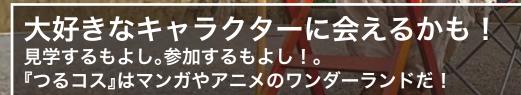
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**HEP FIVE Osaka Umeda Special Feature** 

Autumn 2018





Maybe You'll Meet Your Favorite Characters! You can take part or even just watch! TsuruCOS is a wonderland of manga and anime!

#### A SPLENDOROUS FUSION OF NATURE AND POP CULTURE.

Cosplay is a form of pop culture that originated in Japan and has now taken the entire world by storm. The holy land of cosplayers is just a short 25-minute train ride from OBKG. That holy land can be found in Tsurumiryokuchi Expo '90 Commemorative Park, which was created as a place of relaxation for the people of Osaka on the former site of the International Garden and Greenery Exposition that was held in Osaka in 1990. The massive site, which covers more than 120 hectares, is overflowing with flowers and greenery, creating a place in the middle of the giant metropolis of Osaka to enjoy the richness of nature. Particularly worthy of note is Sakuya Konohana Kan, one



of Japan's largest general botanical gardens (admission charged). This is one of Japan's largest conservatories, where plants that grow in all kinds of climatic conditions around the world, from tropical regions to arid regions, alpine regions and polar regions, are grown and displayed.

#### COSPLAYERS STRIKE THEIR BEST POSES IN ALL CORNERS OF THE CONSERVATORY!

This space, where it is possible to see up close a variety of plants and flowers all year round, has been a famous spot for photographers since long before the advent of Instagram and other social media platforms. It was the ever-evolving cosplayers who zeroed in on this photogenic environment. As they dressed up as their favorite characters and visualized themselves in these surroundings, word continued to spread, to the extent that now, a cosplay event, called Tsurumi Ryokuchi Cosplay Day, or TsuruCOS for short, is held regularly in the mountain area of the park. Unfortunately, due to the impact of the massive typhoon that struck Osaka in the summer of 2018, most of the mountain area, where TsuruCOS is usually held, is currently closed, but work is underway to re-open the

entire area as soon as possible. By the time you enroll at OBKG, the area is sure to be in full bloom with plants, flowers, and the smiling faces of the cosplayers.

Topics

#### ENJOY YOUR DAYS OFF IN ANY WAY YOU PLEASE.

This event is sure to be of great interest to anyone who dreams of becoming a manga artist or animator. Go and check it out, and make friends while you're there. You could even don a costume yourself and transform into your favorite character. Everyone is welcome to join in. Simply pay the entry fee, which includes access to the changing rooms and cloakroom, and listen to a lecture on TsuruCOS etiquette that takes about 10 minutes. If you want to record your cosplaying self in photographs, you will also need to register your accompanying photographer. If you want to find out when the next event will be held and other details, just do a search for "TsuruCOS." Food trucks also come to the park on TsuruCOS days, so even if you just enjoy lunch in the beautiful natural surroundings or sip on a coffee while lounging on the lawn, you are sure to have a wonderful day off. 🤧

> Flora 2004 Memorial Park Tsurumi Ryokuchi http://Japanese.ac.jp/m/Flora2004







# 日本第2の都市・大阪は ポップカルチャーの宝庫です。

Osaka, Japan's second largest city, is a treasure trove of pop culture.



eature

#### Shitamachi and the big city are just a stone's throw from each other! That is another part of Osaka's appeal.

Just one station on the JR Loop Line from OBKG. The area surrounding Umeda, which is serviced by the JR railway, subway, and two private railways, is located right in the middle of Osaka. From large department stores to a variety of shopping malls, boutiques, restaurants, movie cinemas, and amusement arcades,

Umeda is filled with locations that broadcast the latest trends. Léa, Lisa, and Valencia, who took part in the day's photo shoot, first headed for HEP FIVE, with its eye-catching red Ferris wheel, which is a landmark of the area. Did you know that this Ferris wheel is the first Ferris wheel in the world to have been constructed as part of a building? The girls decided to ride the Ferris wheel, and when they stepped inside, a further surprising sight awaited! There, a bright red whale and its baby were swimming in the atrium that reached right to the ceiling. This work of art was produced under the direction of Carl Smokey Ishii, the lead singer of the Japanese pop rock band, Kome Kome Club, which enjoys enormous popularity even in other Asian countries. It is the perfect Instagram-worthy spot.

The Ferris wheel takes 15 minutes to do one circuit. Climb on board the gondola and, when you get to the top, 75 meters from the base, take in the 360-degree panorama! When you are tired from your studies, it might be the perfect way to relax. In the daytime on sunny

days, you can see all the way out to the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, the world's largest suspension bridge, which is the pride of Hyogo Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture's neighbor to the west, and to the sacred mountain of Mt. Ikoma on the border of Osaka Prefecture and its southern neighbor, Nara Prefecture. Of course, you can also see OBKG! See if you can find the classroom building from the sky.

## SHOP ASSISTANTS WHO LOOK LIKE POP IDOLS AND A VERY DUBIOUS FORTUNE TELLER!

Among the many shops, one that does its visual presentation extremely well is CANDY-A-GO-GO!. The shop assistants in their cute costumes, looking like they have just stepped out of their own little world, are very cool. Someone who captured the three girls' attention in an instant was JINSA, the very ostentatious fortune teller. The girls immediately had their fortunes told. I wonder what the future holds in store for them.



