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I am truly grateful to be awarded a JSPS short term postdoctoral fellowship to enable me to study at the Research institute for applied mechanics (RIAM), Kyushu University, Japan. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my supervisor Associate Professor Y. Yoshikawa for making me very welcome in his laboratory. I spent 4 months (January to May 2012) carrying out numerical modelling experiments in the ocean tides of the Sea of Japan and Bohai Sea, under the direction of Assistant Professor K. Uehara. I was particularly interested in modelling how recent changes in bathymetry, due to land reclamation and sea level rise has affected the tides and may affect the tides in future. For this project I used the tidal model 'KUTM' (Kyushu University Tidal Model) which was developed by Dr Uehara. While I have used this model throughout my PhD, being able to work closely with its developer made my research progress much quicker and smoother. The time also gave me the opportunity to add certain processes to the model, to make it more accurate, which I hope future uses of KUTM will find beneficial.

I found the research culture in Japan to be pretty similar to the UK, however there are a couple of things which may make your trip slightly easier:

- Unless you can read fluent Japanese, make sure any software (and manuals) that is provided for you is in English too.
- If you are taking your own software make sure it is fully compatible (this includes packing enough plug adaptors).
- Learn as much Japanese as possible before you go. It is not the easiest of languages to pick up, but a little will really enhance your trip.
- Make sure you leave enough space in your suitcase for souvenirs!

As for the rest of life in Japan, it is truly a beautiful, unique country. Make sure you allow enough time to explore as much as possible!