



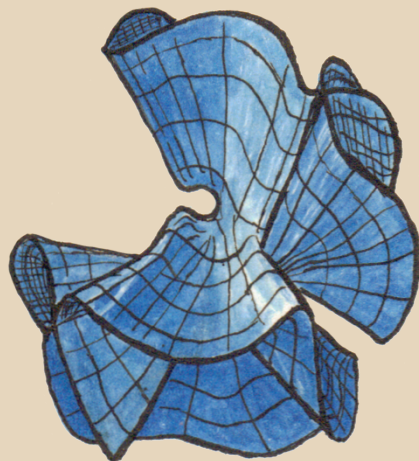
# JSPS Pre-departure

Andrew Strangeway  
Imperial College // Waseda University

# Who am I?

I am a postdoc (previously doctoral student) at Imperial College, studying geometry.

I visited Waseda University last summer as JSPS Summer Fellow to study D-module theory with Professor Martin Guest.



# Summer Programme

- 1st week is induction week
  - language course
  - cultural activities
  - home stay
- 9 weeks of research
- Possible to ask to postpone return flight for final week of sightseeing

# Preparation

- Cash ~£300 in ¥
- Business cards - these will impress
- JR Rail Pass - non-essential
  - One week pass = cost of Tokyo to Kyoto return
- Presents for host family
- Visa - you (probably) don't need one
- Split up luggage for first week (no, really)
- Phone/internet access
- Poster presentation printed

# Expectations for first week

You will be very tired! The first week is intense: you will be jetlagged, learning Japanese, and meeting new people. It is also really great fun.

Try to work out which fellows will be near you during the research period (exchange business cards).

# Home stay

A great opportunity to soak in some culture and try some food.

It's polite to offer to pay for things.



# Life in Japan: Food

You will eat a lot of meals in restaurants rather than at home, this is very normal in Japan. Most menus have pictures. Try everything!



# Life in Japan: Mobile phones/data

Either:

1. Rent a phone;
2. Rent a Mifi router and connect via this;
3. Bring an unlocked phone and buy a sim.

e.g. B-mobile 1GB ~ ¥3500

Wifi is remarkably sparse!

Ensure your laptop has an ethernet port!

# Life in Japan: Money

You will likely be paid in cash.

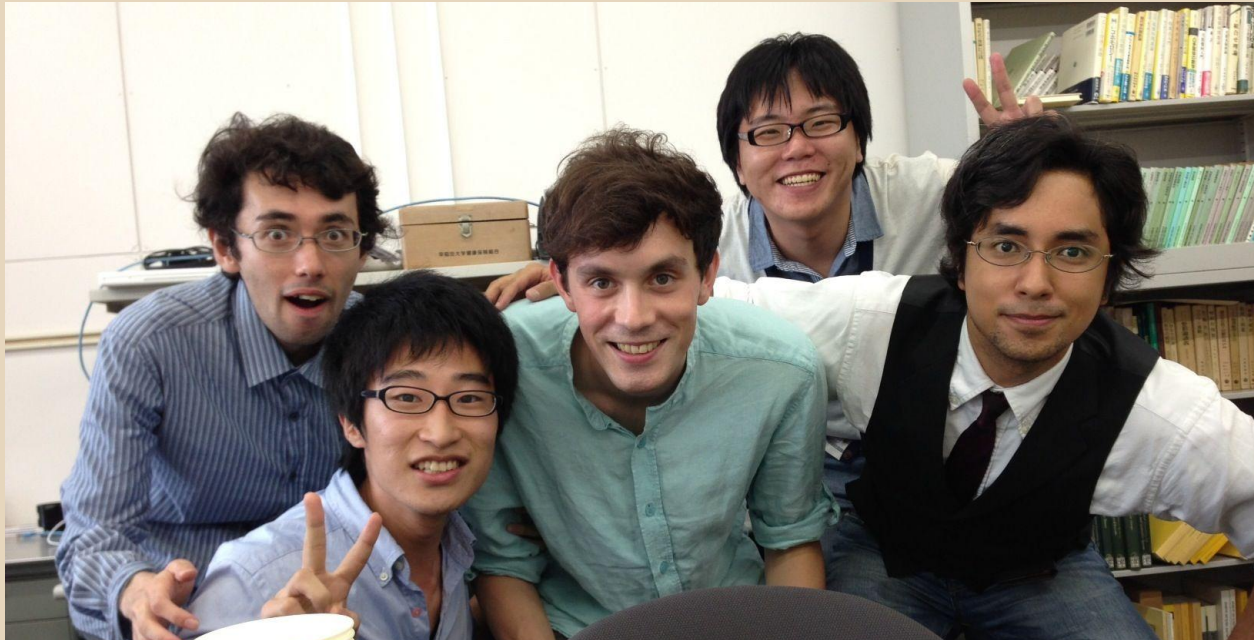
Japan has a cash economy - giving a ¥10,000 note for a ¥500 meal isn't frowned upon.



# Working in Japan: Research Period

- Meetings and seminars may be in Japanese.
- Local students will study for long, long hours, but may be asleep in the labs sometimes!
- You are not expected to be in labs forever.
- Obon - Japanese holiday. Almost everything will be shut for a week. You likely won't get much done in the lab.

- Your labmates will likely be excited to meet you and throw you a welcome and leaving party.



# Future opportunities

By joining the JSPS alumni association you will have the chance to stay in contact with other Fellows and apply for more funding from JSPS to continue your collaborative research started in the Summer.

# Thanks for listening

Any questions?

Feel free to email me:

[a.strangeway09@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.strangeway09@imperial.ac.uk)