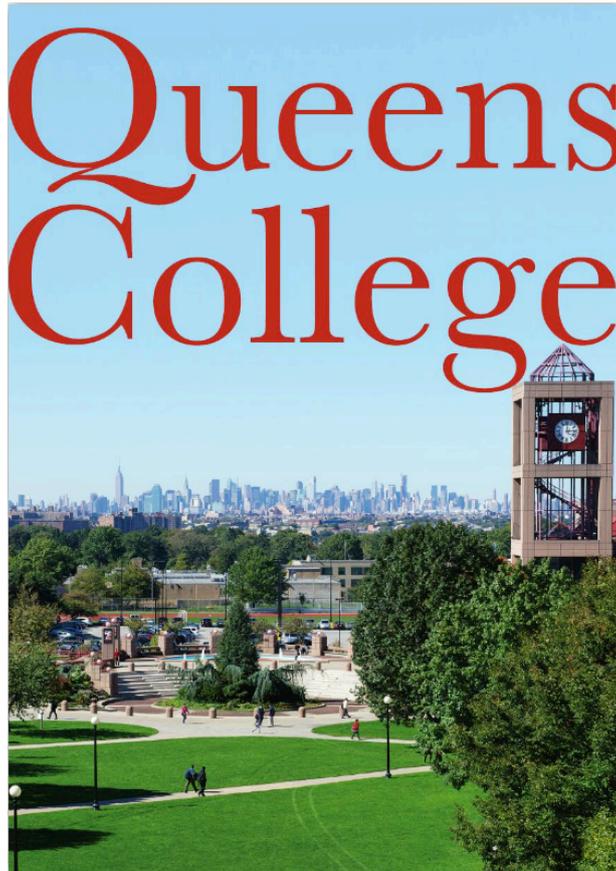


**Toyohashi University of Technology,  
Institute for Global Network Innovation in  
Technology Education**

**News from QC**

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## ■ Reports

### Activity Report vol. 2

Junji Sasano, Toyohashi University of Technology

I'm Junji Sasano of Toyohashi University of Technology (Toyohashi Tech). In the last volume I reported about the three-month English training in Toyohashi Tech. The training had finished after the mindset training held on June 20<sup>th</sup> Friday, following the final mock lectures, Showcase Wrap-up. Then the other participants from National Institute of Technology (KOSEN) went back home to wait until their departure to US one week later. Meanwhile, I left for Queens College (QC) alone in advance on June 23<sup>rd</sup> because I had to prepare for a smooth start of KOSEN teachers' activities.

I took the flights from Centrair Airport to John F. Kennedy Airport via Incheon International Airport in Korea. It took two hours from Centrair to Incheon Aireport, five hours for the transfer there, and fourteen hours to JFK. Therefore, totally it took more than one day until my arrival at the Summit apartment in QC, and I was entirely exhausted at that time.

On the next day of my arrival, I met Prof. Steven Schwartz who is in charge of this program, and he explained to me about the schedule, administrative work about VISA, and application for my ID card. The next day, he introduced me to Ms. Donna Gruber, who is an executive director of English Language Institute (ELI). She told me the detailed schedule of the intensive English training course in the summer semester and the placement exam for assigning class levels. What I did in the first few days was to report the new information to my university.

Moreover, another important mission for me as an advance troop was to settle our living environment. Each room in the Summit can accommodate four people, and has a common space, two bathrooms and four personal compartments. Although there are four electric stoves, an oven, a microwave oven, a sink, a fridge, and a table, no other electric appliances and cookware were equipped. So, I decided to start gathering those items. As a consequence of walking around QC in a few days, I found some supermarkets, a wholesale store, and an electric shop within walking distance. By the way, there are not so many restaurants near QC, and they provide somewhat heavy meals, most of the participants cook for themselves.



A campus view of QC. Silhouette of the skyscrapers in Manhattan can be seen.

