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JSPS Summer programme 2017

Host Institute: ITBM, Nagoya University

Host Researcher: Professor Kenichiro Itami

I am a second year Chemistry PhD student at the University of Bristol and I took part in the JSPS summer programme 2017.

During the orientation week I got to meet all the other fellows, many of whom I travelled with during my time in Japan. I got to experience Japanese culture, including, a tea ceremony, kimono dressing, language classes and origami. I also got to stay with a lovely family during the homestay and I will meet them once again after the programme has finished.

I went to Nagoya University to do my research placement in Professor Kenichiro Itami's lab. Here I worked on decarboxylation/formylation reactions, using photocatalysis. I really enjoyed experiencing research in a world-leading lab, gaining the opportunities to share ideas and learn new skills. I benefitted greatly from gaining different insights into Chemistry and being able to use state-of-the-art equipment. The group were wonderful and so welcoming, taking me for dinner, to karaoke, cycling around an island and to many lab parties. I have made many friends and collaborations which I will continue to maintain in the future.

Alongside the research I have also immersed myself within the wonderful culture of Japan and I have travelled as much as I could. Among many other things I got to experience the festival of Gion matsuri in Kyoto, the snow monkeys in Nagano, the lights and food of Osaka and a sumo tournament in Nagoya. I also stayed with Monks in a Buddhist temple in Koya-San and I saw the sunrise from the summit of Fuji-San.

I am so grateful for this opportunity and thank you to everyone at JSPS for organising such a wonderful programme and experience for all the fellows.

