

Research institution – Osaka University  
Department – Graduate school of science  
Host – Hiroshi Tsunemi

Words cannot easily describe my experience in Japan, but it is safe to say that I had an amazing time that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I have made some lifelong friends in the form of other JSPS fellows and from within the group I worked with in Japan.

I went to Japan to work on ASTRO-H (a future Japanese space mission) and had grand plans about the optimisation I could do on the CCD camera being used on the Soft X-ray Imager; however, due to delays in the space mission I fell short of my expectations. Despite this, my time in Japan allowed me to develop an understanding of an alternative way to operate detectors and gain experience of the challenges involved in delivering a flight-ready space instrument .

The Japanese have a reputation of working hard, but don't be surprised if you are one of the first people to arrive at work in the morning. They work very late and it is not uncommon to find them taking a power nap at their desks. In my experience, this is not the sort of work ethic that is expected of a JSPS summer fellow. You should be going to Japan with a realistic and interesting plan of study, while aiming to get the most possible out of working in a foreign lab.

Having said this, there is more to this program than work. Japan is an amazing country that offers a wide range of cultural opportunities that you should grab with both hands. I was lucky enough to have a week during the study where I was able to travel around Japan and collect some amazing experiences. If you are lucky enough to be a future JSPS fellow, you will have an incredible time – I am very jealous!!

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