Anyway, in the first week, I felt tense because of the hasty departure, solitary activity, and jet lag.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, just one week after my arrival, ten KOSEN teachers arrived at QC, accompanied with Prof. Shibata and Dr. Takagi of Toyohashi Tech. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, a lunch meeting with the teachers of QC who were concerned to this project was held at a room in the library.



Appearance of QC library and a large Star-Spangled Banner in the hall.

After that, we received explanations about the forthcoming English training at QC.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we took an ELI placement exam. The exam consisted of listening comprehension (50 questions), grammar (50 questions), an essay, and CLOZE. It took three hours totally. In the listening comprehension exam, the teacher read aloud the questions by himself. Although this was quite natural in US, I felt it a bit strange because we usually use CDs for listening comprehension exam in Japan. As for the essay, I thought I was able to write relatively logical one because we had been trained with the assignments of writing essays every week in Japan. Additionally, most Japanese people might not familiar with CLOZE. It is a kind of a fill-in-a-blank test. Such a test commonly seen in Japan seems to be something that we choose suitable words to the blanks in a couple of sentences from some provided options. However, in the CLOZE test of ELI, we had to choose the most suitable words to the many blanks in two-page articles without any options provided. I felt there were many possible choices for each blank although, in fact, the words in the blanks should be determined according to the relationship with the contexts or verbs. Therefore, I couldn't feel confident about my answers.

According to the remarks of this placement exam, we were assigned to different classes separated into seven levels. The results were posted on the wall of the hallway of ELI on the first day of the intensive English training course starting from the next week.

The detailed picture of the English training course is going to be reported next time.

## About living together

Seiji Fujiwara, National Institute of Technology, Akashi College  
Ryushi Kimura, National Institute of Technology, Kochi College

We, 11 teachers, are divided into groups of three and live together at dormitory in Queens College. Our group member are Seji (Akashi College), Hide (Sendai College), and Ryu (Kochi College).

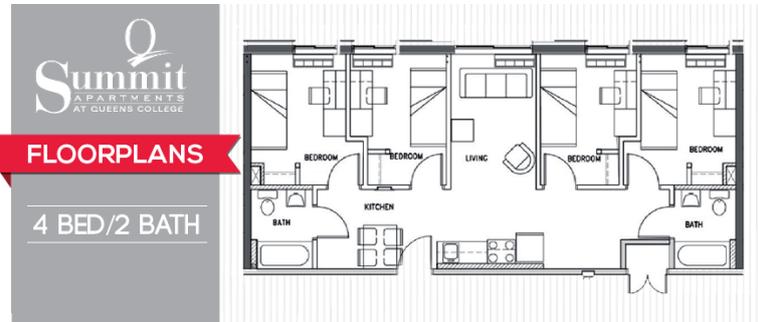


Fig.1 Floor plan of our dormitory

Ref : <http://queenscolleghousing.com/floorplans/>

There are four bed rooms,  
two common bathroom,

one common kitchen, one common living room, and common dining room in one space (show Fig.1). We communicate actively every day to understand well each other because we live together for 6 months friendly. Especially, cooking is one of good opportunities to communicate with us. I had never cooked by myself when I lived in Kochi. Then, I ate dinner alone while working by PC or reading book in my laboratory every night. (By the way, I had never turned on a refrigerator, moreover, I had not opened a boxed gas stove after I bought it!)

However, in New York, Seji and Hide, who have a good skill of cooking, teach me how to cook in every dinner time. When we eat dinner together after cooking, we talk enjoyably and sometimes seriously about not only current situation and issues of our colleges, our research topics, NIT's education and presence in the future, but also about our family or private matters. Our discussion sometimes was so exciting that we lost track



Pic.1 Dinner time

of time and spent talking about it for 2 hours or more (show Pic.1). Now, the cooking and eating together in the dinner give me great pleasure. It is a precious time for us that NIT teachers know well each other through living together in the FD training program.

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