

Ginkgo House



Group Photo



1st Floor



A day in the kitchen



"Kick-out" (Farewell Party)



Graduation photo in front of the dorm

(1F)

Hello everyone! My name is Yuto Asai, and I am the Floor Leader of the 1st floor of Ginkgo Dormitory. As someone who is just a little bit ahead of you in this journey, I would like to share what life is like here at Ginkgo. I'm sure that by the time you finish reading this introduction, you'll find yourself wanting to live here!

I still vividly remember opening this webpage before I enrolled, my heart filled with excitement, thinking, "Such a fun dorm life awaits me at ICU!" I would be incredibly happy if this message helps incoming students choose their dorm and serves as motivation for as many prospective students as possible.

First of all, deciding whether to live in a dorm—and if so, which one—is an absolutely crucial decision here at ICU. Just like in *Harry Potter*, where the characters of Slytherin and Gryffindor are completely different, the same goes for our dorms. "What if I had joined a different dorm instead of Ginkgo?" "What if I had just lived alone?" I can't even begin to imagine those scenarios. If I hadn't moved into Ginkgo, my campus life would have been completely different from what it is now. And to be honest, I wouldn't even want to imagine it, because choosing Ginkgo has allowed me to meet so many irreplaceable people—upperclassmen, underclassmen, and peers alike—who have become a vital part of my life. I am truly proud of the decision I made two years ago to live in Ginkgo. Why don't you join us, the Ginkgo Family, and have the time of your life?

I'll leave the details about our location and facilities to the Floor Leaders of the 2nd and 3rd floors. Instead, I'd like to share my personal take on the cultural vibe of Ginkgo's 1st floor (the men's floor) and how it differs from the other dormitories.

If I had to describe it in one phrase, "just right" fits perfectly. The older dorms, like Canada House and Global House, have a strong sense of unity where the students are incredibly close-knit. On the other hand, the newest dorms are so pristine they feel almost like hotels. Ginkgo sits right in the middle, taking the best of both worlds. The old traditions aren't too overwhelming, yet there's still a solid, respectful relationship between the older and younger students. It's also relatively new, so we rarely see bugs like cockroaches (this is important!). I think it's a "just right" environment where even those who are anxious about their first dorm experience can feel completely at ease.

Recently, a tacos party hosted by our newly enrolled freshmen sparked a great deal of interaction among the residents. Because Ginkgo is a place where you can naturally and casually make friends regardless of your year, I feel like our diverse personalities really help each other grow. Beyond that, things like our monthly eating contests, designing our own original Ginkgo sweatshirts and hoodies, and forming the Ginkgo Muscle Training Club all started casually from daily conversations and have naturally settled into our dorm culture

with that same "just right" laid-back vibe. We also have a culture where upperclassmen who have finished their job-hunting provide guidance, so you'll never be short on advice or alumni to visit when it's your turn (this is low-key very important).

As I mentioned, we have various events here at Ginkgo, all of which are planned and run entirely by the residents. In communal living, issues pop up daily—whether it's someone not following the rules or dorm equipment breaking down. All of these challenges have to be solved by the students living here. Because of this, we are looking for students who can demonstrate leadership in the dorm. But "leadership" here doesn't just mean being the person standing at the front of the pack. Whether you love international exchange, are a caring person who wants to support Ginkgo behind the scenes, want to try planning and running events, love throwing parties and having fun with everyone, or even if you just don't like feeling lonely—anyone who can grow to love Ginkgo House is absolutely welcome here.

Finally, thank you so much for reading this far! I hope this gave you a better picture of what life is like at Ginkgo House .

"I'm home," "Welcome back," "I'm off," "Have a good day," "Good night," "Good morning"—these greetings are an everyday part of the conversation at Ginkgo. But sometimes it hits me: living in the same house, so closely with people I'm not related to by blood, is not something to take for granted. I can confidently say that you will almost certainly never regret moving into Ginkgo House. Today, Ginkgo—and the upperclassmen, underclassmen, and peers I met here who feel like family—are an indispensable part of my life. And by this time next year, I'm sure you will feel the exact same way.

Reliable older brothers, slightly cheeky but lovable younger brothers, and peers who have shared the highs and lows. Being surrounded by all of them and living as part of this big family brings me so much happiness.

With that, I am truly looking forward to welcoming you to our dorm!

Yuto Asai

Floor Leader, Ginkgo House 1st Floor

(2F)

Hello everyone! Welcome from the 2nd floor of Ginkgo House!

You probably have a lot of anxieties right now, wondering what it's like to leave home and live with others, or what kind of people live in the dorms. For all of you feeling that way, we'd like to share the lifestyle and atmosphere of Ginkgo's 2nd floor as best as we can!

