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I am very grateful to JSPS for awarding me the Short-Term Postdoctoral Fellowship from January 2013-January 2014. This fellowship was really important as it provided me time in Japan to enable me to generate sufficient research data to form the basis of my PhD.

I chose Professor Akiyoshi Yonezawa to be my Host Researcher, as he is one of the world's leading scholars in my field of research. Professor Yonezawa is also very outgoing, well-travelled and fluent in English. Since 2010 he has been based at Nagoya University, at the Graduate School of International Development.

My main purpose for coming to Japan was to conduct interviews for my PhD with academics, university managers and support staff on the topic of Japanese university internationalisation strategies. Through some introductions provided by my Host and through contacts I had established through networking at symposiums and conferences, I was able to make over 50 in-depth interviews with university stakeholders at a variety of different institutions across Japan, as well as at the Ministry of Education.

During my stay in Japan I attended several academic and non-academic symposiums and conferences on my field of interest, and met many leading academics and practitioners in this field, which was a really valuable experience. Being in Japan for an extended stay enabled this process greatly. In addition I was able to present at an international graduate conference in Hiroshima, as well as at several stages throughout the year at my 'host university', Nagoya University. I received detailed and constructive advice from my Host as well as from other graduate researchers, which was valuable.

The atmosphere at my Nagoya University and especially at the Graduate School of International Development (GSID) where I was based was really stimulating. GSID hosts many international researchers from across the world and especially from South East and East Asia, and the library at GSID was particularly wide-ranging and relevant for my research interest.

Nagoya is a good-sized city in the Chubu region, and is easily accessible to Kanto and Kansai. I chose Nagoya University because of the expertise of Professor Akiyoshi Yonezawa is very relevant to my research interest, but Nagoya itself is a clean, modern city with all of the amenities of Tokyo. I was very happy to be in Nagoya and joined a running club and also made friends with local Japanese people outside of the university. Overall I had a very positive time in Nagoya and at Nagoya University.