

Welcome to the Beloved 4th Women's Dormitory 🌸

Congratulations on your admission to ICU!

I believe you are probably feeling both excitement and anxiety as you begin this new chapter of your life as a university student. Especially for those about to start dorm life, living with new people in a completely unfamiliar environment may feel unpredictable and even a little intimidating.

To help ease those worries, I would like to introduce you to life at Fourth Women's Dormitory — a place full of unique experiences and unforgettable memories that will truly become an essential part of university life.

🌸 About Fourth Women's Dormitory

Established in 1964, Fourth Women's Dormitory (commonly called “4-Jo” or 4WD) is one of ICU's three “old dorms” alongside Third Women's Dormitory and Canada House.

Because the dormitory is operated with active participation from residents, the relationships between dormmates are especially valued in 4WD. The connections you build here are different from ordinary friendships, as dormmates support one another like family, sharing both joyful and difficult moments throughout university life. Many people find lifelong companions during their four years here.

The people in 4WD are often described as butterflies: each person shines beautifully both individually and as part of the community, bringing warmth and color to those around them. While respecting each other's individuality, we create a welcoming and supportive environment together.

🌸 Daily Life & Events



4WD doormmates



New Student Initiation



Dorm Fes/Play

Various events are held throughout the year at 4WD and the old dorms. Here is an overview of the annual schedule:

April New Student Welcome Party,
Old Dorm 'Hanami', Initiation

June Graduate Kick-Out Party

September New Student Welcome Party,
Old Dorm 'Tsukimi', Initiation

October ICU festival

November Dorm festival

December Christmas Caroling

January Old Dorm Tezuka Cup

February Setubun Event

March Graduate Kick-Out Party

One of the most iconic traditions of 4WD is the cardboard headpieces worn during the initiation events in April and September. This long-standing tradition has been passed down through generations and has become a symbol of the dorm itself. There are also many opportunities to express creativity and individuality through events such as the ICU Festival and Dorm Festival. Preparing for these events together naturally strengthens the bonds between dormmates, which is one of the best parts of life in 4WD.

Even outside of events, the dorm is filled with warmth and laughter every day. You will often hear cheerful conversations coming from the kitchen or bath area, and whenever people pass each other in the hallways or at the entrance, it is natural to greet one another with a friendly “Yahho!” (“Hey!”). 4WD is always filled with a warm and welcoming vibe.

We also occasionally share daily life at 4WD on Instagram, so please check it out!

(Instagram: @icu_4wdmates)

✿ Facilities

1st Floor: Social room/study room/laundry room



〈Social Room〉

The Social Room serves as the living room of 4WD. With its spacious atmosphere, it is the perfect place to relax after classes or during breaks 😊

Dorm meetings and events are also held here, making it a place where residents naturally gather. We even have a traditional tatami room!

〈Study Room〉



As the name suggests, this is a quiet space dedicated to studying and working. Unlike the resident rooms or the Social, it provides a calm environment for focusing on assignments or preparing for exams. Residents can also reserve the room for private Zoom meetings, making it a convenient place for job hunting, interviews, or online meetings.

<Laundry Room>



The laundry room includes two washing machines and one dryer. There are also drying spaces next to the laundry room and bath area. Since the machines can handle large loads at once, the facilities are especially appreciated by residents who enjoy fashion or tend to save up their laundry for later.

2.5th Floor: Hallway/kitchen/bath area

<Hallway>



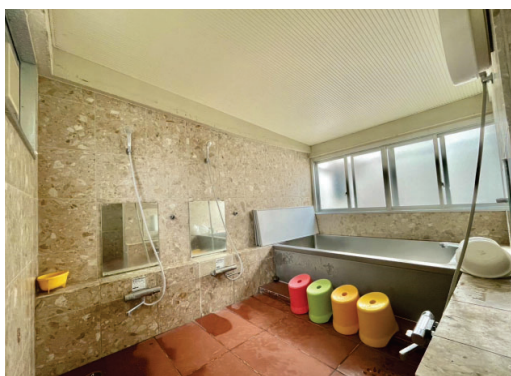
One of the unique features of 4WD is the existence of a “2.5 floor,” something not found in any other dorms. Once you go up from the first floor, you will find a long hallway connected to small staircases leading up and down to the resident rooms on the second and third floors. Because of this layout, residents naturally pass one another throughout the day, regardless of which floor they live on.

<Kitchen>



The kitchen is equipped with a wide variety of shared cooking tools, including an oven-microwave, pans, mixers, rice cookers, hot plates, and much more. Because of this, many residents enjoy not only cooking meals but also baking sweets together. It is common for people to cook dinner with friends, making the kitchen a place that naturally boosts everyone’s motivation to cook.

<Bath Area>



The bath area at 4WD is designed much like a traditional Japanese public bath. Right next to the shower spaces is a large bathtub. I understand that sharing a bath with others may feel uncomfortable at first. However, as you relax in the hot bath and chat with other residents, those feelings will quickly fade away, and bath time often becomes one of the most comforting parts of the day.

2nd & 3rd Floor: Rooms

<Rooms>



At the end of the staircases extending from the 2.5 floor are the resident rooms. The rooms in 4WD are among the largest dorm rooms at ICU, making shared living with a roommate (“roomie”) comfortable and enjoyable.

Room changes are organized based on questionnaires every year, so that residents can be matched with compatible roommates. Since roommates are always assigned from different years, first-year students can receive support and advice from upperclassmen.

❁ Dormitory System

From here, I will briefly explain some of the more formal aspects of life in 4WD.

As mentioned earlier, students help manage the dormitory. Life in 4WD is maintained through the efforts and cooperation of the residents themselves. Therefore, each dormmate is expected to recognize and fulfill their responsibilities as a member of the community.

While this may sound like a heavy commitment at first, residents support one another and work together to create the environment that makes 4WD special. Below are some of the main systems that involve all dorm residents.

1. Dorm Meeting

Dorm meetings are held once a month. During these meetings, important announcements are shared, and discussions about dorm-related matters take place. Attendance is *required* for all residents. These meetings are valuable spaces where everyone can express their opinions and participate in decision-making. Since it is one of the few occasions where all residents gather together, it is also a great opportunity to connect with people you may not usually talk to.

2. Duty

To keep shared spaces such as the kitchen, bath area, and social room clean, residents take turns cleaning, which is called “Duty.”

These responsibilities are rotated among dormmates and play an essential role in maintaining daily life in the dorm.

3. Cabinet

The “Cabinet” refers to the dorm’s executive committee, which is responsible for managing dorm operations and leading dorm meetings. Before graduation, each resident is expected to serve a total of 2.5 terms (2.5 points) in Cabinet roles. By taking on responsibilities and contributing to dorm management, residents help continue the unique self-governing culture of 4WD.

✿ Final Message

I hope this introduction has given you a small glimpse into life at 4WD. At first glance, 4WD may seem old, small, and full of annoying rules. However, it is precisely because of this environment that so many meaningful encounters and unforgettable experiences are born here. The close relationships between

residents make even the smallest moments of everyday life turn into special memories. Whether you are having a great day or going through a difficult one, there is always someone nearby to laugh with you, support you, and stand by your side. It is truly a place filled with warmth and care.

At least for me, I feel grateful every day that I had the chance to live in 4WD.

If you join 4WD, your university life will surely become something irreplaceable, filled with both laughter and tears.

We truly look forward to meeting you at 4WD!

Fourth Women's Dormitory 2026 First Semester President

Nozomi Shimada