First of all, Ginkgo House has a fantastic location. It's close to the Honkan and T-kan, where most classes are held, making it very easy to get to class. There's a FamilyMart on the way to

these buildings, which is incredibly convenient for grabbing a quick meal or snacks on your way to school! And amazingly, the university cafeteria is right in front of our entrance! Moreover, living in the dorm will undoubtedly be a huge support for your university life! For many of you, this will be your first time living away from home. Balancing university studies with chores can be tough until you get used to it. But in the dorm, you have friends to do it all with! In fact, when I was a freshman, there were times when I struggled to keep up with ELA, or felt exhausted from club activities and part-time jobs. During those times, whether staying up late in the dorm doing assignments together or just chatting and cheering each other up, I truly felt supported by everyone. Even when you come home late at night, there's usually someone in the kitchen or the social room to tell you, "Welcome back." Whenever I was unsure about my studies, studying abroad, or how to spend my summer vacation, older students were always there to give me plenty of advice. The residents of the 2nd floor will always be right there by your side to support you in the exact same way!

You might also be worried about whether you'll make friends once you start university. Well, once you move into the dorm, the upperclassmen simply won't leave you alone!! (In a good way!) Just the other day, when some new residents moved in, they fit in so perfectly within a few days that we honestly had the illusion, "Wait, haven't you always lived here?" That's how comfortable and easy it is to live here!

Ginkgo House is also full of fun events! First, right after you move in, we'll welcome you with a welcome party. In the past, we've made okonomiyaki and wrapped gyoza dumplings together! On Halloween, we have an event where we go trick-or-treating at each other's rooms, and we throw a dorm-wide Christmas party! We have a lot of people who love to cook, so the tables are always lined with homemade dishes and cakes!

Finally, if I had to pinpoint the defining characteristic of the 2nd floor, it would absolutely be its "free atmosphere." The 2nd floor is a gathering of truly unique individuals, and our days are full of hilarious moments! Everyone does what they love, and you can really feel that people are living true to their own individuality. The fact that we are all so close, yet everyone is completely free to be themselves, is a charm I feel you won't find in any other dorm. I also believe this is only possible because everyone follows the rules, communicates openly, and cares for one another—and that's another great thing about the 2nd floor! I am sure you will all be able to enjoy communal living here with total peace of mind!

I hope this has conveyed some of the charm of Ginkgo House to you. All of us residents are sincerely looking forward to having you join us here at Ginkgo!

Hiyori Abe

Floor Leader, Ginkgo House 2nd Floor

(3F)

Hello everyone! I am Saki Nakamura, the Floor Leader of the 3rd floor of Ginkgo House. Thank you so much for considering Ginkgo out of all the dormitories here at ICU! I remember looking at this website just like you are now, trying to picture the atmosphere of each dorm and imagining myself living there as I made my decision. I would be thrilled if this message could convey even a little bit of what Ginkgo House, and specifically the 3rd floor, is really like.

First of all, I think the greatest feature of Ginkgo's 3rd floor is the perfect balance between alone time and time spent with everyone else. When you hear the word "dormitory," you might worry, thinking, "Isn't it noisy like a party every day?" or "Will I end up staying up late talking with friends and not be able to focus on my studies?" To be honest, I felt the exact same way before I moved in. However, the 3rd floor has an atmosphere with a clear distinction between "on" and "off" time, allowing us to maintain a healthy balance between socializing with friends and having time to ourselves. When it comes to ELA and assignments, we take full advantage of the strong bonds between class years that are so unique to dorm life—upperclassmen teach the younger students, and underclassmen feel comfortable asking for help. While we have many bright, kind, and fun people, a true hallmark of the 3rd floor is that deep down, everyone is earnest and has a strong sense of self.

Next, I'd like to introduce the members of the 3rd floor. Currently, there are 37 students living here, with the number of students per grade increasing as you go down to the younger years. Among us, we always have several international students whose faces change every year. Because of this, there are natural opportunities to communicate in English, and for the international students studying Japanese, chatting with the local students provides great practical practice. It's a wonderful environment where both regular degree-seeking students and exchange students can actively use the languages they are learning. Another characteristic of our floor is that many residents are highly engaged in things outside of their studies, juggling multiple clubs, student groups, and part-time jobs. Being surrounded by such motivated people inspires me to give my all to my own part-time job, too. Being able to feel these deep connections and the comforting presence of friends—something that is hard to find when living alone—is truly one of the unique charms of dorm life.

On our days off, everyone spends their time doing what fulfills them—whether that's relaxing in front of the TV, chatting on the sofa, trying out a new recipe, or going out. Of course, getting proper rest is just as important, so some people sleep in until around noon. Whenever it's someone's birthday, we often throw a party in the social room. Since moving into the dorm, I've come to look forward to the weekends more than ever.

Finally, I have to highlight our fantastic location, which is one of Ginkgo's biggest perks. It is incredibly convenient: just a 20-second walk to the dining hall, under 5 minutes to the Honkan, and less than 3 minutes to the campus FamilyMart! (Though, it's a classic dorm student cliché that many of us get a little too relaxed and end up running late for class anyway, haha.) Because commuting takes almost zero time, you can dedicate so much more of your day to your hobbies, clubs, groups, and studies. Every single day, I feel so grateful that I can come straight back to the dorm and relax the moment I feel tired after class. Thank you so much for reading this far! What do you think? It's hard to capture the entire atmosphere of Ginkgo House just through text, but I hope this helps you even a little bit in your dorm selection process. I am sincerely looking forward to the day we get to live together here at Ginkgo.

Saki Nakamura

Floor Leader, Ginkgo House 3rd Floor