

## Research Experiences at Osaka University

My time on the JSPS summer program was spent visiting various academics at Graduate School of Engineering (GSE) and Institute of Laser Engineering (ILE) of Osaka University. My host researcher, Professor R. Kodama, has links with both of these laboratories and around the Kansai area and as a result I spent time with various people including academics from the plasma physics group of Kyoto university. Our aim was to collaborate on the application of new theories developed at Imperial College to data collected in Japan; to this end I spent my time working on our models, and on new data soon to be published by S. Fujioka of the ILE. This work has continued after my return to the UK and is promising to be very fruitful.

The academics that I worked with all had extensive experience with western researchers – most had spent time living in the US or UK – which made our relationship very easy. Even though most of the people I met were far more senior than me, they were all very interested in what I was doing, and were very interested in forming collaborations. Even when this was not possible they were kind enough to show me their research and the experimental equipment they were using at the time.

For the majority of my time in Japan I was based in the GSE laboratories in the city of Suita, around 20 minutes from Osaka. I was given an office with several other PhD and Master's students. This helped me settle into Japan very easily as they showed me the city and helped me arrange everything I needed. We would eat lunch and dinner together and by the time I left we knew each other very well.

Most of my weekends were spent sightseeing in the Kansai area, or visiting friends in other parts of Japan (including other JSPS fellows). August is well known in Japan as being a festival period and I was ideally situated in Osaka to make the most of this, visiting Kyoto several times as well as Kobe and Nara for day trips. The friends I made through the JSPS program also led me to visit Nagoya and Tokyo. I spent several weekends with my host family (arranged by the JSPS) in Yokohama, who showed me many aspects of Japanese culture that would have been very difficult to experience otherwise.

After I had finished my placement I took the opportunity to travel around Japan using a JR rail pass. I would recommend this to all future fellows as after 3 months of working in Japan you are in a great position to make the most of a holiday in Japan!



Welcome Party with Graduate School of Engineering



Watching Sumo with other JSPS fellows in Nagoya