

Nationality: Spanish

Pre-fellowship host institute: University of St-Andrews, Scotland, UK

Host Institute: Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo

Host researcher: Katsufumi Sato

Fellowship period: 1/2/2017-31/5/2017

Research title: Inferring diving lung air volume of cetaceans and penguins.

The reason for choosing Japan to conduct research

The reasons I chose Japan for my post-doctoral research are both personal and professional: I was really interested in working with my host and to learn from him as much as I could. In addition, I already knew two researchers from the same lab with whom I have been working. During a previous visit to Japan I developed a strong interest in and respect for Japanese culture and people and wanted to get a full experience of it.

Research achievements

Besides from finishing my research which I am planning to submit into a journal, I also had the opportunity for research travel to Nagasaki and Hakodate. Here, and at my host institution I was able to discuss my research and to make new connections with both experts and students. I also had the opportunity to extend my knowledge on the biogeochemical studies performed in different taxa beyond cetaceans which is my area of expertise. This has led to the establishment of two lines of future collaboration.

Advice to new fellows

Four months seems not so long. So, if you are a short-term fellow I would recommend you come to Japan knowing at least some Japanese as the Japanese classes here do not run the whole year. Take advantage of every meeting and party at your institute to socialise. Come with an open mind, the cultural shock is big but amazing to discover and experience. Japanese people are really welcoming and as it is commonly said: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do". Enjoy the food!



Dinner party after a science meeting in Hakodate University.