

**Research Institution:** Hiroshima University

**Department:** Research Institute for Higher Education

**Host Researcher:** Prof. Futao Huang

### **Reasons for choosing Japan**

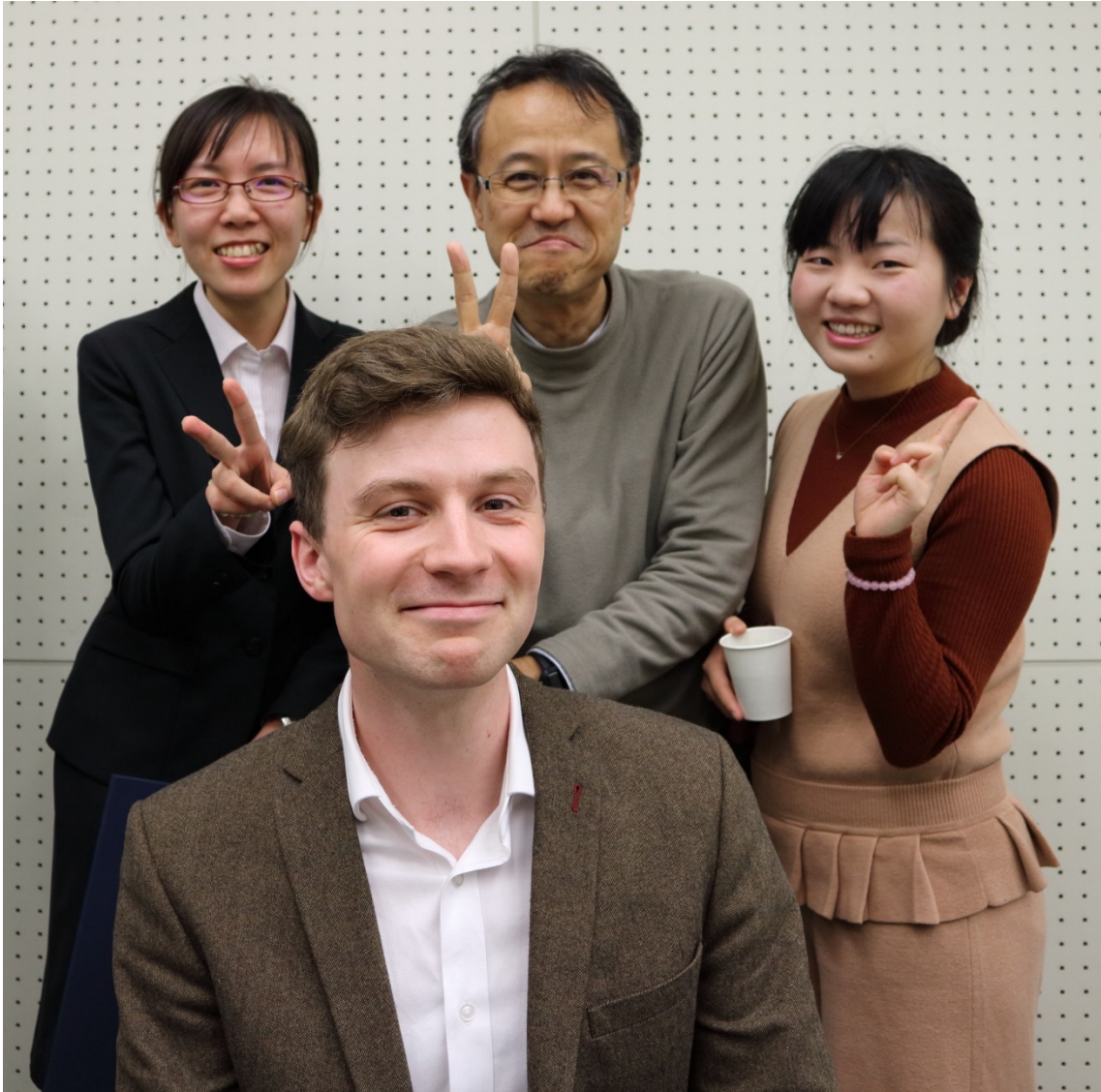
Fundamentally, my reasons for applying to do research in Japan were practical, as a case study of student-migration in Japan was at the heart of my doctoral research. Without the opportunity to spend an extended period in Japan I would not have been able to implement the optimum research strategy to engage with my research questions. In addition, I was confident that Japan offers a rich research environment in which to develop as a scholar, and I wished to evaluate a more long-term move to Japan as part of my career trajectory.

### **Research achievements**

Thanks in large part to the financial support from JSPS and the administrative support of my hosts, I was able to conduct an ambitious program of longitudinal, qualitative data collection during my year in Japan. In addition, I attended or presented at each of the top conferences in my field; a useful place to receive feedback on my research project. In addition, I was able to become acquainted with leading scholars, with whom I have already carried out two subsequent research projects after completing my fellowship earlier this year. We have plans to collaborate on further research in future.

### **Advice for new fellows**

- Commit to language study. Many people in Japan speak very good English, but there is no substitute for the confidence that a degree of Japanese language ability provides. For me, self-study focused on breadth and frequency, whereas guided study was less frequency but with a focus on depth.
- Form meaningful relationships with those who treat you well. Your research is important, but becoming a valued member of the research community is imperative. Make time to meet your colleagues and maintain regular contact where possible.
- See the fellowship as the start of a relationship with your host institution and researcher. This is a mutually beneficial arrangement that will be invaluable to you both in later years.
- Japan is beautiful; enjoy your time off!



Colleagues at the Research Institute for Higher Education, Hiroshima University