

This summer I was lucky enough to visit Japan for two months as part of the JSPS [Summer Program](#). This program gives PhD researchers the chance to visit Japan for 10 weeks in the summer and to study at a Japanese institute. I visited [Martin Guest](#) at [Waseda University](#) in Tokyo, to study [D-module structures in quantum cohomology](#). I had an amazing time and I'm very grateful to the JSPS for funding my trip and to Martin for hosting me during my stay.

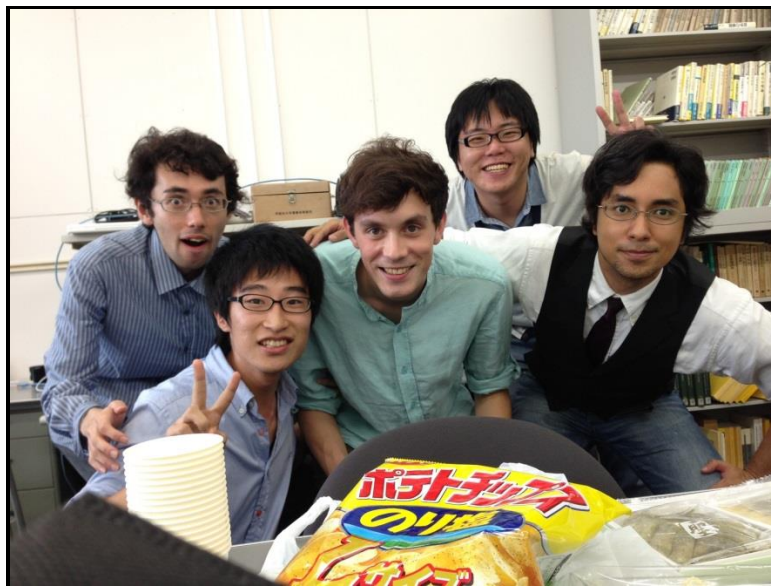
The work that I carried out in Japan was to familiarise myself with and understand structures arising in quantum cohomology and a generalisation of this. We held regular meetings as well as several research seminars with other researchers at Waseda including a one day research meeting on quantum cohomology held jointly with Kyoto University. In addition I met with Professor Hiroshi Iritani and discussed aspects of my work on which he was able to make useful and insightful comments.

The students in the geometry lab at Waseda were very friendly and welcoming and we often discussed culture and language during my time in the lab. They held a welcome and a farewell party for me and we often went for lunch together.

Though I spent the majority of my time in Japan in Tokyo I travelled down to Kyoto to attend a mathematics conference and travelled further afield to Hiroshima, Osaka and Kagoshima. I would highly recommend taking the time to travel in Japan and the [JR rail pass](#) and a ride on the shinkansen is definitely a good way to do so.

The thing that took me the most getting used to was the climate. In July and August it can be very hot and humid and you'll be grateful of any air conditioned space you can find! I found out that it's not uncommon to sleep while in the lab (or on the train, or in McDonalds etc.).

The trip was a fantastic opportunity to broaden my academic network and study material somewhat outside the major focus of my PhD. I highly recommend that others apply!



Co-researchers at Waseda University