

Name: Georgina M. Aisbitt

Host Research Institution: Kwansai Gakuin University

Host Professor: Professor Sadahiko Nakajima

During my first year as an Experimental Psychology D.Phil. student at the University of Oxford, I was given the opportunity to spend two months working in Professor Nakajima's lab at Kwansai Gakuin University. My research interest is in associative learning and how differences arising in this might be used to explain different psychopathologies, in particular psychopathy. Preceded by his international reputation, working with Professor Nakajima was a brilliant opportunity and I feel that my research benefited greatly from his insight and expertise. More than this, Professor Nakajima was immensely supportive and helpful throughout every part of the application and program. With his support I was able to accomplish my research aims, as well as enjoy the unique opportunity of living in Japan. I was continually struck by how welcoming and thoughtful both he and his lab were: including me in 'lab outings', family dinners and even a trip to Professor Nakajima's home town.

Along side the hard work, I loved exploring Japan with the other JSPS Fellows I met on the trip, and was overwhelmed by what a fascinating country it is, and how friendly the people were: at even the slightest hint you might be lost someone's offering to point you in the right direction. By being made to feel so at home, I felt comfortable traveling the country, and was privy to some of the amazing experiences Japan's rich culture has to offer: paragliding in Kanazawa, sushi making in Tokyo, Temple visits in Kyoto and watching my local team, the Hanshin Tigers, play baseball, to name but a few. To anyone who is considering applying, I would strongly encourage you to do just that. The Summer Fellowship provides you an opportunity for International Collaboration, the advancement of your research and to make lifelong colleagues, but it also provides you with the chance to immerse yourself in one of the world's most interesting cultures.