

**TO: Nakatani Foundation**

## **Nakatani RIES GE 2019 Report**

Your Name: Marlene Ganslmeier

Your University: Heidelberg

Host Lab in Japan: Motomu Tanaka

**Meaning of Nakatani RIES Fellowship:** How would you describe the meaning/impact of the Nakatani RIES Fellowship.

For me intercultural exchange is very necessary in an ever connected world, to have an understanding for other cultures.

Complete the following sentences with the intended audience for these responses being potential applicants to the Nakatani RIES Fellowship.

- My favorite experience in Japan was...
  - Going out with Japanese people in Izakayas
- Before I left for Japan, I wish I had...
  - Had more time to travel.
- While I was in Japan, I wish I had...
  - Actually learned Japanese

**Research Internship Overview:** Provide a description of your research project and experience during your research internship. How did your project relate to your current or future academic interests? What was the experience of working in an international research setting like? What will you take away from your research experience this summer and what impact do you think this has had or will have on your future academic career or research interests?

I was tasked with observing cell behaviour in different conditions. The techniques I used were rather basic, but it was still perfectly suitable for the amount of time I had there. As the lab's research generally is not what I will go into it wasn't that relevant topic wise, but still interesting.

**Lab Environment Overview:** Provide an overview of what the personal environment of the lab was like. Describe the personality and working style of your research group? What was it like working with your research mentor/s and the overall group dynamic in the lab?

The lab consisted of 2 ass. Professors, a post Doc and a research assistant. Everyone was very nice and helpful at all times. However, due to language barriers communication was quite difficult with some people. I was very lucky that my supervisor spoke very good English, and also gave me enough freedom

with my hours. I would say generally the hours in the lab were quite long, with people often staying until midnight.

I particularly enjoyed lunch times, when most of the lab would go out to eat together, often in Restaurants which gave me the opportunity to try a lot of food.

**Daily Life in Japan:** Provide an overview of what your daily life was like in Japan. This could include the people you interacted with outside the lab on a day-to-day basis, food, your housing/living experience, your travels around Japan and the challenges you faced and the rewarding experiences you encountered over the course of the summer.

I would usually get up, have a small breakfast and be in the lab around 9:30. We had lunch around 12, and then I worked usually around 7pm or so. Afterwards I would usually meet up with fellow students to get some food.

The language was the most challenging part. And because Japanese people speak so little English, I wasn't able to talk to a lot of them.

As we only had the weekends to travel, I mainly stayed in Kansai and Tokyo. The public transport is amazing, and really fast. Even without Japanese it's quite easy to get about.

Food was the easiest part - its works out cheaper to go out than to cook, so I'd just try something different every night.

**Experiences with Japanese Culture:** Provide an overview of your most meaningful experiences with Japanese culture. This could be program activities or interactions you had with your lab or within your daily life in Japan that you think best exemplify aspects of Japanese culture or values. What did the experience/s teach you about Japan? What did they teach you about yourself?

Living in Japan mainly taught me how different our cultures still are. The amount of respect people have for each other is quite remarkable. The part of culture I most understood was probably the food. The amount of effort and detail that goes into it is amazing.