



Student Cafeteria **No.32**

1. A Student Cafeteria with Tasty Food and a Pleasant Environment



Amid increasing calls for improvement in student eating facilities, a new student cafeteria opened in April 2005 on the fifth floor of the recently completed No. 2 Building. There one can get a substantial and nutritious meal while enjoying a panoramic view of the city center from the broad windows. Outside the dining hall, which can seat about six hundred people, is a rooftop terrace where eating is also possible. Right below is the former Sanada moat embankment and the cherry trees planted on it by graduates of past years. Beyond that leafy expanse stands the State Guest House and the high-rise buildings of Shinjuku, while in the distance, on clear days, Mt. Fuji can be seen.



A subsidiary of the Ginza Suehiro restaurant operates the cafeteria, and Suehiro’s famous grill menu is available on occasion. A popular item is a variation on the standard “mother-and-child” donburi dish—rice topped with fried chicken and soft scrambled egg (360 yen). A “health-conscious” combination plate is 410 yen, and students seeking to economize can share a super-size rice pilaf for 600 yen. In the cafeteria on the fifth floor of the No. 2 Building, a separate section offers a lunch special that changes from day to day.

There are also student cafeterias in the basements of the No. 9 and No. 11 Buildings. A popular menu in the No. 9 Building cafeteria is the authentic Indian curry set prepared by an Indian chef (450 yen, with salad, naan, and lassi). Soft ice cream with seasonal flavors can be bought for 180 yen in the lounge of the No. 11 Building cafeteria. Peach in the summer and roast sweet potato in autumn are particular favorites.

2. Student Cafeterias at Sophia Over the Years

Sophia’s first student cafeteria opened in 1953. The university obtained a building that previously had been part of the now-defunct Military Cadet School in Asaka, Saitama prefecture, and reconstructed it on the Sophia campus, along “Main Street” next to the Kulturheim building. The cafeteria, which occupied the first floor, could hold 800 people. In 1960 this building was torn down to make way for the S.J. House. Meanwhile, in 1957, Sophia Kaikan, with a student dining hall that could seat 500 people, was constructed. Initially this dining hall was



First student dining hall (1954)

meant for the students living in the dormitory located in the same building, but as the size of the student body increased, around 1969 it was made available to other students as well.

Because there were always long lines and a long wait at lunchtime, in 1977, responding to students' requests for an additional dining hall, the university set up a cafeteria in the basement of the No. 9 Building. A coffee shop was also opened when Hoffmann Hall, which houses student extracurricular activities, was built in 1980, and yet another dining hall, called the "No. 11 Building Lounge," was created in the basement of the No. 11 Building in 1992. Then, a bigger dining hall with a rooftop terrace was opened in the new No. 2 Building in 2005, replacing the long-familiar cafeteria in Sophia Kaikan.

These expansions were made not just to alleviate the noontime crush and answer calls for a better menu and service, but out of growing recognition that a pleasant cafeteria is important to student life not just as somewhere to eat, but as a place where students can meet and converse.

In April 2011, as the result of a student survey, all three cafeterias and the coffee shop in Hoffman Hall were renovated. A sandwich shop operated by the Subway chain took the place of the Hoffman Hall coffee shop, and the LEOC Corporation assumed responsibility for the operation of the cafeteria in the No. 9 Building basement and the No. 11 Building lounge.



The first student dining hall.

Ice cream was also available