

JSPS Summer Programme Report

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Host Name: Professor Yuichi Toda

As a JSPS summer programme fellow I undertook qualitative research into the use of peer support systems in Japanese schools; where students offer support to other students. The aim was to inform a cross-national comparison of the use of peer support in schools in Japan, the UK and South Korea. To investigate this I interviewed key informants working in the area of peer support: researchers, teachers, students acting as peer supporters, and members of the Japanese Peer Support Association.

I was very successful in completing my research, largely due to the support and contacts of my host Professor. To carry out this sort of research without speaking Japanese it is essential to work with people who can act as translators, and I strongly recommend discussing how this will work with your host before you begin a JSPS programme. I also conducted classes with my Professor for Japanese and international students on peer support in Japan, and gave a talk to masters students at another university. These activities were very interesting, if challenging, for me and gave our work educational impact.

My research involved a lot of travelling to other prefectures to conduct interviews. Therefore, I didn't have the typical Japanese laboratory experience of most fellows. This gave me excellent opportunities to see more of Japan, and gave my research findings greater validity. However, it also meant that I never felt settled and didn't have a team of colleagues I saw regularly.

It is especially important to make the most out of the orientation week provided at the start of the JSPS summer programme. Make friends with the other fellows! I met so many brilliant people on the programme, who gave me a lot of support and good company during the summer.

The summer programme was an amazing opportunity. I'm definitely going to be recommending it to people I work with.

A Cross-National Investigation of Peer Support in Schools

Wakana Nakagawa (PhD student, University of Tokyo)
Candace Johnson (Senior Lecturer, Goldsmiths University of London), Professor T. Tetsu Yamamoto,
University of Tokyo, and Professor M. Harada (Goldsmiths University of London)

Peer support schemes, which involve students providing support to their peers, are used in a variety of schools in the UK and Japan. This study explored the ways in which peer support is implemented in schools in the UK and Japan. The study involved a comparison of peer support schemes in the UK and Japan. The study found that peer support schemes in the UK and Japan are implemented in different ways. The study also found that peer support schemes in the UK and Japan are implemented in different ways.

Peer Support in the UK



Peer Support in Japan