#### PLENTY OF KAWAII! AND OISHII!

From the second basement level to the 9th floor, HEP FIVE has an amazing total of 173 stores, from casual fashion to restaurants, the latest VR (virtual reality) experiences, and even a Japanese comic character shop, which is particularly popular with international students. Fifteen of those shops are food and drink establishments. The place the girls chose on this day was gourmandise café and store on the 3rd floor. The big hamburger is very popular for being really tasty.

\*The number of stores changes with the seasons.

#### Nenzureba Tsūzu Make your biggest dreams come true.

Finally, the girls made their way to the place they had most wanted to check out, JUMP SHOP. "Oh! Luffy!" "Gintama!" "Haikyu!" The girls were more than a little excited. JUMP SHOP is the official shop of the publishing house, Shueisha. It is packed to the rafters with merchandise from many of the popular manga series that have appeared in the weekly comic magazine, Shonen Jump. As well as comics, there is also original merchandise, T-shirts and other apparel, sweets, accessories, and zakka, all of it from the world of Jump manga. There are some JUMP SHOP exclusive items that can only be found here, and the girls' voltage hit maximum power! Today, when the words "Kawaii" and "Manga" have leapt out of Japan and become a lingua franca of the world, the people who will support this world-class culture and turn it into something even more wonderful are none other than international students. "Nenzureba Tsūzu" This is an ancient Japanese proverb that means something like, "Wish it and it will happen." As you continue your studies, keep your ambitions high and aim for your own field of dreams. All of us at OBKG sincerely hope to see your work on display in this shop one day in the not-too-distant future. Good luck! 🥏



























Osaka Sogo College of Design (OSCD) is a general design professional training college, where students can study design in a diverse range of fields. Boasting a 77-year history, OSCD expanded its international student intake program in around 2000. MR. TSUGAWA: That's right. Graduates of OSCD are viewed equally by potential employers, who do not distinguish between international students and Japanese students. Many of our graduates are working in the same environment and being paid the same as Japanese employees. The pay is about 185,000 to 220,000 yen a month. It varies with the degree of difficulty of skill level of the job. Of course, OSCD takes its responsibilities seriously and introduces potential employers from all over Japan to our students. We will also help you to

## **04** Talk

## GO TO THE FUTURE! Learn Japanese and realize your dreams in Japan

#### I LOVE JAPANESE POP CULTURE AND I WANT TO WORK IN IT!

Osaka Sogo College of Design is a professional training college that will make that dream come true.

MR. OKA: What kind of departments do you have?

MR. TSUGAWA: We cover most fields that bear the name "design," including our Visual Communication Design Department, which focuses on product design such as website production and things like company logos, and our Interior Design Department, which focuses on space and lifestyle design.

MR. OKA: I understand that your courses in manga, anime, and games are particularly popular with international students. I suppose there are many international students who want to learn about Japanese culture in Japan. MR. TSUGAWA: That's right. In all of our courses, we start with the basics. That means that students can start from scratch, even if they do not have any experience. As long as they have a love for manga or want to work in anime, they will be fine.

MR. OKA: But what if their dreams are vaguer? MR. Tsugawa: Certainly, we do have some students who find it difficult initially to narrow their focus down to one field, whether that be games, anime, manga, or something else. But that kind of uncertainty is okay. It is quite common for students to change their major partway through.

#### NOBODY WILL TREAT YOU AS A FOREIGNER.

MR. OKA: How do your classes actually work? MR. TSUGAWA: OSCD has some 1,300 students. About 70 of those are international students. So, in a class of about 30, there might be two or three international students. Our greatest feature is that we do not have any courses tailored specifically to international students. Our Japanese students and our international students all share the same ambitions and study the same curriculum side-by-side in the same environment. The greatest benefit of this is that, by studying in exactly the same environment as the Japanese students, our international students' Japanese language skills improve in leaps and bounds.

As well as studying in their specialty field, such as manga, anime, games, illustration, figures, or interiors, they also acquire the business Japanese they need to study and work in Japan.

#### DIVERSE OCCUPATIONS! EMPLOYMENT ALL OVER JAPAN!

**MR. OKA:** I see. That is why almost all of OSCD's graduates find employment in Japan and are succeeding here.

obtain your working visa, so you can be reassured about leaving that up to us.

## Carve out your future with your expert skills and Japanese language abilities!

MR. OKA: What kind of level of Japanese ability do you require for students to enroll at OSCD? MR. TSUGAWA: We would prefer a level of about N2 on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, but if a student has studied hard at OBKG, we will welcome them with open arms even if they do not have N2! However, I think that the first three months will be really tough. Even so, keep coming to class. As long as you come to school every day, your friends around you will speak to you in Japanese. Overcome that period of perseverance together, and win your big dreams together! We even have a graduate who has become a well-known chief sweets designer in Japan. Some of our students have also returned to their home countries and become popular manga artists. It will be your turn next. 🤧

> Osaka Sogo College of Design http://Japanese.ac.jp/m/OSCD







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