

### ***Short Synopsis of my visit to Japan***

First of all, I cannot thank JSPS enough for the opportunity to visit Japan and to interact with a number of leading chemists. I found the entire process straightforward and very rational. I have nothing but praise for the way JSPS has organised and liaised with the local host to make sure that the process and visit went smoothly.

Japanese chemistry has a reputation for excellence, but I must admit I did not know what to expect before my visit to Japan. I was very impressed with the work ethic, dedication and motivation of the Japanese postgraduate students. The projects currently being undertaken are very ambitious and they are being carried out with a high degree of creativity and innovation. I was also very pleased to see that synthetic chemistry and natural product synthesis are highly valued. I also found the chemistry community optimistic about the future of chemical research in Japan.

Overall, I found the synthetic chemistry being carried out in Japan very exciting. Furthermore, a number of the research groups in Japan are current world leaders in synthetic research.

Culturally, I found Japan very vibrant and exciting country. Wherever I went, everyone was very friendly and willing to help. In a number of occasions, I found myself deep in conversation with local people in the train. It would be fair to say that people went out of their way to make me feel at home.

In a nutshell, I would go back to Japan in a flash. The people are amazing, the food is spectacular and the science is world class.