

JSPS Fellow Experience Report

Short-term postdoctoral fellowship March – December 2016 (9 months)

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Host Institution and Department: University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Engineering and Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Host Researcher: Prof. Sotaro Shibayama

Research Summary:

Recent years have seen changes in the way science is conducted and organised. The increasing importance of accountability and transparency though for example research and impact assessments, the concentration of resources and funding competition, increased casualization and fragmentation of the academic work force and increased collaboration, mobility and open science are but some of the issues that are discussed in the context of the modern university. Institutions and researchers are reacting to these changes and in my research I look at two that are particularly relevant: dual/combined part-time appointments of academics, and open sharing and collaboration.

To that end I conducted a survey of academics at universities and public research organisations in Japan, Germany and the UK which received more than 2200 responses (a response rate of 30%). First results of the survey were presented at the Asia Pacific Innovation Conference (APIC), the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) and at EURAXESS Japan (see photo 1, below). We firstly found that dual appointments are rarely reported on publications and that surveys are a much better way of detecting these. We also found some significant country differences, which UK academics showing more international dual affiliations compared to academics in Japan. Further, while most researchers are motivated by networking benefits of dual appointments, young researchers and those on fixed-term contract are motivated by the potential career benefits they may provide. Looking at data sharing we see that a majority of academics engage in the sharing of resources. However, sharing is found to only benefit research if it involves collaboration, something that is not always achieved and seen as a great hindrance to open science.

Experience Japan

I had previously lived in Japan for three years as a graduate student and speak good Japanese. I also have a long collaboration history with my host in Japan. Both of these were reasons for me to apply for a JSPS fellowship and also aided me invaluablely in my research. I was able to attend seminars and events held in Japanese, especially such regarding open science initiatives in Japan. I also visited various institutions engaged in science policy such as Hitotsubashi

University, NISTEP, RIETI, GRIPS, NII and JST to expand my existing network, and initiated a collaboration with colleagues at NII regarding open science. Speaking the language was a benefit here and I would encourage anyone planning on spending a long period of time in Japan to learn some Japanese. The University of Tokyo offered some very good language classes for all proficiency levels, also for spouses.



 **EURAXESS Japan** @euraxess_japan · 24 Nov 2016
#ERD2016 last speaker at morning session Dr Lawson from University of Tokyo 'Japan, EU and post brexit UK...'

Photo 1: Presentation at EURAXESS Japan, 24 Nov 2016