



The Hokusei Times

Shine Like Stars In a Dark World





Students in formal suits attend a career program for learning about job interview techniques.

Much Ado About Job Hunting Schedule

By Yuki Fuke

It was such a big impact on many university students seeking jobs in Japan this year. The Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) changed the schedule of job screenings from 2015 to give students an opportunity to concentrate on studying more than ever. Before 2015, job interviews usually started from April and students started preparing for job hunting from December of the preceding year when they are seniors. Because there were serious concerns about a negative effect on their school work, Keidanren decided to alter the recruitment schedule at last. As the job interviews started from August this year, four months later than usual, students could get the chance to spend more time to prepare for their job hunting and attend internships of the companies they were interested in. However, the students had a shorter time to search around their potential jobs and consider what kind of job is the most suitable for them. In the end, the new recruitment schedule caused some serious confusions for the students, adversely affecting their job hunting as well as school work. Keidanren has already started reviewing the recruitment schedule again.

	2014	2015
Dec.	↓	
Jan.		
Feb.	↓	
Mar.		↓
Apr.	↓	
May.		
Jun.		↓
Jul.		
Aug.	↓	↓
Sep.		
Oct.		↓

 Company presentations
 Job Interviews

What's "Owahara"?

Job hunting this year stands out with the problem of the so-called "Owahara." It means end-your-job-hunting harassment by the prospective employer. Owahara is caused by the new timetable of recruiting activities. In the case of small and medium-sized companies, they don't want to lose prospective students to major companies. The students, on the other hand, will have no other choice left if major companies, which start recruiting later than the small companies, reject them in the end. Owahara is based on such a dilemma. Yusuke Tanaka of the economics department said, "I was called up by the company for which I applied — even before taking the final job interview. They demanded that I make the final decision to accept the job offer right now or else." (C.M)

Voices of Hokusei students

By Chisaki Miyakoshi

The new job hunting terms may have worked well for some students, but most of the students found it long or difficult to make plans due to the change in schedule. The main reason for rescheduling was to allow students to devote themselves to study. However, most of the students interviewed said that they had to skip some classes for attending screening meetings or job interviews.

Kyoko Taki of the English department said, "I didn't feel much difficulty caused by the rescheduling. I had a test and some reports to submit in January, so thanks to starting job seeking activities from March, I wasn't pressed with studying for exams." However, most of the Hokusei students said that they found it difficult to carry out their study. Yumi Goto of the psychology department said, "I had to decide the theme of my graduation thesis from April to May. And I had to do my job hunting also. I was distracted by it, so I couldn't use enough time to think about the theme." Chika Okuyama of the psychology department said, "I got an informal job offer in the fall so my job hunting coincided with writing the graduation thesis." Yukina Hashida of the economics department said, "Despite the rescheduling, many companies started job interviews from April so I had to skip the class many times." Nozomi Okamoto of the English department said, "Many companies broke the rule for starting job interviews from August. The term for submitting entry sheets varied depending on the companies, so I couldn't concentrate on my school work."

New School Facilities Opened for International Exchange

By Kanji Watanabe

New facilities were installed on the Hokusei Gakuen University campus this autumn, following a large-scale refurbishment such as constructing a new school building. It mainly consists of two things, a renewal of the former Administration Building and opening a new walking path.

North Star Café Sarah

A school café that has been a long-cherished dream for the students were opened at last. The first café, named NORTH STAR CAFE Sarah, opened in the center building on the campus. It serves variety of beverages and some refreshments, such as hot sand and pastas. On fine days, students can enjoy having the food at the open terrace with friends. The café is also planning to add some more foods and drinks, such as sandwiches and cakes, to the menu. Sarah is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition, it will hold the so-called “International Time,” an event in which international students work as the waiting staff and students can make orders in foreign languages. On November 17, “International Café - Indonesia Day” was held. Students tried to order in Indonesian by referring to the prepared paper which showed how to order in Indonesian.



Students are lined up in waiting for making orders.

Photo by Hokusei Gakuen staff



On a sunny day, students are able to have foods and drinks at the outside terrace.

Photo by Hokusei Gakuen staff



“Indonesia Day”: A student tries to order food and a foreign student is in charge of a cashier as a wait staff.



One of the set menus: carbonara and a cup of soup

International Lounge

By Kanji Watanabe

A new learning space, the International Lounge, has been installed on the first floor. The lounge is provided as a space for human exchange between enrolled Japanese students and international students. It is expected to help the students improve their language skills and develop international views and minds. Various events related to different international cultures are being planned. At the lounge equipped with a large screen, students are offered with a variety of language and culture programs to promote understanding of different cultures. It would be a good space to make students feel close together and have a glimpse of different cultures through exchanges with each other. Both café and the lounge are expected to work as a base to move forward the internationalization of Hokusei furthermore.

