

Daily Photos at Canada House

Occasional evening gatherings ↓



Okada Cup (Dormitory Soccer Tournament) ↓



Social room gathering ↓



Tacos BROs Booth at the ICU Festival (2024) ↓



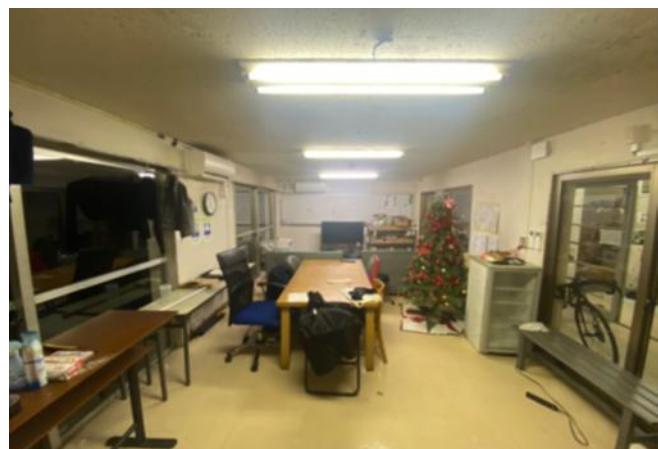
Kitchen



Bath room



Social room



Welcome to Canada House.

A Space of Freedom, Adventure, and Passion!

To all incoming students: congratulations on your admission!

As you might already imagine, a world of fresh and exciting experiences awaits you. Honestly, I'm envious! You have the chance to build so many thrilling, irreplaceable memories from the ground up, the kind you'd want to erase from your mind just so you could experience them all over again.

...That said, some of you reading this might be thinking, "Sure, but once the novelty wears off, won't it just go back to the same bland routine?"

Well, even if that sounds like you, there's a place where boredom simply isn't an option. A place that *refuses* to let you get bored. That place is Canada House.

Leave it alone for a moment, and something is bound to happen. Some "event" will unfold, and before you know it, you'll be swept right into it. The most dynamic space at ICU... that's Canada House!

[The Atmosphere and Events at Canada House]

Curious about what kind of place Canada House is? Let me paint a clearer picture for you.

First off, "Canada House" doesn't exactly sound like a modern name, does it? That's because it was built in 1962; the same year as the Cuban Missile Crisis. As one of ICU's older dormitories, Canada House is known as an "old dorm," alongside 3rd Women's Dorm, 4th Women's Dorm, and Global House. According to the Housing Office (the university department that manages the dorms), the name comes from the fact that the building was

constructed through an initiative led by church representatives in Canada and supported by numerous donations.

<Atmosphere>

One of Canada House's defining features is its diverse community, where people from all kinds of backgrounds come together and everyone's individuality is respected.

More than half of our roughly 30 residents have roots outside Japan, are returnees, or have studied abroad. Naturally, everyone comes from different places. Beyond that, some residents took unconventional paths. Like leaving high school or transferring from another university before coming to ICU. For privacy reasons, I can't go into detail, but there's a rich variety of backgrounds and personalities here. The diversity at Canada House goes far beyond just international experience.

Perhaps because of this, residents speak casually with one another regardless of year, using first names and building relationships as close friends rather than as "seniors" and "juniors." Of course, when it

comes to dorm operations such as organizing events or coordinating cleaning duties, upperclassmen naturally offer guidance. But even then, the opinions and autonomy of younger students are genuinely respected. This is by no means a top-down environment.

Another defining trait is a shared enthusiasm for taking on new challenges together.

For example, since the 2023 ICU Festival (the school festival held every October), Canada House has been running food stalls selling udon (Japanese noodle) and tacos each year. This is a full-fledged project: the organizers handle everything from scratch. Selecting ingredients, developing recipes, setting prices, and planning sales strategies, while all residents pitch in with prep, cooking, and selling.

Since this was written in January 2026, this tradition is still relatively new in Canada House's history. Running a food stall requires funding for ingredients and supplies, and we cover this by allocating a budget from the dorm's collective funds!

This is the "spirit of adventure" at Canada House! We embrace the unknown, take calculated risks, and tackle challenges head-on together. It's a unique quality that sets us apart from other dorms.

Reading all this, you might assume Canada House is filled exclusively with extroverts. But! That's far from the truth. While there are plenty of outgoing residents, there are just as many introverts, deep thinkers, and people who value their alone time. Late at night, small groups often gather for deeper conversations having philosophical discussions, or simply sharing what's on their minds. (Full disclosure: I'm one of those people who enjoys these kinds of talks.)

Canada House is a space where those who crave meaningful conversations and those who thrive in lively atmospheres can naturally form deep connections under the same roof.

<Events>

Canada House is one of the most event-active dorms at ICU; and that's a core part of our identity.

We have strong ties with other dorms as well. In April and September, when new students arrive, all the old dorms come together for exchange events called "Hanami" (flower viewing) and "Tsukimi" (moon viewing). Throughout the year, there are additional informal gatherings. We also have "Initiation," where new students express themselves through performances like dancing, and the Okada Cup, a friendly soccer tournament.

These events offer plenty of opportunities to make friends outside of classes and clubs. And starting from the end of your first year, you can plan and run events yourself! The chance for everyone to showcase their talents and shine is one of Canada House's greatest attractions.

[What We Expect from Canada House Members]

As you can tell from the photos, Canada House is a men's dorm. Being male is the only formal requirement for admission, there are no other special conditions.

That said, current residents do have certain hopes for the kind of person who joins us. So let me share one key point that anyone considering Canada House should keep in mind.

<Responsibility>

If you've read this far, you've probably picked up on the free atmosphere and proactive spirit here and hopefully, you're interested in Canada House.

The reason these qualities can coexist is that Canada House residents truly understand the **responsibility** that comes with freedom.

Think back on your life as a student so far. Middle school and high school are more restrictive environments compared to university. Many of you have probably felt frustrated at times, unable to do things the way you wanted.

But here's the thing: a lack of freedom also means someone else is deciding what you should do each day. In that situation, you don't have to take full **responsibility** for your actions.

In other words, becoming free means taking on the responsibility that someone else used to carry. Even when you're unsure whether something will work out, you think for yourself and give it a try. If things don't go well, you don't blame others. You clean up your own mess. Sometimes, you'll even have to clean up after someone else. That's what responsibility looks like.

Without that resolve, even in an environment where you're free to act, you won't truly be free. You'll just end up waiting passively for others to hand you something.

Think about baby birds. Their parents push them to try flying by watching and imitating. Once they can fly, they're freed from a life confined to the nest.

But flying is terrifying at first and once they leave the nest, they have to find food on their own.

That's exactly the mindset we value at Canada House. Freedom always comes at a cost. This isn't some paradise where every day is nothing but fun.

Do you still want to embrace that freedom? If so, Canada House is the place for you.

Over the next four years, you'll grow in ways you can't yet imagine! Let's live together, learn together, and create irreplaceable memories!

Yuki Mizuuchi, Vice Dorm President, Canada House (2026)