder about his age. Risking being rude by interrupting, I asked how old he was. Shockingly, Mr. Yoshida was 21 years old, only a year older than myself, a second-year student in university. It was a teenager who had become president of his own company and a teenager who became a father. This reality of running a business and having children felt so far away – how to raise my children was a problem for the me of a distant future. Feeling sick, I started at the scenery outside the window in deep reflection.

The company is in its third year and already has 30 employees. Mr. Yoshida has big plans for its future, and is studying business and accounting to grow the company to its full potential. He has also been studying politics and economics from scratch, and participates in yearly sessions where CEOs and managers gather from across Japan to network and share ideas. Most people who gather at these conventions are over thirty and have had long academic careers in further education. As a student in the Faculty of Commerce, I have studied the basics of business administration and economics, but meeting someone who is implementing these ideas on a daily basis, and had to learn it all from scratch, was a deeply moving experience.

The truck came to a stop in Kobe. When I got out of the car I thanked Mr. Yoshida, who handed me a business card with a handwritten note "I look forward to having you manage my company." We said goodbye and Mr. Yoshida returned to his pickup. Watching him speed away, I thought about the incredible opportunities I had at Waseda, and decided not to let them go to waste. I put the business card in my wallet. It felt like I had just completed a journey, and for a moment I forgot that my trip was about to begin.

I hope this story helped you think about challenging something or overcoming your fears. In my next article, I'll talk about Mr. Toriguchi, a shoe-shining Keio brat I met in another hitchhiking adventure. Thank you for reading to the end, and I look forward to seeing you soon.



Writer: Satoshi Miura
Translator: Luigi Ludwig

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO WISH!