The International Lounge provides both Japanese and foreign students an opportunity for learning together. As one of the newly introduced projects by the International Education & Language Center, the event for playing games by speaking in foreign languages has started from November. In this event, Japanese students can interact with foreign students through playing a few



International Lounge is in the inner part of the first floor.

Photo by Hokusei Gakuen

games. The students can utilize their language skills learned in school at the event. For the first event introduced in November, three foreign languages such as English, Chinese and Korean are used for communication. By playing with foreign students, Japanese students can get used to speak foreign languages more freely.

Renewed walking passage available



The opening ceremony of “Covered Walk”

A new walking path “Covered Walk” is opened at the south-side gateway of the campus. Passing through the Hidamari Road, a cycling road, from Oyachi subway station, pedestrians will have a sprawling view of the campus after emerging from the tunnel. To ensure the safety of students and other passersby, the passage to the university has been separated by an exclusive path



The university nameplate and the logo is being illuminated on the tiled wall.

for pedestrians and the cycling road. The current sidewalk alongside the No. 2 Faculty Building is now shifted for the use by students riding bicycles and on wheelchairs. Around the entrance area, cherry trees were planted between the walking path and the Hidamari Road.

Employment Support Office Kept Busy

By Aya Ishigaki

The change of time table for job hunting this year has greatly affected not only students but also the Employment Support Office of Hokusei Gakuen University. Many students faced difficulties due to the change of the time table for job hunting, and consulted with the support office for advice.

Katsutomo Suzuki, chief of the office, was kept busy advising such students waiting in line to start job hunting with various tips. "I suggest, first, to prepare early. For example, doing advance researches on corporations by industrial sector as well as institutions."

Every Wednesday, during the third lecture hour, the employment support office holds a "Carrier Design Program." It informs students of the latest news about job hunting. "So, do participate in the Carrier Design Program and get the latest information as much as possible," said Suzuki. In addition, the support office is flooded with inquiries from

students on how to correct entry sheets properly or practice job interviews effectively. The office also provided company recruitment information regularly. "Junior students should consult with seniors who have finished job hunting and hear their story or suggestions. Students should experience part-time jobs and volunteer activities before their job hunting. It will help you to work through in the society in the future," said Suzuki.



Students consult with support advisers.

Employment rate of Hokusei Gakuen University

The graph shows the latest Employment rate of Hokusei Gakuen University students who graduated in the spring of 2015. Each department exceeds 93% in employment rate and the overall rate is 95.9%. Yet, the School of Humanities is lowest in the employment rate compared with other Schools because it has more students going up to graduate school. This percentage is considerably high among private universities in Hokkaido.

	Department	Employment rate (%)
School of Humanities	Department of English	93.5
	Department of Psychology and Applied Communication	94.2
	Overall	93.8
School of Economics	Department of Economics	96.1
	Department of Management Information	94.6
	Department of Law and Economics	96.2
	Overall	95.7
School of Social Welfare	Department of Social Policy	100
	Department of Social Work	97.2
	Department of Psychology for Well-being	96.6
	Overall	98
School Overall		95.9

Employment Rate (As of May 2015)

New Schedule for 2016

By Yuki Fuke

On November 9, 2015, Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) announced that it would change its recruitment policy again by rescheduling the timetable for job screenings for 2016. The reason why they decided to change the timetable again is that there have been a lot of criticisms of the 2015 alteration from both students and companies. Keidanren explained, "By changing the schedule for 2015, we tried to give students opportunities to spend more time for studying. However, both students and companies have faced various kinds of problems. The job hunting has become much harder and longer than before."

According to the newly-proposed schedule, job interviews will be moved up starting from June 2016 instead of August 2016 scheduled under the current guidelines. Just as university students are confused with the new schedule, employees who work at large companies said that they are also feeling the same anxiety as students. Because it usually takes a long time to make a plan for recruiting students, the sudden change makes companies absolutely confused. Keidanren appealed to make a schedule that is better for everyone who is connected with job hunting. However, it seems difficult to achieve that goal in the near future. University students seeking jobs need to take actions and get ready for it much earlier by themselves without any confusion.

	2015	2016
Mar.		
Apr.		
May.		
Jun.		
Jul.		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
	Company presentations	
	Job Interviews	